

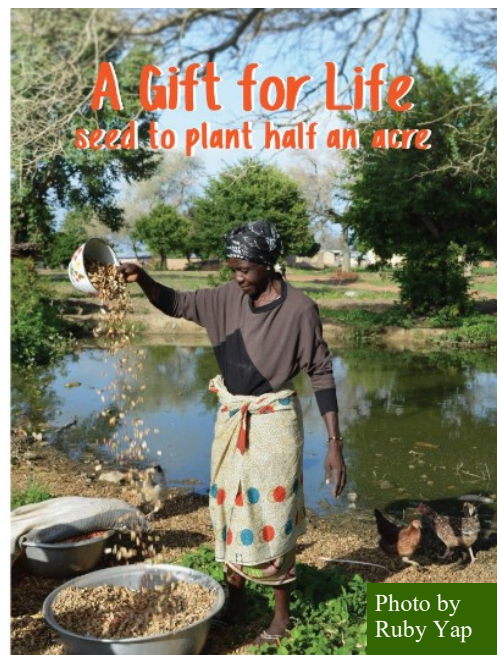


Jacob's Well Appeal

Summer 2019 Newsletter

THE GHANA SEEDBANK

In the villages of Northern Ghana, many people still live by subsistence farming, struggling to grow enough food for their families to eat. Our **Seedbank Project** identifies 30-50 of the poorest women in a remote community. When the rains come, we "lend" them 6 bowls of seed; enough to plant one acre. At harvest time they give us 6 bowls of seed back. Then they keep the rest for themselves and their families. Normally, 6 bowls sown would produce around 36 bowls of grain. Last year, at the request of the women and with the advice of the Ministry of Agriculture, we supplied fertiliser. Consequently the yield was much higher – over 100 bowls from 6 planted! This was so successful that we are continuing to provide fertiliser this year as well. As we aim to make this project self-financing, the women who use the Seedbank will help to cover the costs by returning 20 bowls of grain at harvest time. After about 3 years in one community, the women have grown in confidence and now have the experience and the resources to become self-sufficient, allowing us to move onto a new community. You can purchase "Gift for Life" cards to support this project through our shops or office for £5.



Sunrise Madagascar

"Zanako tsy Hariako"



Jacob's Well is planning to develop a new project, in **Madagascar**, the large island off the coast of East Africa. Madagascar is one of the poorest countries in the world. It is in great need of help with all kinds of medical and educational aid. Jacob's Well is

partnering with a charity called Sunrise Madagascar (in the UK registered as "**Learn, Achieve, Become**") which is aiming to build a day centre providing specialist education and care for disabled people on the remote island of Nosy Be.

There are no facilities for disabled people on the whole island, which has a population of around 73,000 people. Local schools are unable to educate disabled children due to a lack of resources, facilities and training, so disabled children are just left at home with no support, education or involvement from the state. They have no hope of having a fulfilled life, and will probably spend their days neglected and living in extreme poverty without the help that this new centre will offer.

"**Sunrise Madagascar**" was founded by Nathan Stapley, a young man who was brought up close to Beverley. Nathan is a trained disability worker, a qualified teacher of English as a second language as well as being a sports enthusiast. Nathan first visited Nosy Be,

Madagascar as a volunteer, teaching English as a second language and running various sports activities for local young people. Whilst there he was deeply touched by the needs of the local disabled people and was shocked to discover that there was no help available for them. So he decided to do something about it. Since then he has registered his organisation with the local government, been given a large building which he plans to convert into the Island's first disability centre and also received some grant funding to help him begin.

The centre will be open 5 days a week and will bring disabled children and young people there from around the island so that they can receive an education, become part of a community with other disabled people and supportive adults, receive medical assessments, physio and help with medication needs. The aim is to enable them to reach their full potential as human beings. (continued overleaf)



SECURITY DETERIORATES IN BURKINA FASO

For the last 5 years, Burkina Faso has been one of our main destinations for overseas aid. Over the last few years, however, the security situation has deteriorated significantly. In this year alone there have been dozens of attacks on police and government officials by the Islamic extremists. Schools and teachers are also often targeted by the militants who are opposed to secular education. More than 1,000 schools in the north and east of the country have been forced to close as a result of teachers being shot or threatened, effectively terminating the education of over 150,000 children. In a recent escalation, churches have also started to become targets. This year 5 churches have been attacked during their Sunday services. The pastors and priests have been shot and some kidnapped. The government has declared a state of emergency in many of the regions. According to the UN more than a fifth of the country's national budget is now spent on defence and security. But the former French colony, a poor country even by West African standards, is struggling and the security forces remain ill-equipped to tackle the scale of the jihadist threat. Widespread frustration with poverty, the lack of jobs and infrastructure has made Burkina Faso a fertile recruiting ground for jihadists. Many recruits join up, not out of ideology, but simply because they see it as the only alternative to destitution.

The violence has caused over 120,000 people to leave their villages. Many are living in refugee camps. Others have moved to stay with friends, relatives or simply churches of the same denomination as the one they belonged to in their home town. The capital is crammed with displaced people, the churches are struggling to sleep all the guests and put food in the extra mouths. Most of these people would normally be planting their own crops at this time. Now vast swathes of the country's agricultural land lies fallow. Food prices are rising and people are getting more desperate.

JACOB'S WELL'S RESPONSE has been to send money to our partners, the Village of Hope, in the capital city,

Ouagadougou. This has enabled them to buy over 5 tonnes of rice and 11 tonnes of maize to be distributed to poor families and churches who are hosting refugees. This will enable them to get through the next few months, whilst they hope and pray that the situation somehow improves. Meanwhile, at the ABC school in **Bobo Dioulassou**, we are investing in razor wire around the school compound and building a secure gate, protected with vehicle spikes and manned by an armed guard. We hope and pray that this will deter the attackers from coming near our school. Our project leaders, Hinrik and Gully Thorsteinsson will be going back to Burkina Faso after the summer and John Beynon, our CEO, also plans to go and visit our projects in Ouagadougou and Bobo sometime later in the year.



Distributing Rice and Clothes in Ouagadougou



WATER PROJECTS

Drinking polluted water is still one of the primary causes of illness in West Africa. Thanks to some wonderful donations, we have been able to provide several communities with fresh water. We were able to install a borehole in a community in the Northern Region of **Ghana** called Nyoli-Koraa, who were previously using surface water because their old borehole was broken. There are 1078 adults and 400 children who are benefitting from this borehole. We have also repaired the boreholes in two other communities in upper west province, namely Kolingo (500 people) and Goriyiri (300 people)

Villagers in N. Ghana still drink from puddles and pools of surface water. (Photo by Ruby Yap)

SIERRA LEONE is a small country on the west coast of Africa with a population of around 7 million. This former British Colony has had more than its fair share of civil and political unrest over the last couple of decades, including the recent Ebola epidemic, in which over 3000 people died. It is one of the world's poorest countries with terrible statistics regarding child and maternal mortality. Following the Ebola outbreak, the health services have performed very badly because many doctors and nurses were amongst those who died.

Sierra Leone has been in our hearts for many years, and recently we have sent our first container to Freetown, the capital, which is twinned with Hull. The link came about through meeting the Mayor of Freetown through the Hull based "Freetown Society".

Drs Alistair and Margaret Robertson are spending two weeks in Sierra Leone this July to assess the situation in the hospitals, to monitor what's happened to the aid we've already sent and to discuss the possibility of further work.

DRY SEASON FARMING

Traditional farming in West Africa is restricted to one harvest per year. People plant when the rains come and harvest a few months later, when the rainy season ends. Until recently there has been no tradition of using rivers or wells to grow all year around. However, now, governments are encouraging people to farm in the dry season as well, using rivers, wells or bore-holes to water the crops. This enables them to grow food all year round to supplement their main harvest.

York Vikings Rotary Club generously offered to pay for a **Dry Season Farming** project in Ghana this year. Our partners there have identified a very poor community that has a good local source of water and is eager to try. Some land was fenced off (to keep the animals out!) and the land was irrigated using a hose powered by a bicycle foot pump. This project has been really successful, with the community growing a number of vegetables which previously were unknown to them, such as green peppers and carrots. They have also planted mango trees in their garden to give them an ongoing crop of mangoes in 3-5 years' time. Many thanks to York Vikings Rotary!



Crops grown by dry season farming

NEW MATERNITY HOSPITAL IN OUAGADOUGOU

You may remember that in January, the new maternity hospital that was funded by Jacob's Well opened its doors, offering free maternity and paediatric care to the capital's poorest people. From January to May they had a total of 252 deliveries. In June all the public hospitals were closed due to strikes, making a very difficult situation for many pregnant women. However our hospital opened its doors and in the 2 weeks of strikes had 151 deliveries and over 10 c-sections! None of this would have been possible without the new maternity unit being built. In the coming months, Jacob's Well is hoping to fund the completion of a new surgical ward and operating theatre, costing £16,000.

SUNRISE MADAGASCAR (Contd)

The centre will also run classes teaching other local young people English, a skill which really boosts their employment possibilities. It will also run sports activities to promote fitness, education and community well-being. Though the Madagascans love sport, there are no local facilities, equipment or community groups developing this.

Jacob's Well is partnering with "Learn, Achieve, Become" and plans to send a 40ft container full of disability equipment, educational, sports and medical supplies to equip and launch the new centre.

If you have any items that would be useful for this, please let us know. We are also appealing for donations of money to finance some necessary alterations to make the building fully functional and accessible for disabled people. We would like to raise the money needed to staff the centre for its first year. They need to hire two local teachers who will be given specialist training in how to teach disabled children.

Cost Estimates;

• Building work on the disability centre	£ 1,680
• Staff Salaries (3 full time and some part time staff for 1 year)	£14,000
• Centre running costs (utilities, daily food, transportation to school and medication, as the centre will pay 50% of medicine cost for its students)	£ 6,000
Total needed	£21,680

SOCIAL HOUSING IN BURKINA

The home for abandoned girls has now been completed and is about to welcome the first girls to live there. We are also hoping to build another **house for boys** that are facing difficult family issues.

Hinrik and Gully Thorsteinson, the leaders of our partner school in Burkina Faso, told us how they recently met a boy in the town who had stopped coming to their school. He had been one of the brightest kids they were educating. When they asked him why he stopped coming to school, his answer was that his mother had been thrown out of the house by his father, so he had been sent to live with a friend at the other side of the town. This friend, however, didn't want the boy to go to school. Instead he had to help earn his keep by doing odd jobs and selling things in the street. This chance encounter inspired Hinrik and Gully to start praying for money to build a house close to the school where boys like this, who are going through a crisis at home, can be cared for by Christian house parents, so that they can continue their education. Such boys might stay there for a couple of months until their mother manages to find a new house or a job. Or they may need to stay there for two years or even longer, until the boy finished school, depending on the situation of the family. There are at least a dozen boys in the school at the moment that Hinrik and Gully know about who would benefit from such a place.

So, Hinrik and Gully are proposing to build a house identical to the girls house (pictured above) that could house 20 boys, 4 living in each room. Alongside that would be a small home for the Christian house parents and their family. The total cost of this project is just over £23,000.



The newly completed home for abandoned girls

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!



JACOB'S WELL APPEAL
007
JAMES BOND
CHRISTMAS CHARITY PARTY

FRIDAY 22ND NOVEMBER 2019
LAZAAT HOTEL AND RESTAURANT
COTTINGHAM

LIVE MUSIC & DISCO
WITH SAX MAD

BUBBLES ON ARRIVAL, 3 COURSE DINNER,
LIVE MUSIC, DISCO AND DANCING
IN THE BEAUTIFUL PAVILLION

TICKETS £40 PER HEAD

GROUP BOOKINGS WELCOME
ARRIVAL 7PM - CARRIAGES 1AM

Huge thanks to Lazaat for supporting Jacob's Well for the third year and for donating the venue, staff and food
Rooms available: special rate £50 per room and breakfast
Call Lazaat direct to reserve 01482 847900

Bookings; Bridget Conroy at Jacob's Well Office

A HUGE thank-you to all our AMAZING Volunteers and all those who support us by donating money, items to sell or send overseas and knitting blankets. **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.**