

VISIT TO GURUTALAWA WITH FR.MERVYN FERNANDO ON OCTOBER 31,2002 PHOTOS & REPORTS

The OBA had from time to time since 1996, tried to have Fr.Dr.Mervyn Fernando of the Subodhi Institute assist the Collge. There does not appear to be any record of success in this endeavour.

On October 31,2002 we accompanied Fr.Mervyn to Gurutalawa on the invitation of the Headmaster. The new Chaplain Rev.Nihal Fernando had also known Fr.Mervyn previously.

We were accompanied by Mr.V.Tharumaratnam, Engineer who is promoting the setting up of a Bio Gas Project in College and Mr.Mahen Ranasinghe also an Engineer who is co-ordinating activities in that connection with Mr.V Tharumaratnam and keeping the Ex-Co informed.

Mr.Mahen Ranasinghe was also to examine various buildings and other facilities which needed urgent attention. The College contractor was to hand over Preliminary Estimates prepared by him and go round with Mr.Mahen Ranasinghe and examine the various sites and premises, which required urgent repairs and rehabilitation.

We left Colombo at 2.00 a.m as the persons travelling had to be picked up from different locations in and around Colombo. We reached Gurutalawa at about 8.00 a.m after a short stop at the site of the earthslip at Belihuloya/Haldumulla.

Having had breakfast, we got down to work without delay. Fr.Mervyn was engaged in long discussions with the Headmaster and Rev.Nihal Fernando who kept themselves free in order to benefit from any advise that Fr.Mervyn may offer. Indeed at the end of the day, both the Headmaster and Chaplain were very happy with the outcome of their discussions with Fr.Mervyn who promised to send a short Report conveying his impressions and ideas. He also indicated that he was agreeable to conduct programmes for the benefit of the staff (2 days) and students (5 days). The report is now already tabled at a Meeting of the Ex-Co and submitted to the Headmaster for his guidance. It is hoped to have the programmes in January 2003 with the concurrence of the Headmaster. Fr.Mervyn also went round the Campus and inspected all the facilities. He was very impressed with what nature had endowed upon the College but disappointed with the manner in which the Campus, its buildings and gardens were being maintained.

In the meantime, Mr.V Tharumaratnam and Mr.Mahen Ranasinghe visited the proposed site of the Bio Gas Project with the contractor who was given necessary instructions. Necessary notes were made on how the gas was to be conveyed to the Pantry and where the special Cookers were to be placed. Mr.V Tharumaratnam thereafter went round the Campus by himself inspecting same.

Mr.Mahen Ranasinghe with the contractor thereafter examined a few staff quarters and made his own observations. He also examined the Senior Dorms and the present conditions with particular reference to how the students were maintaining the Dorms. He spoke to the students as well as the Masters who were at hand and who were supposed to be in charge. Mr.Mahen Ranasinghe also inspected the Treatment Plant of the Swimming Pool with particular reference to the Alum Tank and the roof of that room and gave further instructions to the contractor.

As inspection was made of the Ohiya Water Line and its water storage tank. A detailed inspection was also made of the wells and the water pumps with particular reference to why water was not being supplied to the staff toilets in the Old Class Room Block. Relevant instructions were given to the Maintenance Officer and the Headmaster undertook to get some technical advice from M/s. Jinasena's.

Further inspections were made of other sites at the end of which a final round of talks with the Headmaster took place till late evening.

We left Gurutalawa together with Fr.Mervyn at about 6.00 p.m and returned to Colombo through Nuwara Eliya and Ginigaththena. We reached Colombo at about 1.30 p.m after a light dinner at Ginigaththena

Stop at Earthslip at Haldumulla (3)



Students carrying new books donated to the Library



At breakfast with the Headmaster and the Chaplain Rev.Nihal Fernando Fr.Mervyn Fernando, Tharu and Mahen.





Tharu and Mahen discuss site/for special project



Mahen examines wells and water pumps.



Squash Court with water collected.



Upper Sixth Students in Class Room with new desks and chairs.



Mahen advises re. cleaning quadrangle.



Mahen goes round with maintenance Supervisor



Examining the condition of the Senior Dorms and gardens in front



Laboratory Roof - urgent repairs required

