



Jacob's Well Appeal

July 2018 Newsletter



Building a hospital in Burkina Faso

Imagine falling sick in Africa! In Burkina Faso, one of the poorest countries on the planet, there is no national health system at all. Just a series of disconnected private hospitals and clinics, all of which charge heavily for every visit a patient makes. Every pill, bandage, consultation and night's stay in hospital has to be paid for in advance otherwise no treatment is given. Jacob's Well is partnering with a Christian clinic in Ouagadougou, the capital city, called "The Source of Life". This small clinic is endeavouring to offer free or heavily reduced healthcare for the poorest people of the city. A few years ago, they started to build a larger hospital on adjacent land, but then ran out of funds, leaving just a vast empty concrete shell on 2 floors! However Jacob's Well has been able to raise £30,000 to fund the completion of a complete wing of this new building. Electric cables have been installed, tiles for the floors and some walls have been fitted. Next, the doors, windows and painting will take place before we send beds and equipment to enable them to open the hospital. This new wing will house a fully equipped 30 bed mother and baby unit. Currently, women in labour deliver their babies in a small room in the clinic. There are often 4 women at the same time delivering their babies on the concrete floor in a space that is too small for a double bed! Once the new maternity wing is completed, we would like to be able to help the "Source of Life" gradually complete the rest of the hospital complex. There is room for operating theatres, a surgical ward, radiology and other wards to house patients. The current clinic has just 4 beds, which is completely inadequate for the huge number of people who make use of this invaluable service.



Work begins on the mother and baby unit in Ouagadougou

Thank you for our new van

Thank you for everyone who responded to our appeal for a new large van. Our two vans (one little, one large!) are always busy collecting the donations of aid from schools, hospitals and other places, not to mention serving



Jacob's Well vehicle fleet with the new large van in the background

our charity shops as well as collecting and delivering items sold to raise funds. We got a special price on a new large van, which is already saving us money. We would also like to say a very big thank you to **Signs Express, Scarborough** who very generously "wrapped" our new van with wonderful photos to advertise our work. Our previous large van was very old, rusting and costing too much money to maintain!

Rebuilding after Hurricane Irma

Last month Jacob's Well sent it's first container of aid to help the devastated island of Barbuda. Barbuda used to be a small but very beautiful island in the Caribbean. Though the people were not rich, they got by. Hurricane Irma changed all that. In one night 90% of the properties on the island were destroyed, causing the Prime Minister to order the evacuation of the entire island to the neighbouring island of Antigua. At the time much was promised by international governments and aid organisations. But as the media circus moved onto other places, people forgot about Barbuda and the aid money never came.

A couple months ago Jacob's Well was contacted by the High Commission of Barbuda asking for help. Drs. Alistair and Margaret Robertson went down to London where they met, amongst others, Gaston Browne, the Prime Minister of Barbuda. He said that the total amount of aid they had received in the 7 months since the disaster was only £100 000 donated by the UK- a drop in the ocean when you consider that 90% of all properties on the island were destroyed.

Jacob's Well agreed to help and asked what was needed to be sent. The local doctor said "We need everything!" "Everything?" we asked, "Beds? Equipment? Medicine?" "Yes. Everything", he replied. "What you don't realise is when the roof blows off a building, everything inside disappears!" That helped us to understand how bad the situation was. Since then we have been asking around different hospitals and medical suppliers and donations started to come in from around the country. We managed to get 10 hospital beds sent up from St. George's Hospital in London, from a local supplier Mike Craven, an Ultrasound, X-ray machine and cardiac monitors were purchased plus many pallets of dressings and other medical consumables were collected. This container should enable the hospital to get up and running and be able to start treating patients, as the inhabitants gradually start to return.

People are gradually starting to return to the island, though an estimate by Time Magazine indicated that over \$100 million would be required to rebuild homes and crucial infrastructure such as electricity, water supply, communications and waste management. It is unclear where that money is going to come from.

If anyone would like to give a donation to help with our Barbuda appeal, please contact us.

We would like to say a big thank you to the **SCREWFIX FOUNDATION** who recently donated **£5,000** towards extending our warehousing space in Beverley. With this money we were able to purchase and install a new 40ft Portakabin which will provide a much needed heated space in which volunteers can sort clothes, bric-a-brac and also make shoe gift boxes to send overseas. Previously the volunteers worked all winter in our draughty warehouse with no heating, with their working temperature sometimes dropping below zero!



Building a home for abandoned girls in Burkina Faso

Our partners in Bobo Dioulassou, Burkina Faso are facing an increased problem in their **ABC School**. Several of the older girls have become pregnant through being raped by a relative – unfortunately this is all too common in this part of Africa, where the women are often treated as little more than possessions. Once they are pregnant out of wedlock, however, they cannot bring a good dowry for their fathers and they are a disgrace to their families. Consequently, they are thrown out of their family home, even though often they are innocent victims. Now that they are pregnant and have no place to stay, it is difficult for them to continue their studies and make something of their lives. Jacob's Well would like to change this situation by helping the ABC school build a special house where up to 20 of these girls could live together as a family with "house parents" from the school.

This would enable them to receive help after the doubly traumatic experience of being raped followed by being evicted from their family home. It would also enable them to continue their education whilst others support them in the caring of their babies. We estimate it would cost around £25,000 to build this house.

If you would like to give to this project, please let us know.

Life-changing supplies for Albania

Recently, we sent a 40 Foot curtain-sider lorry to Albania. The permissions for this had taken months to sort out due to local corruption. In spite of our careful preparations, we still had to pay a heavy “fine” when the lorry arrived because the weight of the load on paper was different from the actual weight! This load was delivered to a Christian charity called Illyricum. They work with local churches, schools and hospitals around the capital city Tirana. On our previous visit to Albania last winter, we had been shocked to see the school children all studying in their coats because they couldn’t afford heating! There were very few books in the school libraries, yet the children were all very keen to learn English. We have been able to send them lots of educational books as well as computers for the schools.

Their health provision is also very limited and local people often have to pay for medical treatment and supplies. Whilst there, we met an elderly couple in Tirana who were living in a relative's flat because they had sold their family home to pay for surgery. The wife now needed urostomy bags every day. Costing 8 Euros a day, her pension of 30 Euros a month could not come close to paying for this. Consequently she was left house-bound, fastening old plastic bags on her stoma with elastic bands to catch the faeces - something that is smelly and there is a risk of severe infection. We were able to send several pallets of stoma supplies, meaning that she and many others like her will regain their dignity and no longer be house-bound.



Students in their coats as there is no heating in the classrooms

Boring again?

One of the isolated villages that Drs. Alistair and Margaret Robertson visited on their recent trip to Ghana was a Christian community that could only be accessed by a dirt track along the river bed in the dry season. In the wet season they are completely cut-off. This village was struggling because their old borehole was drying up and it was taking them all day to fill their water containers drop by drop from it. The nearest river had completely dried up. We prayed with them for rain and miraculously before we left, the rain started to fall. It continued raining for the next 12 hours! Being British we weren’t unduly surprised by the rain. However, our local interpreter was amazed, saying that he had never known it rain in the dry season in the northern regions of Ghana. Even in the rainy season it only rains for 2-3 hours each day – never for 12 hours! By the morning our car park was flooded and our room was leaking! We hoped and prayed that after that downpour, there would be enough water to keep this community going until the rainy season started a few months later. To make their longer term future more stable, however, Jacob’s Well is raising around £5,000 to fund a much deeper borehole for this village that would provide water for the village even during the driest times of the year! Contact us if you’d like to help with this.



Villagers spend all day pumping to get enough water

On our way to 1 million fruit trees in Africa

We are continuing to plant as many fruit trees in West Africa as money and situations allow. In the remote **Upper East** region of **Ghana** we have worked with several schools who have used the pupils to plant and look after the trees. Earlier this year Drs. Alistair and Margaret Robertson visited the region to review the projects. One particular headmaster wanted to encourage the children to water the trees, so he allocated one tree to each child and then organised a competition to see whose tree grew the best! All the trees at his school were extremely healthy and well cared for! This school had no electricity and the classrooms were poor. They will have to wait two or three years before they get any mangoes, but once the trees are fruiting, it will be a great blessing for the whole community. The children and their poor parents will have a plentiful supply of fresh fruit and there is likely even to be a surplus that could be sold for cash or dried to provide food for the dry season. There are many other schools across the region that would be very grateful for this sort of help. Donations for this project are always welcome.

We are currently working with the help of the Rotary Club of York Vikings to plant an orchard in the Nadowli district in memory of Sandra, our volunteer worker in Ghana who died last year. 12 more orchards are planned in Burkina Faso: 2 in the North and 10 scattered around other remote communities.



Dr Alistair Robertson visits one of the schools growing fruit trees in Ghana

*Jacob's Well
Great Gatsby*
CHRISTMAS CHARITY PARTY
FRIDAY 23RD NOVEMBER 2018
LAZAAT PAVILION, COTTINGHAM

LIVE MUSIC WITH SEAN FINCH
ENTERTAINMENT BY THE "GATSBY GIRLS"

ARRIVAL BUBBLY, 3 COURSE DINNER, LIVE MUSIC,
DISCO & DANCING IN THE BEAUTIFUL PAVILION

Tickets: £40 per head

GROUP BOOKINGS WELCOME
ARRIVAL 7PM - CARRIAGES 1AM

HUGE THANKS TO LAZAAT FOR SUPPORTING JACOB'S WELL FOR THE
SECOND YEAR AND FOR DONATING THE VENUE & FOOD

ROOMS AVAILABLE: SPECIAL RATE £50 PER ROOM

❄️ CALL LAZAAT DIRECT ON 01482 847900 ❄️

Donations: -

Via Internet Banking

Account Name: Jacob's Well Appeal

Account Number: 71090704 Sort Code: 40-10-12

TEXT GIVING: Text **JWAS06** followed by the amount you want to donate to **70070**

Do you have email? If you would prefer to receive the newsletter by email, save costs and the environment, please send us your email address to office@jacobswellappeal.org along with your name and postal address, so we can update our database. Thank-you!

Jacob's Well Christmas Party

Following the success of last year's Charity Night, we are again holding a Charity Christmas Party on the "Great Gatsby" theme. Please help us to beat the £7,300 that we raised last year.

Tickets and details available from Bridget Conroy in our office, call 01482 881162

We would also like to say a huge thank you to **LAZAATS** who have once again provided the venue **AND** the food **FREE OF CHARGE** as part of their charitable giving!

A HUGE thank-you to all our AMAZING Volunteers, who make everything we do possible and are so dedicated.

Also to all our Donors and the many Groups who support us with Goods, Monetary Donations and beautiful hand-knitted blankets and clothes.

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