Over the past year I have been advised by several people, whose judgment has heretofore been sound, to tweet. It's a "generational thing", I was told, that "old" people don't fully appreciate. Now that several of us have redefined the "new old" to be over 70, I wasn't terribly concerned. I must admit, however, that it's difficult to understand the value of communications that are limited to 180 characters. Do people really spend a lot of time communicating in the form of cryptic notes? Apparently, millions do. Now "if TIE could only get a dollar for every...."

It was also brought to my attention that TIE's facebook page has only 17 friends. That's plenty isn't it? How many friends does one need? I'm either neglecting or being neglected by more than enough friends already. It's all about working, eating and getting enough exercise to do both for a long time, isn't it? Ok, throw in travel and a book club, and that leaves very little time to tweet.
To the rescue came Meri McCoy Thompson. Last December, Meri came up to me, after a presentation, and announced that she had been following TIE for two years and had decided she was going to work for us, as a volunteer. She was so emphatic, all I could say was, "what are you going to do"? She reinforced what others had been saying. TIE needed to network, tweet, blog, facebook, and youtube. Those have all become nouns and verbs haven't they? If not, they should be.

Mary began working a couple of weeks later, insisting that the first thing we needed to do was create a new website. I was satisfied with what we had, even though it lacked some functionality. She argued that we couldn't network effectively until we had a new website. Networking is about creating interest in several mediums. But, all roads ultimately lead to Rome, the website. Rome had to be built.

Meri has devoted hundreds of hours since December creating the website. It's ready for everyone to check out. Please do, and send comments and recommendations. Click here to visit the website www.trustineducation.org. I am absolutely thrilled with what Meri has created. It continues to amaze me what we, an ever increasing cadre of volunteers, can accomplish, by working together.
Now that it's ready, we can all begin drawing others to the website. The great thing about networking is that the cost to expand is nil. All people have to do is type in the email address of a friend and hit the send or forward button. So.... just do it. You wouldn't be receiving this newsletter if you didn't believe in what we're doing. And, if I didn't believe, I wouldn't be asking you to.

Best Regards,

Budd

ps A reporter from Newsweek called to ask about Greg Mortensen. My fundamental problem with what he apparently has done, is betray the public trust. Reportedly, 2600 schools did "Pennies for Peace" drives to raise money for Central Asia Institute. That's over a million children whose trust has been shaken. The least we can expect of someone portraying himself as a humanitarian, is that he tell us the truth. I was raised in a household where it was often said "you are no better than your word". You lied and out came the ivory soap. Worked for me. Lying doesn't, no matter how many schools are built in the process. Then of course there is the issue of fairly allocating
income and costs between the nonprofit entity and Greg, that will be flushed out over time.

The photos shown in this newsletter are the latest photos from the jobsite in Farza, where the villagers are building a school for girls, with funds provided by TIE. The ten room two story school should be completed by the end of the year.

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