

JACOB'S WELL APPEAL

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Please Note Our New Website And Email:

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CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER, 2013

Today, as I write this, it is "Storm" day. The doors and windows are rattling and the trees are bending. So far the roof is still on and we are safe inside. This last month we have been made very aware of what it is like for the Philippine families who have lost many loved ones and their homes.



Remains of Hernani High School

God's networking again kicked in. At my son's 50th birthday party there were five Norwegian guests. One was missing because he was volunteering for the Nordic mission who built and run an orphanage in Hernani, near to Tacloban in the Philippines. He was safe and so was the orphanage, The only building still up for miles around, and now sheltering 90 families. They asked us to help as they had seen our work. So now a container is at sea with almost £100,000 of aid, medicines, food, bandages etc which will be delivered early in January to them. They have asked us to send a second one with building materials and tools so that rebuilding can start. They plan to build 100 houses in Hernani. Norwegian volunteer builders will go to help in the hope that they can put up stronger structures like the orphanage. So we are starting to try to gather the needed items. We hope it will sail before Christmas.

Also before Christmas we are hoping for the safe arrival of our first ever container to Kenya. I can certainly tell you that it has been the most difficult one that we have ever done. We decided to help the Nasio Trust's orphanage and clinic in Mumais. The mother of one of our trustees started this when babies were left outside her gate because their mothers were dying with aids. It grew and grew and they now have a school and a clinic for the whole community as well. We started the process in June and it has been a marathon of hurdles. Every time we cleared one another popped up! It

is the only time we have had to have a full inspection of a load by an inspector. It all had to be unloaded in our yard for this and then reloaded again. Our warehouse workers were not amused! A tractor to help them grow more food was also loaded - not easy to unload and reload. It is due in Mombasa on December 9th and the little orphans are all praying for it as they have been for the last six months. For Karen, new to the admin, it was a nightmare and she did very well indeed. Our medicines have to be

released from customs before the end of December or they may not be allowed in! Please keep praying.

In October John (my son) led a team of eleven volunteers out to Bobo in Burkina Faso to help with the school, farm work and sorting out and distributing of the load we sent in September. A new house for the volunteers had just been completed and they helped to install a kitchen and bathroom. They were busy with many small jobs that the new accommodation threw up. It was a good and very useful visit and they returned happy and were thankful for our cool winter weather as it was 40°C in Bobo. There is a need for teachers of English for the older children who are now ready to move up to senior school. To start a senior school from scratch with no budget is difficult. The



Donated sewing machines in Burkina Faso



2 wheelchairs sent to Kenya

top class has 50 children aged around eleven with nowhere to go. It needs a lot of faith to try.

The container that we shipped out to Ghana for the Tamale teaching hospital in the summer has only just now been released from the port and will be up at the hospital in the Northern Region before Christmas. Sandra, our leader there, is in Accra to help with the logistics and to follow it up to Tamale and oversee distribution. We are planning to send the next load to Nadowli to the Queen of Peace Senior High School. We hope to send lab benches and equipment and books for the school. Food and medicines are also needed for the 800 teenagers. In early November we had Sister Justina who is head teacher of the school as our guest for a month. She should have come in July but the Consul kept refusing her visa application and it took three attempts to get one. She told us, "We cry if the temperature gets down to 15°C." It was below 10°C for most of her stay, so we had to wrap her up well! We had visits to 2 local secondary schools and also to Ampleforth College and some very useful links have been made. She had never seen rugby played and was very enthusiastic about it. A visit to the goat farm gave her much pleasure and she



Karen, who has joined Mike in the Office

is going back with plans to add goats to the ducks and chicken at the school farm. Visits to York, Bridlington and the Deep in Hull made her very happy and she regularly met up with friends from St John's RC Church in Beverley who first introduced her to us. Her visit has strengthened our friendship and understanding of each others' problems, a good investment for the future. We are missing her laughter this week.

Before Christmas we are sending a pallet sized box of colostomy items to Zimbabwe where they are very needed. They are very precious and very necessary for those patients in need and we want to thank the many people who help us by sending their unwanted bags and flanges. We shall be welcoming Dr Farid just before Christmas to discuss the needs in Afghanistan and I know that they will be many. Political changes are due soon and we hope it will be possible to send more help again.

This autumn our warehouse became so full that it was almost impossible to get anything else in. Titi arrived from Romania with his truck in November and a very full load has now been delivered, mainly of clothing for our two charity shops. Jacob's Well Romania has had many problems and Peter and I have made two short visits to try to help. A new committee of 5 trustees has been set up, Titi, Doreena, our shop manager in Mitoc, Tibi, the director of the psychiatric hospital for chronic cases, Peter and I. Titi is now repairing the day centre part of the Rehab so that the hospital can begin to use the building as they have no day centre space. Winter is harsh in Siret and Titi is hoping to complete this work before the snow comes. Brindusa is now only involved with the Dutch group who are continuing to try to finish the big new school building for children in Siret. She is moving some of her work to Botosani and is no longer working for us. We have need of one or two volunteer helpers to assist in the spring when we hope to be fully in action again in the Rehab unit. Please pray for this work, that we can continue the good progress of the young adults, who were left behind when the big hospital closed. Next month, weather permitting, we hope to send another supply to Moldova.

John and Samuel are continuing the good work they have started in our Christian bookshop and it has been miraculously profitable, the first time for many years. Watch out Amazon! The coffee is selling and customers are happy. It is helping many people spiritually. Thanks go to all the staff for their support and good work both at the shop and the warehouse site because we can't manage without you. We want to thank you all for your donations which make it possible to fund our work. May God bless you all. We wish you all a very happy Christmas.

Beryl Beynon, Medical Director