

Building a new hospital in Burkina Faso

Imagine if you lived in a country where you had to pay for every visit to the doctor, for every pill, syringe or dressing that was needed to treat you. That's how it is in Burkina Faso, with the result that the poorest people just can't afford to go for treatment. Jacob's Well partners with a small hospital in Ouagadougou called "La Source de Vie" (The source of life). This hospital is attempting to give free health care to those who can't afford to go anywhere else. Doctors take clinics in their spare time with no salary. Consequently, the building is always full, the waiting areas over-flowing with desperate people waiting to get treatment.

Jacob's Well has been supporting this hospital for the past couple of years by sending medicines and invaluable equipment such as an ultra sound machine and a heart monitor. Now Jacob's Well is appealing for funds to help them build a **brand new operating theatre with a surgical and a maternity ward**. Construction on the new hospital began a couple of years ago, but had to stop because funds ran out. The hospital leaders estimate that it will cost around £30,000 to complete the hospital building. "If we can raise the money to finish this hospital," says Rev. John Beynon, "dozens of lives will be saved each month. At the moment, the maternity department is one small room, like an average sized bedroom. It is unbelievable to see several women giving birth at the same time, lying on mats on the floor almost touching each other. At least a doctor and mid-wife are present. However, the new maternity ward will have 30 beds, which will give the women a completely different experience. £30,000 seems like a lot of money, but if every person who reads our newsletter was able to give £20, we would raise all the money that we need! I encourage everyone who is moved by the plight of these people to give whatever they can to help."



Helping the Homeless Syrian Refugees in Athens

Currently there are around 60 000 refugees stranded in Greece waiting for their asylum claims to be processed. The majority of them have fled the conflict in Syria. The lucky ones are housed in over-crowded camps. In the Athens area where Jacob's Well is sending its aid, around 12 000 are living in camps. Those unable to get a place in the camps have to sleep on the streets whilst their claims are assessed – a process that can take months if not years.

Jacob's Well is partnering with a day centre in Athens run by the Salvation Army. Each day hundreds of people come to the centre seeking help with the basic essentials of life. Jacob's Well has been sending clothes, food and personal hygiene items. As many refugees travelled in family groups, there is also a great need for children's clothes, nappies, baby milk, small collapsible push chairs and Moses baskets. Women queue daily for over an hour to get one carton of UHT milk for their children. If they need clothes or toiletries, they have to go back outside and join another long queue. Nappies are handed out in small bags with 4 nappies in, as there aren't enough to go round. The conditions that the refugees have to live in in Greece is so desperate that some of them are paying to be smuggled back into Syria! Others are committing suicide. Children are traumatized. The mothers are at their wits end, trying to feed their families and entertain their children whilst living in abandoned sheds, a small tent in an over-crowded camp, or even just in the street.



Since 2015, Greece has been the main entry point into Europe for refugees and migrants fleeing conflict and poverty in Syria and beyond, with 856,723 arriving by sea in 2015. A European Union deal with Turkey has helped stem the flow of migrants making the narrow but precarious sea crossing from Turkish shores to outlying Greek islands - but many are still getting across. Almost 172,000 people have arrived in Greece by sea so far this year. The majority of new arrivals have applied for asylum in the EU.

Jacob's Well has sent 2 containers of food and clothes to help the refugees in Athens this year.



Jacob's Well Appeal

December 2016 Newsletter

The Village of Hope

This autumn, our directors visited one of our partner schools in Burkina Faso, "The Village of Hope", a boarding school that offers places to children from the poorest villages in the country. These children would otherwise receive no education and consequently have no opportunities in life. The children's parents are illiterate, scratching out a meagre living by growing a few crops and raising a handful of animals, just as their fore-fathers have done for hundreds of years. Each year, the villagers choose some of their children to leave their mud huts and go to live in the "Village of Hope". Here they receive a first class education, learning to read and write, and studying maths, physics and all the subjects taught in modern schools.

Children who attend this school have their lives changed forever. They end up strong, healthy and with greatly improved prospects for the future. Today some of the graduates are working as nurses, teachers and accountants, earning enough money to send a generous allowance back to their home village for their relatives. For those students who are not academically minded, there is a **vocational training school**. Using old sewing machines that Jacob's Well has sent out, they learn to make clothes so that when they leave school, they can earn a living as a seamstress. A few months ago Hull Royal Infirmary was changing all the curtains on its wards. They donated the old ones to Jacob's Well, who sent them to the "Village of Hope" school. These discarded curtains have now been transformed into smart school uniforms by the girls in the sewing classes!



Rev John Beynon and Dr. Margaret Robertson look at clothes made from old HRI curtains

This year the school hopes to open two new departments, one that teaches **cookery**. The other, a **technical college**, teaching woodwork, metal work and car mechanics. The classrooms are already built; however, the school is asking for help with equipment to enable them to start. The cookery department needs pots and pans, casserole dishes, baking trays, cake tins, food processors, large electrical ovens and any other catering equipment they can get. The technical college is asking for hand tools, power tools, lathes, welders, and other workshop machines to enable them to give the boys a practical apprenticeship and qualification.

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."
(Nelson Mandela)

John writes, "It is amazing to see how things that would otherwise be discarded and put in our landfill sites can completely change the lives of people in Africa. The children sit on chairs at desks that used to be in East Riding schools. The few computers they use, the sports equipment they have, even the plates that they eat off were given by schools in our area! We do not realise what a big difference we can make, if we just try and give a little bit to help."



At Jacob's Well we are passionate about promoting education for children who would otherwise receive none. We support schools in Africa by collecting and sending refurbished classroom furniture, sports equipment, musical instruments, tools, sewing machines, paper & blank exercise books, school uniforms and refurbished computers. We partner with two schools in Burkina Faso, the village of hope in Ouagadougou (mentioned above) and the ABC school in Bobo Dioulassou, Burkina's second city. We also partner with the ABC school in Kenya, (mentioned overleaf).

Containers

This year Jacob's Well has sent 10 containers of aid (some in partnership with other charities)

- 1 Container to **Kenya**
- 1 Container to **Moldova**
- 4 Containers to **Burkina Faso**
- 4 to help the victims of the **Syrian** crisis.
- We have also sent smaller consignments of aid to Albania, Bulgaria, Ukraine and Afghanistan.

This year we spent **£30,843** on sending containers abroad. The total value of the aid that we sent was **£1,692,306**, made up of

Medical Supplies	£1,404,214
Clothes & Household	£126,961
Food	£62,375
Education	£42,330
Agriculture	£37,803
Staff & partner support Overseas	£13,087



Jacob's Well Appeal

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Registered Charity No. 515235

Donations:

Via Internet Banking

Account Name Jacob's Well Appeal;
Account Number 71090704
Sort Code 40 10 12

Via Text

Text **JWAS16** to **70070** , then the amount you want to give



Helping Nairobi's Slum Dwellers

Jacob's Well's medical directors, Drs. Alistair and Margaret Robertson, have just returned from 7 weeks in Africa visiting our projects and partners in Kenya, Ghana, Burkina Faso. Whilst in Kenya they visited the **ABC school** that works with children from Nairobi's slums. **About 60% of Nairobi's population, or 2.5 million people, live in slums.** A typical family house would be 10 ft x 10 ft room with a mattress, maybe a chair on the concrete or mud floor, along with a small stove (no chimney!). To live in such squalid conditions, with an open sewer running past outside, people still have to pay rent (£20 per month) with an additional fee for each trip to the toilet. Many slum-dwellers are single mothers, deserted by their husband whom they were often forced to marry by their families. Most households have over 4 children. Parents struggle to make ends meet by queuing at a work station each day to try and get a day's work. Many only manage to get work two or three times a week. Mothers have to leave their pre-school children unattended in the slums all day long whilst they work!

Whilst schooling in Kenya is free (120 kids per class), pupils have to pay the cost of books, uniforms and school meals, which means that many cannot afford to go. The ABC school, however, offers free uniforms and food along with the schooling. They also offer boarding where appropriate. They also run a programme designed to help some of the young addicts. **Nairobi has over 30 000 street kids**, many of whom end up sniffing glue to escape their misery. The ABC school takes those who want to change and boards them at a school in the countryside near Mount Kilimanjaro, where they can grow strong and be well educated, free from the temptations of the slums! The school turns out fine young people.

Jacob's Well partners with the ABC schools in Kenya by offering child sponsorship opportunities and also by raising money to help pay for children's books, food and uniforms. **We also run trips to Nairobi** for those who are interested in helping out at the ABC school. Please contact our office for more information.



Unfortunately, our Ghana leader, **Sandra Scantlebury**, has had to leave us this year, through ill health. We would like to thank Sandra for the 9 years of wonderful service she gave to Jacob's Well which has helped so many needy communities. Her work has been picked up one of Sandra's former colleagues from VSO, Ruby Yap, who works for a charity called Coalition for Change (C4C).

Helping to set up an Agricultural College in Burkina Faso

When you fly over England you see the ground covered by a patchwork of well-cultivated fields. In Africa, much of the land is unused and barren. In Ghana and Burkina Faso, most of the farm land is worked by hand. An average farmer may have 1-4 acres, the richer ones 5-7 acres. The climate is severe, the land is poor, in part due to severe deforestation. Water is scarce. It only rains in one season (in a good year, from June to September). In this short window, all the crops have to be planted and grown.

Using modern agricultural methods, most of this land could be fertile and productive. However the local people have very little agricultural knowledge. Our partners from "The Village of Hope" (featured overleaf) are planning to launch an agricultural college and hope to take in the first students in the autumn of 2017. Their aim is to link theoretical teaching at their site in the city with practical training at a rural site. They have a very fertile plot of 69 hectares right next to a large river which, when irrigated, will enable them to grow 3 crops per year. There are almost no agricultural colleges in Burkina Faso, the couple that exist only have places for 10% of the applicants. Graduates with agricultural know how are highly prized as 80% of the population get their income from farming.

Jacob's Well is currently sending two tractors, trailers, ploughs and drags out to help launch this

The Seed Bank Project, Ghana

One of the best ways to relieve suffering and improve health in Africa is to improve people's nutrition. In Ghana our **Seed Bank Project** enables some of the poorest women in communities to plant crops. We meet with the elders of a poor community and offer to work with the 15 women who they identify as being "the most needy". The chief then allows them to farm one acre of land for themselves, and we supply 6 large bowls of seed (usually ground nut or soya), which is enough to sow one acre. We also help them by ploughing the land, giving them encouragement, support and training in financial matters. At harvest time, the women then give us back 6 bowls of seed, whilst keeping the rest themselves for their families—usually around 40 bowls. It has been shown that women who participate in self-help projects in Africa are more likely to use the profits to benefit their children, whereas men tend to spend a much larger amount on themselves.

On our way to 1 million fruit trees

Jacob's Well Appeal is planting fruit tree orchards in the poorest countries of the world. Fruit is a great source of nourishment, full of vitamin A (vitamin A deficiency is the leading cause of preventable blindness). Surplus can also be sold at market. Our plantations, each with 100 - 150 trees, are located in communities that struggle with extreme poverty. Our partners teach the community how to plant and look after the trees and also monitor their progress.

Since we began this project we have raised almost £21,000, and have now planted (or are in the process of planting) 23 fruit tree plantations in different poor communities, with a further 13 plantations currently in the planning stage.

