

Fruit Trees for Life. We are very happy to be able to report that we have now planted our first 3 plantations in West Africa and are just about to plant another 5. Each plantation covers between 6–10,000 m² and contains between 1-200 fruit trees. So far we have planted Bananas, Cashew, Orange, Mango, Pau Pau, Shea, Moringa, Guava, Pomelo and Mandarins. Within two years, these trees will be giving an abundant supply of fruit to needy communities that would otherwise be unable to afford it. We hope to plant many more plantations in the years to come. Each plantation makes a HUGE difference to the long term nutritional, economic and environmental welfare of the village.

Containers. In 2015 we have continued to send a container every 6 weeks, with destinations including Moldova (1), Burkina (3), Ghana (4) and Ukraine (1). The cost of sending them is always going up! This year we spent **£46,109** on sending the containers. The aid that they contained totalled **£635,637**, including

Medical supplies	£380,937
Food	£61,104
Agriculture	£7,686
Clothes & Household	£166,136
Education	£19,775



Planting a Mango Tree in J.W's Plantation at Tugu Yapala, Ghana

We are always grateful for your generous support which enables us to continue sending this precious aid to those who need it the most.

Make Christmas Count— Give a “Gift For Life”

If you haven't quite finished your Christmas shopping, why not pop into one of our shops, at Bridlington, Beverley or Withernsea and pick up a gift that would change someone's life! Special gifts include buying a chicken, a sack of rice, a school uniform, or course of Malaria treatment for someone in the third world. You can also buy them online at our new web-shop on the web-site

Jacob's Well Appeal. Tel. 01482 881162. Email office@jacobswellappeal.org

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Beryl writes “In October Peter and I accepted an invitation to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the **Mohyla Academy** in **Kiev**, the oldest university in **Ukraine**. Our good friend Nadya Bilko is a senior professor there, and her son Denys is also now a senior lecturer. Following the Chernobyl disaster in 1986, Jacob's Well helped Dr Nadya Bilko to study the effects of the nuclear disaster on the survivors by supplying all the lab equipment from Pendlebury hospital which was then closing. Today we found that found 80% of the equipment in their re-search lab was that which we sent all those years ago as they can't afford to buy anything else! We came away with a request for some chemicals and a new Flow-Cytometer!



the Mohyla Academy in Kiev

They were very fearful for the future. The national economy is really struggling, having lost the industrial heartland to the Russians. Their currency is only worth a quarter of what it was before the Russians invaded. As the average wage before was only \$300 a month they now have to live on around \$75 a month whilst prices have stayed the same. I wondered how we would manage if that happened to us! They asked if we could help their city by sending some clothes to help them through the winter which we did last week. The winter temperatures there are much more severe than here, and many cannot afford to heat their flats as well as buying food. Please pray for them as they struggle to find any joy this Christmas and pray for peace.

Introducing Drs. Alistair & Margaret Robertson

The new Medical Directors of Jacob's Well

Margaret and I started working with Jacob's Well this November. This was very exciting for both of us. We have both been local GPs (in Bridlington) for the last 26 years. Prior to that, we were at Airedale hospital near Keighley for 6 years, where we worked after training in Leeds. Margaret was brought up in Watton, just north of Beverley, and went to Beverley High School (known as Margaret Carr then!). I was brought up in Bridlington, and went to Bridlington School. We met on Day 1 at Uni, but that's another story. We have felt a calling to step out into some form of overseas aid work for many years. Just as we were feeling that it was time for us to step out of General Practice and step into our new life, along came John Beynon to our church to give a talk on the work of Jacob's Well! As working GPs we have both had some contact with Jacob's Well through our different practices and have provided medications and other medical items. So we spent a week's holiday in April with Jacob's Well, seeing what they do and getting to know the team, and it seemed to be a perfect fit. Beryl and Peter Beynon were planning to be stepping down in the Autumn, so the timing was pretty close to perfect.



We both have had experience with working in hospitals in third world countries abroad (India and Africa), and are looking forward to the years ahead. In the short time we have been working here, we have seen the commitment everyone here has to their mission of helping people overseas who are in desperate need. We are looking forward to making our first trip abroad, hopefully in January 2016, visiting some of our partner hospitals in Ghana, so that we learn more about what they need and hopefully be more effective at matching the medical aid that we send to what they really need. Since we started working here we have seen just how much there is to do! There are lots of different tasks that need covering, including sorting and packing items in the warehouse, helping in the shops, driving the vans etc. We desperately need more volunteers! If you have some time available, and want to support a really worthy cause, ring the Jacob's Well office on 01482 881162

Agricultural Projects

Agricultural projects are an important part of Jacob's Well's work in West Africa. We have 6 tractors that we have sent over the past few years that work on our projects, 3 in Burkina Faso and 3 in Ghana.

In **Burkina Faso**, the tractors are based at the ABC School whom we partner with. The school now has several large plots of land which are used to grow food to feed the children. Each year at the start of the rainy season, the tractors plough the land and the parents work together to plant, tend and harvest different crops, like maize, millet, peanuts, beans, cabbages, tomatoes, melons, etc. This year there was a bumper harvest with almost 20% more sacks of maize than the previous year. That is really needed as the numbers of the school are greatly increasing. They have just built a secondary school, and now have over 500 children to feed every day! When they are not being used on the school's fields, the tractors in Burkina are rented out to earn money which helps to pay for the teachers and the other expenses of the school.

In **Ghana**, the tractors are managed by Sandra, Jacob's Well's Ghana field leader. She works with selected poor, rural communities to help them overcome poverty by enabling them to farm using modern methods. Having access to a tractor usually enables a community to farm 10 times more land than they can do by hand. Next year we plan to re-launch our "Seed bank project". This is a project designed to empower women by helping them to feed their families. After ploughing the land, we loan each

woman in the community a certain number of bowlfuls of seed, which they plant and look after until harvest. At harvest time they pay us back by giving the same amount of grain and they get to keep everything that is left (a lot of grain!). Last year the store of grain for our seed bank was stolen, so we were unable to run the project in 2015.



An Abundant Harvest—parents sort out the Maize at the ABC School in Burkina Faso. In the background you can see the new 3 floor secondary school building that is being built.