

The regulatory hurdles we have to jump over in order to continue sending medical aid overseas get higher every year. This year we made a significant investment in building a new temperature controlled facility for sorting and storing bottled medicines within our warehouse. That is now finished and functioning well. We have a new computer system and have also had to change the way we handle tablets and other medicines. We are much more prepared now for the inspectors when they arrive to regulate our work and we are hoping and praying that we can keep our medical work for the future. Our research team are hoping to meet with some officials from the public health NHS team to discuss our work with Lyme disease in January and the needs of our patients who are still coming from all over the UK, and some with ME and chronic Fatigue. We thank God that we can show some love and care and do his work in so many places.

At Christmas and always we give thanks for the birth of Jesus and his gift of life. To all our readers, donors, staff and volunteers we wish you all a very happy Christmas.

Beryl Beynon, Medical Director

Fruit Trees for Life

In past centuries over 10 million Africans were forcibly taken from their homeland and made to work as slaves in Europe and the Americas.

As a way of giving something back, Jacob's Well has launched the **"Fruit Trees for Life"** project, which seeks to plant 1 million indigenous fruit trees along the old slave routes and in the poor villages from which people were once taken as slaves. Once established, fruit trees ensure a continuous supply of healthy food for many years. They also provide welcome shade, an important habitat for wildlife and prevent further degradation of the topsoil. Fruit is a commodity that can easily be traded at market for other essential goods. In Northern Ghana and Burkina Faso, we plan to plant groves of 100 fruit trees in many of the poorest villages. Careful support and monitoring by our leaders on the ground will give each plantation the greatest chance of success. A gift of £2 will buy a tree, the protective wire netting and pay for the care of the saplings until they fruit after four years. You can give to this project by texting **TREE21** followed by the amount you want to give (£2, £5 or £10) to 70070.



Our website has recently be completely redesigned.

Visit www.jacobswellappeal.org or follow us on facebook.



Jacob's Well Appeal

Jacobs Well Appeal



Reg. Charity No. 515235



Just outside our warehouse there are big road works making a new traffic roundabout. The traffic queues are phenomenal and frustration kicks in. We grumble, but compared to life in West Africa just

now we have little to grumble about. Ebola has hit the countries around Ghana and Burkina Faso where we work and it slowly spreads.

In September we received an email from a large hospital in Accra saying that they had been asked by the Government



Ebola victim being carried away

to prepare a national Ebola treatment centre

in case the virus spreads to Ghana. They needed the protective clothing, masks, gloves, beds and bedding to set up an isolation unit. We launched an urgent appeal. Thanks to great help from some local companies we were able to send out most of the items they needed and the container has now been gratefully received. There have been cases in neighbouring Mali, and new cases are monitored in the region every day. More recently we have also sent several pallets of protective clothing and equipment to a hospital in the capital of Burkina Faso to help them prepare in case Ebola arrives there too.

This autumn we have sent a container to the Eastern region of Ghana after a request from the Hohoe hospital that trains all the birth attendants for a large part of Ghana. Sandra was impressed by their work and their skills are definitely needed as many remote clinics and hospitals struggle to get any trained doctors or nurses.

At the end of October our son John took a small team of Jacob's Well volunteers to take a look at the medical projects we are supporting in Burkina and Ghana and also to launch a new agricultural project called "Fruit Trees for Life". Whilst in Burkina, riots started all over the country protesting about the president who was trying to push a bill through parliament enabling him to stay as president for life.

It was difficult for John to get back to the airport as the protesters had blocked all the main city streets, however one of our medical projects offered to take him there in an ambulance, which the protesters were happy to let through! When he arrived at the airport though, all the flights were cancelled.

He ended up being delayed 5 extra days, however God had his own plans for this time, and enabled him to meet the leaders of the Pentecostal denomination who run the only hospital in the capital that offers free health care to the poor. They get no help from the government and are in great need of help for medicines and equipment. God's networking never fails. On returning to the UK we were able to send a full container of medical aid which will make a huge difference for them.



J.W. Volunteers distribute Aid in Burkina Faso

Focus on Ghana

Sandra, our leader in Ghana is moving from Wa in the Upper West to Tamale, the capital of Northern Ghana. This move will make it easier to move around the country to oversee our medical projects and will also be a good base for her work with education. Sandra serves on several significant regional education forums. The communities that she has been working with in agricultural projects in Wa have now achieved self sufficiency, enabling her to move to a different region and start new projects with other poor rural communities in the Tamale region. Next year we plan to ship a river ambulance out the Tamale region also. This fully equipped medical boat is being financed by the Rotary club in partnership with the And Albert foundation. It will be used to provide medical clinics in remote villages along the White Volta river that can't be reached by road. We are also appealing for second hand computers to be used in the schools and hospitals of that region. The hospital has asked for 50 computers that can be put into the small remote clinics throughout the Northern region so that the staff can access expert clinical help using skype when they want advice in difficult cases. If you have any old computers (windows XP or later) or printers that you no longer want, please send them to us!

More Charity-Plus Shops

Earlier this year Jacob's Well opened a new franchise shop in Withernsea in partnership with Gateway Church Withernsea. On 31st January we will also be taking over the Bethany Christian bookshop in Bridlington when the present owner retires. We are launching a new "Charity-Plus" shop that combines elements of charity shop, coffee bar, Christian bookshop and community hub. New volunteers are welcome. We would like to open more shops in the region soon.

We have invested a lot of time this year in re-focusing and re-launching our work in Romania. Betty and Tracy, volunteers from East Yorkshire spent 3 months between them in Siret helping to overcome practical challenges and to re-organise our work.

We are very happy to report that our Rehab unit in Siret fully functioning again and is now home to eight young men who need to live in supported housing. They all grew up in the local psychiatric institution as children. Our rehab centre, which is now being run jointly by the new psychiatric hospital and the local social services department, will also house day care activities for other vulnerable adults in the town. Three of the four half way houses that we started to build in 2008 (to provide supported accommodation for the more able patients from our rehab centre) are now fully functional, with three of our original Rehab boys living there. Some of them now have wives and children!

The remaining house should be completed and occupied within a month. John will be visiting Siret again before Christmas to sort out a few remaining issues. Peter and I hope to visit again in the spring.

As Christmas approaches we are about to lose Mike Greatorex who has been one of our admin team for the last ten years. He will retire and be sorely missed by all. We all wish him a very happy retirement and a good rest after all our accounts, computers, the many phone calls and volunteers who have kept him very busy.



J.W. Rehab Centre in Siret, Romania