



# Jacob's Well Appeal

## Christmas 2019 Newsletter

### Sierra Leone

In July, Drs Alistair and Margaret Robertson, our Medical Directors visited Sierra Leone to see what could be done to help the people there. Not long ago the country suffered a brutal civil war for 11 years, followed closely by the Ebola outbreak in which thousands died. Today the country is one of the poorest countries in the world with shocking infant mortality rates (70 babies per 1000 die compared to 4 in the UK). Over 60% of their young people are unemployed and less than half the population have received any education.

Whilst in Sierra Leone Alistair and Margaret met a lady from Hull called Mary Penn-Timothy. Along with her friend, Alice Brown, she has set up a school in Freetown for autistic and mentally handicapped children. Children with disabilities in Sierra Leone are often seen as “cursed”, and parents of such children are encouraged to “return” their children to the jungle – leaving them to die. Those parents who refuse to do so are shunned by their community. Mary and Alice are seeing attitudes start to change and are making a huge difference to the lives of disabled children and their families. The government has given them land to extend their school in Freetown, but they are struggling to transport the children to school. Jacob's Well Appeal has said that they will help them to buy a minibus to help take these disabled children to school, so **we are appealing for £5,000 to enable us to buy one locally**. Mary and Alice have now also opened a day care centre in the rural area of Makeni. Between their two centres they are helping over 120 disabled and autistic children.



Alistair and Margaret visited many hospitals and clinics on their trip and discovered how desperate their health care system is, partly due to the fact that many of those who died of Ebola were trained health-care workers. The hospitals are really struggling. The main hospital in the capital, Freetown, did not even have running water when we visited. Medical treatment in Sierra Leone is unaffordable to most. (Cont. inside)

### **Celebrating the life of Jacob's Well's co-founder Dr. Peter Beynon**

Jacob's Well is sad to announce the death of Dr. Peter Beynon, co-founder of Jacob's Well Appeal on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019. Peter was born in 1936, went to school at Harrow Grammar and Calday Grange Grammar School in the Wirral before studying medicine at Manchester University. Qualifying in 1959, he became the youngest consultant in the country when he became the first child Psychiatrist in East Yorkshire in 1965. Marrying Beryl in 1960, they went on to have 3 children and 12 grand-children.



In the early 80's, when we started to see on our TV screens pictures of shocking poverty in Poland and disabled children in Romania who were never allowed out of their cots, Peter and Beryl decided to do something about it. Using their contacts as doctors, they started collecting and shipping medical supplies to Poland, Romania and Afghanistan, with Moldova, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Ghana and Burkina Faso coming along later.

All of this aid work involved thousands of journeys; at first, in his camper van and box trailer, then in a 3½ ton lorry, before Peter finally got his HGV class 1 license enabling him to drive the biggest articulated lorries. Peter's epic journeys included driving from Beverley to Northern Romania and from there, on to Kiev in Ukraine before returning home via Poland; a trip of almost 4000 miles! (Cont. inside)

## Projects Update

### Ghana

We continue to run projects in the North of Ghana. We have planted 4 more **Fruit Tree Orchards**, we have run 2 **literacy projects**, including one for 20 widows. We ran a **soap making training programme**, which was aimed at enabling local people to be able to produce a saleable product. Regarding **Water Provision**, we have drilled one bore hole, repaired two other broken boreholes and dug a (manual) well. Regarding **Agricultural Projects**, we helped one village to plant sweet potatoes and ground nuts. The **seed bank project** is going really well and has now been extended to 150 women.



In our summer newsletter we wrote about our **Dry Season Farming** project in Northern Ghana. Using boreholes or rivers for water, villagers are able to grow crops all year round, saving them from malnutrition and giving them a healthier, more varied diet. Our dry season farming project was so successful that, thanks to more funding from York Vikings Rotary, we are able to expand to include a total of 60 families. We have now received further funding for two additional Dry Season Farming projects, one in the Upper East, funded by Skegness Rotary and one in the Upper West, funded by Ripon Rotary.

### Building a Surgical Department in Burkina Faso Hospital

Having completed the building of a maternity department in the “Source of Life” hospital in Ouagadougou in January, we are now starting work to complete the surgical ward and two operating theatres just next to it. This will provide quick access to surgery for the patients requiring caesarean sections in the maternity department, as well as massively upgrading the surgical capability of the existing clinic for all kinds of other operations. **We need £15,000 to fund this work.**

### Building a medical clinic in Banfora, Burkina Faso

Banfora, the capital city of Comoe province, is situated in the west of Burkina Faso, just an hour's drive from the border with Mali. Home to around 95,000 people. The city is poor with few natural resources. Jacob's Well Appeal has been sending medical supplies to Boniface, a medical director in Banfora for several years. Now we are partnering with Boniface to help build a Medical Centre which will aim to provide health care for the poor in the city for a fraction of the cost of other clinics, with the poorest people receiving treatment free of charge. As well as treating general medical problems like Malaria, the centre will specialise in the care of people with physical disabilities and mental health problems, an area that is largely ignored in Burkina. The new building will include consultation and treatment rooms, a dispensary, laboratory, and a physiotherapy unit. **We are aiming to raise £18,000 to complete this building.**



### Sierra Leone (Continued from front page)

The hospitals are very keen to receive supplies of medical aid. We are currently in negotiations with the government to enable us to ship aid into the country without having to pay large import duties. We are very grateful to the Lord Mayor of Hull, who is trying to help in this regard. Hull is twinned with Freetown, the capital city.

Whilst in Sierra Leone, Alistair and Margaret also visited a school in the rural area of Mayolla, about 200 Km North East of the coastal Freetown. Here the children sit on bare wooden benches in stifling rooms with up to 70 children in a class. Their uniforms were threadbare and torn. Jacob's Well has since sent money to enable local seamstresses to make new uniforms from locally sourced fabric for the 250 children there. We are now in the process of sending a second container of aid to Sierra Leone, which will include two tractors and trailers for agricultural projects, school furniture and medical aid.





### **Celebrating the life of Dr. Peter Beynon (Continued from front page)**

Peter spent thousands of hours sorting medication, packing boxes, driving the fork-lift, loading containers, welcoming visitors, writing letters and doing Jacob's Well accounts. He served as Chairman of Jacob's Well for over 20 years.

Deservedly, for his charity work, Peter received a large number of medals and awards including;

The Merit award of the Polish Government  
The freedom of the city of Poznan in Poland  
The Medal for evangelism from the Bishop of Gdansk  
A certificate of merit from the Polish Red Cross  
The Paul Harris Fellow award from the Rotary International  
A Merit award from the Ukrainian Government  
An Honorary Diploma from the Mohyla Academy in Kiev,  
The Margarete Golding award from the International Inner Wheel Association  
And the Maundy Money award from the Queen.



Peter died peacefully at home on November 1<sup>st</sup> surrounded by his family. He was 83.

### **Sunrise Centre, Madagascar**

In our last newsletter we featured the work of the Sunrise Centre, in Madagascar which aims to build the first facility for people with physical and mental disabilities on the remote island of Nosy Be. Since the summer, another international charity called MRCI has come alongside the team and have offered to purchase land and build the disability centre. Nathan Stapley, the project leader, is planning to go out to Madagascar over Christmas to meet with his team and get things going. It is hoped that the disability centre will open in the summer of 2020.

### **The home for abandoned girls, Bobo, Burkina Faso**

The ABC school in Bobo recently held a special seminar for the girls in the school, teaching them about issues such as female hygiene, the risk of unprotected sex and how to keep themselves safe in relationships. Out of a couple hundred girls, 41 were facing serious domestic or social problems. For example, one girl doesn't know her father. Her mother recently married a man who doesn't want the girl, so she is living with another family far away who took her in, but she needs to walk 2 hours to get to school. Another girl at the school had a baby last year, but the baby died. Her father is also dead, and the mother has no income and is unable to cope. They have resorted to eating rubbish off the street as they have no other way to manage. Another girl's father died when the girl was very young. A friend of the father took over the care of the girl and her mother went back to her village. After a while this friend died and his son took over the care of the girl. He is a very harsh man and won't allow the girl out of the house, apart from going to school, even to meet her mother. Sadly, this is how life is for many girls in Africa. Fortunately, however, some of these girls are now being cared for in the home for abandoned girls that we built earlier this year.

### **Summary of Aid values sent in 2019**

Medical	£3,495,616
Agricultural and Educational	£149,152
Clothes, Household, Shoe boxes	£50,312
Water, Food, Hygiene	£20,663
Transport Costs	£60,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,776,343</b>

### **Aid Destinations**

Afghanistan	Albania	Gambia
Burkina Faso	Cameroon	Kenya
Ghana	Iraq	Nigeria
Malawi	Moldova	Rwanda
Pakistan	Philippines	Zimbabwe
Antigua	Uganda	Sierra Leone



### **From Beverley to Burkina - A Coach's Journey**

Over the years our overseas partners have asked us to provide them with some rather unusual items. Artificial legs, a lift for a 6 story building (we still need this), jeep gear boxes and (really) the kitchen sink! So it was just another normal "day at the office" when the Village of Hope School in Burkina Faso asked us if we could find them a school bus. Their existing school bus, an ancient yellow American school bus, had broken beyond the point of repair and the school had been hiring buses and using teachers' cars to bring the children into the school for their education. John Beynon, our CEO, asked Acklam's Coaches if there was any chance that they might be able to help, and in the summer, Paul Acklam, Acklam's MD kindly decided to donate one of their coaches for this project. The coach they donated had been used to

take children to schools in Beverley and Hull. Although it is around 20 years old, it is in excellent condition and has done a very low mileage. It is wonderful that there will be a little piece of East Yorkshire driving around Africa with Acklam's name on it, transporting African children to their school in the Village of Hope, Burkina Faso.



### **Well Drilling in Burkina Faso**

A retired Christian engineer in Derbyshire has offered to purchase and renovate a full well-drilling rig to be used by our partners in Bobo, Burkina Faso. We have linked up with a well-drilling charity called Myra's Wells" who are interested in helping us with this project. Between us we hope that in 2020 we may be able start drilling our many bore holes in remote villages that still have no running water. Over the last few years we have drilled several wells using local contractors, but if we had our own drilling rig, it would be much cheaper, and would enable more poor communities to get a source of clean water. This not only improves their health and quality of life but also enables them to start growing crops all year round.

### **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](mailto:office@jacobswellappeal.org) along with your name and postal address, so we can update our database. Thank-you!



Our annual Christmas Fund Raising evening at Lazaat raised over **£8500**. Thanks to all who supported it and to Lazaat for providing the venue, staff and food for free.

**Stamps for Charity** If you have any stamp collections or used stamps, you are welcome to bring them into our shops or office. Please ensure there is some of the envelope all around the stamp so the perforated edges are not damaged. We get good money for old, foreign and interesting used stamps.

**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.**

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