



Jacob's Well Appeal

Summer 2020 Newsletter

Continuing through Covid

What an unusual few months we've all had! When the COVID crisis hit Jacob's Well Appeal had to close. The site of the office and warehouse, normally buzzing with people was eerily quiet. We made use of the pause by digging up the broken drains at the front of the warehouse and re-concreting a large section of the yard which was badly in need of repair. Though our normal activities couldn't carry on, Jacob's Well Appeal became a centre for receiving and distributing masks, hand-sanitizer and other items of PPE. Items that were out of date or surplus to requirements came in via our friend **Rocky Clark**, who then started taking the precious supplies around to all the care homes in our area. Staff who were having to care for residents with COVID with no masks and gloves were in tears when they were given high quality medical masks free of charge. Many cases were prevented and lives were saved in the 32 care homes. A big thanks to Rocky for his tireless work in sourcing and distributing the masks to hospitals, schools, care homes, surgeries and others in need. In total, Jacob's Well Appeal received around 110,000 masks and 70,000 face visors along with hundreds of bottles of hand sanitiser, gloves and other items. We still have several thousand quality face visors which we are letting people have for a donation towards our special COVID appeal (see below). If you need any face coverings, hand wash or other PPE items, please let us know.

Rocky Clark receives another delivery of PPE from the East Midlands Ambulance Service



Thank you also to Accora for the wonderful donation of over 400 brand new hospital beds. These were made for the Nightingale hospitals but were surplus to requirement. They will be very useful in some of the poor hospitals overseas. Also Recticel who are manufacturing for us up to 300 mattresses.

COVID Appeal: Developing World

Whilst the UK has struggled to cope with COVID, spare a thought for those who live in very poor countries. For them, when the government imposes a lockdown, the workers who are paid in cash each day have no way of buying food. Jacob's Well Appeal has started a special appeal asking for extra funds to be able to help support



Parents receive donations of food at the ABC school, Burkina Faso

the world's poorest people who are struggling with COVID related poverty. Our partner school in Bobo Dioulassou, Burkina Faso has experienced parents queuing up outside the closed school every day waiting in the hope that someone would give them some food for their families. Some have not eaten for days. We have already sent money to purchase food in Burkina Faso and Rocky has also sent money to The Freedom Charter Foundation in Soweto, South Africa, a project that he is involved in. (See over for more details). If you would like to give money to help Jacob's Well Appeal continue to send food and medical aid to those struggling in this way, please let us know.

Agricultural Projects in N. Ghana

Our **Seedbank** project enables 150 families to plant soya and maize, with the help of our tractors. We are also running an additional groundnut seedbank project. This year we received an excellent return from this project, as you can see! Now that the rains have come, we are in the process of planting over 300 **Fruit Trees** in very rural communities. Due to a generous donation, we have been able to drill a **borehole** in a very poor rural community called Kalahi this year.

Jacob's Well Appeal Doctors Alistair and Margaret Robertson with the return seed from the Seed Bank, N. Ghana



We have been running several **Dry Season Farming** projects this year in very poor, remote areas of Ghana. York Viking Rotary Club supports one in Gogorinsa; Ripon Rotary club supports three community projects in Dodoma, Goriyir and Beeli and Skegness Rotary club supports the dry season farming project in Sing. Each project supports around 60 families. Traditionally, Africans only grow during the rainy season, leaving the land empty after harvest. The dry season farming projects have been extremely popular with poor communities, who soon notice the benefits of a more varied diet on the health of their children. It also gives the villagers work throughout the year and a supply of produce to sell at local markets. They have neither the equipment, seeds nor know-how to grow crops in the dry season without external help. Also, as the goats run free, they are unable to afford fencing to keep their crops safe. However after an initial project where they are helped with fencing, training, equipment and seeds, these poor communities can continue the project without any external help.



Dry season farming project at Dodoma, sponsored by Ripon Rotary Club

All these projects need continual **monitoring, training and input**, which means that one of our partners has to go and visit these very remote places. There are no tarmac roads, and journeys involve bumping along rutted dirt tracks for hours. We have recently purchased a motorbike for one of our partners, Ruby Yap, from Sahara Advocates for Change, which will enable her to get around these villages much more cheaply and easily.

Madagascar

It is almost a year since we first highlighted the project by "**Learn, Achieve, Become**" to build a disability centre on the island of Nosy Be, Madagascar. Over the last year, remarkable progress has been made. The centre has been given 800 square metres of land to build a disability centre on. Since then a specialised architect has designed the centre and another NGO has agreed to build the centre, using a combination of international volunteers and local builders. If it hadn't been for the COVID crisis, the centre would now be built!

As soon as it becomes safe for people to travel again "Learn, Achieve, Become" is hoping that their centre will be built and can open shortly after.

The Disabled Parents association on the land given for the new Disability Centre



Helping the poor townships of South Africa

The townships of South Africa have to be seen to be believed. In Soweto, most houses have no water or electricity, an 85 % unemployment rate and a 50% HIV infection rate. In 2018, Rocky Clark, a local retired police officer first went to train the local people in first aid. As each volunteer is trained, they are given their own first aid equipment so that they can administer aid to those they know throughout the township. Since then Rocky has returned several times, training a team of 8 local trainers, who can now train other local people. On each visit, Rocky takes with him thousands of pounds worth of first aid equipment to give to those involved in the project. If you would like to support this project, please contact our office for more information.



Above: Teaching First Aid in Soweto, S. Africa

Well Drilling - would you like to get involved?



Above: Drilling a borehole in Kalahi, N. Ghana

A retired Christian engineer in Derbyshire has bought a well-drilling rig to be used by our partners in Bobo, Burkina Faso. We hope that soon we will be able to start drilling 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.

At the moment the well-drilling rig is in Derbyshire being re-furbished. We plan to drill a couple of pilot holes in Derbyshire, with professional well-drilling engineers training us on how to use the equipment. If anyone with a mechanical or engineering background is interested in learning how to drill wells, with a view to being able to help drill the occasional bore hole in Africa, as well as training local Africans how to use the drilling rig, please contact us.

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 is partnering with a local medical director to 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. The new building is coming along well, and should be ready to open in the autumn.



The new Medical Clinic in Banfora, Burkina Faso

Sierra Leone

In our Christmas newsletter, we asked for money to buy a **minibus** for the only school that caters for autistic and mentally disabled children in Sierra Leone. Thanks to your generosity, we raised the money and bought a minibus to transport these needy children to school.

We also sent a container containing two tractors, some medical supplies and protective clothing for rural workers. One tractor was given to help a rural community called Mayolla where the Zaindriss foundation are working. The other tractor went to an NGO called Home Leone, a charity that builds affordable homes to re-house families that are currently living in the slums and runs projects to give them work. We are trying to get a Memorandum of Understanding with the Sierra Leone government which would enable us to send medical aid to their hospitals without having to pay the huge import taxes which are otherwise due. We are praying that this is successful.



Our donated tractor ploughing rough ground in Sierra Leone, West Africa

Another coach for Burkina Faso

We would like to say a huge thank you to Acklam's coaches for the kind donation of another wonderful coach, which will shortly be shipped out to Burkina Faso. This time the coach will be donated to the ABC School in Bobo Dioulassou. This school gives free education to around 800 of the poorest children in the country. The children receive coaching in sports, music, have opportunities to play in tournaments and perform in concerts but struggle to get there. The school also has an agricultural college in a different location. The coach will make a significant difference to the quality of education that these children receive. Thank you to Beverley Motor Factors for making the registration plates.



Rev. John Beynon receives the coach keys from Paul Acklam, M.D. of Acklam's Coaches

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 your email address to office@jacobswellappeal.org with your name and postal address, so we can update our database. Thank you

Value of aid sent 2019-2020

Category	Total
Medicines and Medical Items	£2,899,214
Education	£31,141
Food	£14,095
Building	£3,288
Agriculture	£20,550
Clothes / Toys / Household Items	£49,680
Total	£3,017,968

A HUGE thank you to all our AMAZING volunteers and all those who support us by donating money, items to sell or send overseas, knitting blankets and clothes. **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.**