

Jacob's Well Appeal

July 2017 Newsletter



ABC School in Burkina Faso

Jacob's Well has been partnering with the ABC school in Bobo Dioulassou, Burkina Faso for over 10 years now. Most years a team from the UK goes out to Burkina in the autumn to help with various projects. Each year, the number of children in the school grows by about 60. Now there are around 600 children. The junior school is full, and the senior school now has the first three year-groups studying there in a beautiful, new 3 storey building. However the school still faces many challenges.

Electricity The only electricity on the whole site comes from 12 solar panels, the same amount as we would put on a small house in England! They provide around 4KW of power during daylight hours, drawing on batteries during the night and when the power usage exceeds 4KW. Last year, the school received a consignment of computers in one of our containers, and has built a wonderful new classroom for teaching the children how to use computers. However, after 45 minutes of computer classes, the power runs out. They have to wait until the next day before they can switch the computers on again! We would like to try and help the school double the number of Solar panels that they have, so that they can run the computers continuously and all the different classes in the school can have the opportunity to learn computing!



Dining Room and Kitchens

Part of the ethos of the school is to give each child a good cooked meal every day. In an area where most children are malnourished, they have discovered that hungry children can't concentrate on their studies and won't do as well in life as children who are well-fed. The existing dining room can only seat about 300 children. The current kitchen, which now feeds 600 children a day, is only about 3m x 5m in size, the size of a kitchen in a fairly typical British house! The cook has huge pots which she boils over wood fires. However, it is difficult to cook for so many children with such small and primitive facilities. So the school is currently raising money to build a new dining room which will seat 700 children, which would include a proper, full-sized catering kitchen. We would like to be able to help the school by sending over chairs and tables for 700 children as well as catering furniture, equipment and trolleys. The building project will cost around £22,000 to complete.

Syria

Jacob's Well continues to work hard to alleviate the suffering of the Syrian people through our partnership with Samara's aid appeal. This year so far, we have currently facilitated 3 containers, one with medical supplies, and two with clothes and blankets. Another one will leave our yard shortly.

It is easy to lose sight of the human side of this tragedy, which according to the UN has been responsible for the death of over 400 000 people, and caused around 11 million to leave their home. Hospitals are often deliberately targeted, with the charity "Physicians for Human Rights" reporting that there had been 373 attacks on 265 medical facilities up to May last year. If you would like to help the people of Syria, we would welcome donations of money, medical equipment and clothing. There are specific packing requirements for clothing and blankets, so please contact us if you would like to be involved in this way.

Building work at Jacob's Well

We are currently doing some building work at the Beverley shop, knocking two of the small downstairs rooms into one larger area. Also we will create a larger entrance door with a disabled ramp.

At our warehouse site, we are purchasing two large portacabins, which will sit on either side of the warehouse and provide extra room for the sorting of clothes and bric-a-brac on one side, and medical disposables on the other. These areas will be heated, which will make life easier for sorters in the winter, as the warehouse temperature is the same as outside! These new buildings will give us an additional 150 Sq. M of room, which we desperately need. We have also been given enough pallet racking to equip our entire warehouse, from Smith & Nephew in Hull. This racking, in conjunction with the extra portacabins, will more than triple our storage capacity.

King's Village

Jacob's Well partners with the King's Village, near Tamale in Northern Ghana. Directed by Pastor Ben Owusu-Sekyere and his British wife Marion, the King's Village runs a hospital and a school which serve the local community. Their facility is situated about 5 miles from the White Volta, one of Africa's largest rivers. The communities on the far bank of the river are very poor and isolated, with no medical facilities, and so previously have had to nervously cross the river, which grows in width from 100 metres to a mile wide in the rainy season, in leaky small canoes.

In partnership with the Rotary club and inspired by the And Albert foundation, Jacob's Well has helped to send a purpose-built medical boat to this area. It will do regular clinics up and down the White Volta, primarily serving the thousands of people on the far side of the river. It will be involved in antenatal clinics, immunisations and children's health, as well as some general medical and HIV clinics. Ghana still has high levels of HIV, If a pregnant mother has HIV, there is currently a 50% chance that her baby will become infected. However, if she is diagnosed and treated, this can be completely prevented.

The boat (pictured above) was built by Seahorse Marine in Hull, and named Wilberforce 1 in recognition of William Wilberforce from Hull who was a great champion of African rights. In his day, hundreds of thousands of Africans, (many from this very region of Ghana) were transported down the White Volta river) en route to a life of slavery in Europe or the Americas.

The boat left Jacobs Well Yard on 10 February 2017, and arrived at The King's Village in early June. The medical project will begin shortly.

We would also like to say a big thank you to John Thompson (originally a Beverlonian) who has been working in West Africa and India for The First Group. John and his colleague Khadija, heard about the boat project following the publicity surrounding the boat launch. Whilst in Ghana, John contacted us and has since been very active in gaining further funding for The King's Village. They have secured two new bore-holes there and, last week, held a fundraising event in Accra on behalf of projects in the King's Village.



We are holding our next **WAREHOUSE SALE** on Saturday 25th November 2017 from 9am – 3pm. We will have thousands of bargains, including bikes, furniture, clothes, bric-a-brac, electrical items, tools, sports equipment, books, CD's & DVD's. Refreshments will be on sale. Free entry and car parking.

Focus on Eastern Europe

Albania

Our medical directors, Drs Alistair and Margaret Robertson, visited Albania earlier this year. We have not previously sent containers to this country before, so they were keen to see what the situation in the country was really like. We had been contacted by Edi Demo, a pastor in Tirana, the capital city. He had several church members that required stoma supplies. These are the 'bags' people wear after surgery to their bowel or bladder. In the UK, patients are supplied these free of charge from the NHS. They sometimes have extra for various reasons and donate these unwanted supplies to Jacob's Well for us to send to less fortunate areas of the world. In Albania these bags cost 8 Euros each. Using just one bag a day would cost the patient €240 a month in a country where the average wage is only €330 per month. Even if the patients have enough money to buy the bags, they are in short supply and often unavailable. Without them, the patients are virtually house-bound. We met a lady in Tirana who had spent all her savings to pay for her surgery and had no money left to buy any bags. Through Pastor Edi Demo, we will now be able to send supplies for this woman and the hundreds of patients like her in Albania.

They asked if Jacob's Well could help them in other ways too. They have very little educational equipment, and were desperate to get hold of English books to help teach this important, international language. In every school we visited, the heating system did not work, so the children were sitting in their coats. They also didn't have the computers required to sit some of their exams. They had no science equipment or musical instruments, and, in one school, some of the children had to share a chair! The medical clinics in the rural areas were also struggling. Doctors are given no basic equipment such as stethoscopes and are not paid enough to buy any either. So they have nothing, for instance, to use to look into patients' eyes or ears. The beds in the hospitals were very old and actually rusty! The ambulances were very old and unreliable. Consequently, Jacob's Well is currently packing supplies into a container to send our first shipment to Albania within the next few weeks.



Moldova

Moldova is a small country sandwiched between Romania and Ukraine. It is the poorest country in Europe, where much of the agriculture is carried out by horses and carts, and where men's average life expectancy is still only 66! Drs. Alistair and Margaret Robertson visited Moldova in March to see for themselves how much help is still required, and how the supplies that had previously been donated were being used.



Jacob's Well Appeal has been sending containers to Moldova since 2014 via a charity called ORA (an international non-denominational Christian relief and development organization) which is run by our partner in Moldova, Veronica Martiniuc. The hospitals and clinics we visited outside the capital had very poor, old, rusty equipment and the mattresses on the beds were heavily stained. In response to their requests, we have just sent a lorry load of supplies to Moldova, filled with modern hospital beds and good mattresses. Crutches, wheel chairs and walking frames are in short supply and we were able to provide many of these, as well as other medical items such as gloves, theatre items and syringes. ORA also works to help the elderly and the young, running nursing homes for the elderly and after school clubs for children, so they are safe, warm and get well fed. We were also able to send items to help in these areas of work too.

Farming in Burkina Faso

In our last newsletter we spoke about the project of establishing a new agricultural college in Burkina Faso. Much of the land is not farmed; that which is cultivated tends to be dug and planted by hand. With a little bit of technical training and a small amount of equipment, the local people could be able to get much better crop yields and more healthy live-stock.

One part of this project is to build up a small farm at the Village of Hope, one of our partner schools just outside Ouagadougou, Burkina's capital city. In 2014, the school started a small project to teach the children about animals as well as a means of providing free food and milk for them. When we first visited this project, there were a few pigs and a couple of thin cows tied up in tiny pens. On our last visit, the farm director had expanded the pig farm, and had 50 healthy pigs in a purpose built unit. He



asked us if we could help him expand his dairy herd and build a cow barn. The farm, however, was particularly difficult to manage as all the water needed for the farm had to be brought from half a mile away at the school's water tower on a donkey cart. Now, thanks to a generous donation from a local East Yorkshire farmer, Jacob's Well has helped to build a fantastic new barn for the cows, complete with milking parlour and store room for food during the winter. We were also able to help purchase an additional five quality milking cows, and, most importantly, helped them to pipe water to the farm from the water tower. We have helped the farm to repair a broken trailer and sent out another two tractors and a large trailer along with

ploughs and drags to be used to farm the land near the school. Eventually these will assist in teaching in the new agricultural college. It is planned that this farm will be used to teach students from the new agricultural college when it opens. Part of the college will be built on land next to the school at the Village of Hope.

Jacob's Well Christmas Party

Following the success of last year's Charity Night, we are holding a Charity Christmas Party, which will be bigger & better, held in the new Pavilion at Lazaats. There are 2 bars, and the same band, Sean Finch and the Rogues of Rhythm, who were fantastic, and inspired many to get onto the dance floor last year. There will also be a Firework display courtesy of Ardent Fireworks.

Please help us to smash the £5,200 that we raised for Jacob's Well last year. Contact Bridget Conroy.

The money raised will help us to ship out another container of aid to a poor and needy country overseas.



Donations: -

Via Internet Banking

Account Name Jacob's Well Appeal

Account Number:71090704 Sort Code:40 10 12

TEXT GIVING: Text **JWAS06** followed by the amount you want to donate to **70070**

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!

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