



Christmas 2018 Newsletter



A Gift of Light this Christmas

On cold, dark, December nights, isn't it wonderful to be able to set up all our sparkling Christmas lights? They transform our houses into something beautiful. But can you imagine having no lights at all? Most of the children at our partner ABC School in Burkina Faso come from very poor homes that have no running water or electricity. In West Africa, it gets dark around 6pm throughout the year. This poses many problems for these school children to do any homework! As they go higher up the school, this becomes more important, especially when they have major exams to study for. Jacob's Well is seeking to raise money to buy each child in the school a solar powered lantern, to enable them to study at home, as well as helping to make the life of their families more possible. We have printed some special gift cards for this using the picture to the right. The attractive cards cost £5 each. The picture opposite makes up the front, and on the back is a brief explanation of the project. There is space for you to write your own message and greeting on the inside. The cards are ideal to give as a Christmas present friends and family. They can be purchased at our shops, office or from our **website**.



A gift of light in the dark



Shoe Box Appeal

Jacob's Well would like to say a big thank you to all those who have donated shoe box presents for poor children abroad this year, including Molescroft Primary and St. Mary's Primary in Beverley. Pupils made up boxes from unwanted toys, clothes and other items. The children overseas **REALLY APPRECIATE** these shoe boxes, as they could be the only presents that they get in the whole year! We accept shoe boxes all year around, so if you have any unwanted small toys, toiletries or other items that you could pack into an old shoe box and bring to us, we would be very grateful. A full list of what can go into a shoe box can be found on our website. Please no sweets or money!

BURKINA FASO; Home for Abandoned Girls

In our last newsletter we shared our desire to build a home for pregnant teenage girls who had been thrown out of their homes after being raped by family members. We are excited to report that we received all the money that we needed to fund this project. The house is being built as we write. It will soon become home to 12 girls looked after by Christian “house-parents”.

Farm and Agricultural Training School

The site of the girls house is on a large piece of land was acquired for a livestock farm and an Agricultural Training School by our partner, the ABC School in Bobo. This will allow the girls to have a piece of land on which to grow their own food. Also on this land, through Jacob’s Well’s **EASTER CHICKEN** project, the farm now has purchased 1100 egg-laying chickens. These are currently laying a few hundred large eggs per day. This is a great source of added nutrition for the children’s daily meals and also provides much needed cash to pay for other school expenses. The school have also just finished building a **PIG** unit, which in time will house 12 sows and their litters until they are big enough for eating—perhaps up to 200 pigs in total. As well as providing valuable food for the school, the farm is a wonderful environment in which to teach the children how to raise animals and grow their own crops.



1100 chickens laying eggs for the children of ABC School in Burkina Faso

Water Tower urgently needed

Last year Jacob’s Well managed to drill a bore hole on the farm property, and installed a hand pump to draw the water up. Imagine how long you will need to pump to get all the water for 12 girls and a boarding house, 1200 chickens, 200 pigs and a market garden! Someone would be pumping all day long! So we are trying to raise the £14,000 needed to build a water tower with a 6000 litre tank on top, fed by means of a solar powered water pump. From the water tower, pipes would go to supply running water to the girls’ house, the chicken house, the pig unit and the rest of the farm.

Maternity hospital in Ouagadougou

Thank you so much to those who gave towards building the new maternity unit that will provide free health-care in Burkina’s capital city, Ouagadougou. The hospital has just opened. Our next container will be filled with items that they now need. We are now trying to raise an additional £20,000 to build a radiology unit and an operating theatre to increase the scope of treatments they can offer.



The first baby delivered at the maternity hospital

Solar Powered Water Pump

Recently someone kindly gave us a donation of £5,000 for a project of our choice in West Africa. At the same time, our partner school in Ouagadougou asked if we could help them to get a solar powered water pump. Their existing pump uses a lot of electricity which they could no longer afford due to a cut in funding from sponsors in the USA. This boarding school takes in some of the poorest children from the villages, and gives them accommodation, food and a free education. This solar powered pump will save a lot of money, which can then be spent on other essentials like food or teachers’ salaries.

SIERRA LEONE

Drs Alistair and Margaret Robertson had the privilege of meeting the mayor of Freetown, Sierra Leone on her visit to Hull recently. We are about to send our first container of medical aid to Freetown, the capital city. Sierra Leone is a very poor country, struggling with the aftermath of the Ebola crisis. We are looking forward to being able to work in this country.

CAMEROON

We sent our first container to Cameroon which arrived early November. Our partners there are the Baptist Convention Health Services Complex that runs 5 hospitals throughout Cameroon. They contacted us because they were struggling to afford adequate medical supplies. Drs. Alistair and Margaret Robertson plan to visit the receiving hospitals next year with a view to establishing longer term ties.

Keeping going in a changing environment

It's almost 40 years since Jacob's Well first started sending aid overseas. In the early days, Drs Beryl & Peter Beynon's home was the collection point, with boxes stacked up in the hall, under the dining table and every other square inch of available space! The office work was done on the kitchen table and the pills were sorted in their bedroom, then stored in various other places, until it became clear that a larger and more long-term solution needed to be found. Since then, Jacob's Well has grown and changed, borrowing empty garages and storage units, until we were finally able to move into our current large warehouse in Beverley.

This year, thanks to a generous donation from Smith & Nephew, we've been able to completely equip our warehouse with aisles of pallet racking, enabling us to store pallets 3 high, greatly increasing our storage capacity and logistical efficiency. These days we often receive large donations from companies who manufacture medical products. The phone will ring, and someone will say; "We've 40 pallets of dressings that expire in 3 months. They're worth £250,000. Do you want them?"

That's amazing for the hospitals abroad who have nothing. Though we'd love to take everything that's offered, we have to ask ourselves three questions. **1)** Have we room in our already over-flowing warehouse to store it? **2)** Do we have the £5-8000 needed to send it to Africa? And **3)** Is there any country that will let these short dated items in? We are finding that even the poorest countries are saying to us that they will only accept medical aid that has at least 6 months shelf life on it, even though everybody knows that items like bandages, gloves and respiratory masks don't really ever go out of date!



Jacob's Well's newly improved warehouse!

Regulations like these are literally killing thousands of people! The customs won't let the goods in through the port even though the hospitals themselves often have nothing in their store cupboards and beg the customs officials to be lenient! Sadly, we have to say "no" sometimes to the companies who offer us these amazing medical products, and they all end up in land-fill, whilst the poorest people abroad stay with nothing!

Meanwhile, the volume of non-medical items that we receive has also steadily grown. Several other charities that used to send shoe boxes overseas have closed down, so now we receive literally thousands of shoe boxes from individuals, schools, churches and voluntary organisations from all over Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and beyond! That's great for the children in countries like Syria, Moldova or Africa, where what we send is a drop in the ocean. For us, however, it puts more pressure on our finances. For example, **it costs £116 to send every cubic metre of aid to Burkina Faso** – that works out at about £1 per shoe box just for the transport!

The increased cost of aid has made fund-raising more important than ever. We are really grateful for all of you who give us clothing and other items to sell. Please keep them coming. The volume of these items has also gone up hugely in recent years. After we have sold the best clothes in the shop, and then sorted out the best of the rest to ship abroad, we still have over 1 tonne of clothes, 1 tonne of books and ½ tonne of bric-a-brac **per month** that we sell in bulk to various traders.

Such a huge volume of items means that **we are always desperate for more volunteers**. Last year we benefitted from over 19,000 volunteer hours – over 365 volunteer hours per week! But it still isn't nearly enough to sort, pack, transport and sell all the items that we receive. If you are able to help in our office, shops, driving our vans or in the warehouse, we would love to hear from you!

Summary of Aid values sent in 2018

Medical	£2,070,218
Agricultural	£23,749
Educational & Housing	£34,196
Clothes, Household, Shoe boxes	£66,064
Water, Food, Hygiene	£20,218
Transport Costs	£29,521
Total	£2,243,966

Aid Destinations

Burkina Faso	Madagascar	Albania	Syria
Gambia	Ukraine	Kenya	India
Ghana	Moldova	Poland	Rwanda
Kenya	Afghanistan	Zimbabwe	Iraq
Sierra Leone	Uganda	Cameroon	Bulgaria
Barbuda	Moldova	Morocco	India

Dental Work in Burkina Faso

There are so many things that we take for granted in the UK. One of them is good dental care. In Burkina Faso, many people go through their whole lives without visiting a dentist once! There are very few properly trained dentists, and the ones that there are cost a ridiculous amount of money. Given that people eat quite a lot of sugar and many don't ever brush their teeth, you can imagine the state of their teeth! Many suffer constantly with tooth pain, even children sometimes have teeth that are visibly rotten.

In September, our CEO, John Beynon, organised for a dental team to go with him to our partner school in Bobo, Burkina Faso. Each day there were long queues of people waiting to have their teeth seen to. In most cases, the teeth had to be removed, as they were in such bad condition.

Lynne Smith, the lead dentist on the team, has done dental work in various third world countries for many years. She has a range of mobile equipment, including special dental chairs which can be folded and carried in a back pack. She has trained up a team of local dentists, all fully qualified, who travel with her around Burkina Faso performing dental work in the poorest communities where people have no access to dental care.

Lynne writes: "We need a lot of help to be able to provide free dental care to people. Particular needs at the moment are forceps, elevators, examination instruments, syringes, cotton rolls, gauze, dental needles, sterilising solution, gloves and anaesthetic cartridges. My current mobile dental drill unit has been bumping around African roads for the last five years, and it has started to give me issues. Parts of the unit no longer work, and I don't like to rely on it for surgical procedures. I use the unit for minor oral surgery such as removing buried roots and wisdom teeth. Occasionally I use it for more serious cases such as osteomyelitis (when parts of the jaw bone die off due to long-term infection and malnutrition). To replace the unit would cost around £3000. We also need funding for four more specialist i-dent foldable dental chairs. We need these when our whole dental team travels to remote villages and we are unable to take our larger equipment in the small vehicles we have or on public transport. These chairs cost around £600 each."



Donations: -

Via Internet Banking

Account Name: Jacobs Well Appeal

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

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!

All Change at the Beverley Shop

We would like to say a big thank you to Susan Falcus, our Beverley shop manager, who left us in September. We now welcome Sally Dunn and Robert Pritchard who manage the shop as a job-share! We have recently completed a programme of refurbishment, improvement and decoration in the shop, and greatly increased the numbers of Christian books available. Why not pop in to get a Christmas present for someone, to find a bargain yourself, or just to enjoy a cup of tea and a chat in our cafe area.

A HUGE thank-you to all our AMAZING Volunteers and all those who support us by donating money, items to sell and knitting blankets and clothes. If the monies raised exceed the amount needed for the projects mentioned in this newsletter, we will use the extra money to fund similar projects.

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