

JACOB'S WELL APPEAL

Registered Charity Number 515235

Summer Newsletter 2013

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Samuel and John in the Modernised Jacob's Well Shop in Beverley Trying the Coffee

Our late English summer has just arrived in time for the end of Wimbledon tennis so I decided it was time to send you our news. Perhaps you think it is too hot here but it has been unbearable in Karachi and political unrest has brought strikes almost every week. Last February Peter and I visited the Lady Dufferin Maternity Hospital in the centre of Karachi. They asked us to help them with further supplies of medical aid and we were impressed with their efficiency in dealing with the aid distribution of the container we sent last year so in May we sent them another container which is now in port, and customs cleared. However there have been almost daily strikes in the region of the port and it has not yet made it to the hospital which is only a mile away. We just need one peaceful day to move it safely!

In Ghana, after a lull of more than six months, we have managed to send another container, this time to the Tamale teaching hospital in the Northern Region. They were willing to help us with the final touches of our MOU with the Ministry of Health and this has helped a lot to overcome some of the difficulties we had last year. They are also willing to help with the

distribution of the latest tractor and trailer to the Dipale region where we are trying to start to irrigate and grow vegetables for this region. This will help a lot to improve the nutrition of the children in this very poor area. I am also pleased to report that in Accra five of the kidney machines we sent last year are now installed and up and running. This is quite an achievement and we hope to be able to continue to help them.



Barbara upstairs Selling Clothes & Bric-a-Brac

By the end of July we are expecting Sister Justina, the head teacher of the Queen of Peace School, to visit for a month. She was our first ever contact in Ghana almost ten years ago and it will be her first visit to England. It hasn't been an easy year as before Easter the wall of the girl's hostel started to crack and the building was condemned. Since then the girls have all had to camp out in the school dining room to sleep. It is a big problem for the school and will need costly repairs or replacement but the school is hoping that this will happen over the summer holidays. Sister Justina, together with our project leader Sandra and some other trustees formed and registered Jacob's Well Ghana as a national charity. Sandra has now managed to get the help of four students of agriculture from the Tamale University to work with her on the seed bank project and to start an irrigation project during the rainy season. Sandra has led this work superbly, not bad for a lass from Manchester!

Our warehouse is a hive of activity at the moment as our gang of six volunteers who went to Burkina Faso last autumn are planning another visit soon and they are packing their container to go ahead of them. The group has now grown to eleven people so we are expecting great things from them this year! New volunteer accommodation is being built and French lessons are getting serious now. Their enthusiasm is catching. The ABC school now has 350 children and by next year they will need to add some secondary education as the oldest children all reach 11 years old and none can afford to go to the existing schools in the town. They already have a workshop project for the boys and girls but the children want to continue learning. I hope that they can learn English so that we can send them some school text books. They are very keen to learn. A chicken farm is also a possibility to give some jobs and to improve the quality of the meals the school provides. Another tractor is going to help with the farming shortly.



Local Transport Burkina Faso Style



Heather Retires

At the end of June I am sad to report that Heather, our nurse administrator, retired. She will be sadly missed as she was so good at her job! However we do all love her a lot and we wish her a very happy retirement and we hope that she will soon get very bored and come back to help us a little. We very much

welcome Karen also a nurse, to our office. She has bravely stepped into Heather's shoes and is doing her best to get her head round the many varied tasks that need to be done each day. In March Barry joined us for two months on a Vodafone World of Difference project to help us to improve the funding of our projects in Africa. His work has already born some fruit and we are hopeful that even more help will come in the next few months. Sandra also had some help from Vodafone for JW Ghana and a young man called Peter joined her for two months to help with the work with micro credit loans, initially for 20 women, to start business in the Upper West Province of Ghana. This work went well and we hope will grow each year.

Shortly Peter and I will go to Guildford for the Lyme Disease Action Group's conference to learn more about the research and problems of diagnosis in this field. Our own groups still meet twice a week and we are beginning to see some of our patients struggling to keep their benefits and needing help. We are sure that homelessness will increase soon as bedroom taxes are hitting the poor and jobs are not easy to find, especially for the chronically sick.

This year the Jacob's Well Christian book shop has new management. I am out, and everything has changed! My son John and grandson Samuel are now well and truly in charge downstairs. The new tiled floor is very nice and they have started a small coffee shop area surrounded by Christian books. They are hoping to expand the second hand Christian book section, and to have more choice for children's books. I can't fault their enthusiasm and I am hoping and praying that it doesn't wane and that they can compete with Amazon! The rest of the shop is still a typical charity shop and our second hand books, clothes and toys have helped a lot to keep the income up in this time of recession. We do want to thank all our staff, volunteers and donors who put up with all the problems and still turn out to help us week in and week out. Lastly we thank God for all his love, guidance and presence with us as we try to follow him on the narrow path.

Beryl Beynon, Medical Director