



insight

Early Autumn 2011

REPORTING ON SILOAM CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

Expressing God's love by providing medical aid, education, social help to individuals and small groups in the UK and worldwide.

PHOTOS AND FASHION COURTESY OF CHRISTIAN CLOTHING ALLIANCE

project 088



Slavery and celebration do not usually go together...

Freedom Festival 2011

When CAST (Christian Anti-Slavery Today) started raising the alarm about the horror of contemporary slavery, some people were dismayed. But others also recognise a need to act. Recently, a report from the Scottish Commissioner for Children and Young People notes that some 80 children may have been trafficked in Scotland. A local clergy said this outrage must raise a call to action.

The CAST team agrees. They equip others to effectively combat slavery, by providing free resources and back-up. Now the first ever Freedom Festival will take place to heighten awareness and celebrate the victories being achieved. It will be at the St. James Centre, Muswell Hill, London, on Saturday the 1st of October from 12 noon to 3.00 pm.

'More voluntary friends are needed to help make the Freedom Festival successful,' says CAST spokeswoman Bisi Omiteru. 'If you can spare just 20 minutes... During that brief 20 minutes of giving practical help to oppose slavery, 10 children will be sold. We may not be able to rescue all of them. But together we can make a difference.' ■

sublime

CAST is happy to partner with Sublime, a Christian organisation of people who want to see their communities transformed. Sublime will make their presence felt musically at the Freedom Festival.

Lively and interactive, the festival will include teen fair fashion shows, live music and drama, all focusing on slavery and effective freedom fighting.

Right, folk jazz fusion singer Lindie De Jager will be among the performing artists at the festival.

You can see the Freedom Festival video clip when you go to the Tabernacle, a Sublime worship event, on Sunday the 11th of September, the Dougdale Centre, Enfield, at 7.00 pm. Or visit www.cast.eu.com



There are millions of urgent reasons for needing eye equipment...

Help In Sight

The reasons for purchasing new eye equipment are the 96 million people estimated to suffer from glaucoma in India. But the one compelling reason must be compassion for our fellow human beings. Behind the numbers are individuals who urgently need early detection and treatment to prevent blindness.

The Siloam Thomas Eye Hospital in India requires a Nerve Fibre Analyser. This apparatus will enable many individuals to retain their sight. It represents more than those of us who are gifted with vision can ever realise.

'The response to our appeal for funds to purchase a new Zeiss machine has been great, so thank you very much to those who have already given, or pledged a gift,' writes Chair of Trustees John Eld. 'However, we still have a little way to go, and we would like this machine to be installed as quickly as possible – the sooner it's in, the more sight that can be saved.' ■



Thanks to generous supporters, the purchase of this Nerve Fibre Analyser could become a reality. But more funds are still needed to purchase it so that glaucoma sufferers will not lose their vision.

Dedicated staff at the Siloam Thomas Eye Hospital especially feel called to help the poorest patients who are treated free of charge.

Chair of Trustees John Eld urges everyone to pray for the equipment the hospital needs to help prevent blindness.



project 009

INSIGHTful Equation

96 million estimated glaucoma sufferers in India = 8% of population at risk of preventable blindness.



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visit our website www.siloam.org.uk and scroll down to view our many projects

Our Kenyan partners are distributing food to vast numbers of starving people.

project
072*



Those who have survived violence, starvation and a gruelling, prolonged trek, find relief even in appalling conditions.



Each child is precious in the sight of our Lord; yet children remain vulnerable in this emergency.



In Africa, famine, starvation and death take their toll of the weakest as our Childcare Worldwide (CCW) partners report...

Emergency Relief for Refugees

'One of the women at Dadaab refugee camp tells a harrowing tale of fear, hunger, pain and desperation. She was forced to flee from Somalia to Kenya as there was no other alternative unless she wanted to die.

'Her husband was forcefully recruited to join the militia, which is fighting with the unstable Somalia transitional government. You can never resist such recruitment as you will be killed and you are taken away from your family.

'For this Somali woman, fearing for her life and those of her five children since there was no one to protect them and there was no food, she began the long trek to Kenya. She managed to cross the border, but from the border to Dadaab Refugee Camp (the largest refugee camp in the world with almost 400,000 people), it is a journey of 90 kilometres. On the way, due to hunger and tiredness, her children could not handle it anymore and started succumbing. One after the other, three of the children died and all she could do was to dig a shallow grave, bury them and continue with the journey.

'With her two remaining children, she managed to reach the camp. They were totally emaciated and had to receive

A CHILD'S VIEW

The UN reports that an average of ten children under the age of five die each day at one refugee camp (not Dadaab).

medical treatment first. Even though the camp is bursting at its seams (the camp was meant for 90,000 refugees), like the other refugees, the woman is surviving. The food is not much since the influx of the refugees has outstripped the UN rations but many of the refugees are glad to be in the camp due to the security and the little food they get.

EVERYONE NEEDS MORE FOOD

'The living conditions in the camp are deplorable due to overcrowding and the food is just too little. As we did the food distribution, we had to carefully follow the directions of the UN to avoid stampedes and uprising in the camps as everyone needs more food than they are getting.'

Our Kenyan partners have always been on the ground to bring food and other essentials to the poor. Now, with the emergency of thousands of desperate refugees, prayer is requested for more funding to bring urgently needed food and medical aid to those in crisis. ■

'It's not just me,' is the way Steph Devlin of Leamington Christian Mission reacted to her third time award of Citizen of the Year...

Leamington Christian Mission

This honour for Leamington and Warwick District is one of several that Steph has been given as founder of this initiative which cares for the homeless and the poor. 'It's team work,' insists Steph, 'it's everyone who's involved.'

She notes that team members come in with varying perspectives. 'One young university student had just lost her mum to cancer. She was very bright, studying law and also doing an academic paper to disprove the Bible. She worked in the soup kitchen and helped with children who came from a very disadvantaged background. I felt God wanted me to come alongside her. She ended up becoming a Christian, has pursued a brilliant law career, and is married to a vicar.

'You don't feel like you're doing anything special. God is just saying, "These are my people, go out and feed them."' ■

Thank you for those who prayed for Steph's husband Geoff Devlin who has improved but still has health needs.



Each Leamington Christian Mission team member makes a valuable contribution to the enormous task of providing for thousands of needy people.



Warm clothing, blankets and other provisions are essentials that will bring relief to families who will struggle as the weather turns colder.

MATTERS OF FACT

In Britain, one out of five households suffers fuel poverty, with more than 10% of their income needed to keep warm.

News from Tony and Johanna Morais in Tonata, Botswana...

Providing for the Desolate

'We are grateful to say that the ministry is going well and continues to grow in every area. Last weekend we had 221 children at our weekly Saturday gathering. The children remain diligent in coming to the Bible study. Fellow missionaries Jason and Debbie Shrek have been faithful in their support and we are very grateful.'

'Currently, we provide for some of the most desolate families within Tonota by ensuring they get extra food every week, and distributing clothes and shoes. This is

highly dependent on local donations of different supermarkets and sponsors in the area. We would like to set up the possibility for our partners to sponsor a family. If you are interested in making a monthly pledge to support a family, please contact us for information.

'Thank you for making this calling of God possible. Your prayers, finances and words of encouragement are essential. Both the children of Tonota and we thank you.' ■

Tony Morais, the founding director of Elpis Bridge Ministry, has undergone extensive surgery and therapy for cancer. Tony has now been declared cancer free. Thanksgiving to God – and appreciation for prayer!



Inset photo, back in their adopted country of Botswana, Tony and Johanna Marais are happy to serve the people they love.

Main photo, Tony and Johanna bring physical and spiritual help to children, their families and the greater community of Tonata.

Former gang leader Nelson has become a follower of Jesus and is progressing spiritually and socially under the care of Evangelist Felipe Sagarino.

project 070*



In the Philippines, former young ruffians now study the Bible...

From Gang Culture to Godliness

'Evangelist Felipe Sagarino never quite knows who God will next draw to Himself through his ministry,' explains our CCW partner Marlies Lange. 'Yet, he is ready to love and to teach those that cross his path.'

'Nelson, the "number one peeping tom" in his neighborhood was the leader of a gang. This group of boys found much enjoyment in spying on young girls while they bathed and did laundry in the local creek.'

'One day this group of boys showed up at an evangelistic meeting led by Felipe. The good news is that these boys felt drawn to follow Christ. They have now accepted him as their Saviour.'

'Felipe is committed to do all that he can to help these boys grow in their faith and in the fruit of the Spirit. He not only prays for them, but he has given them community service projects to keep themselves occupied. Also, he helps them to become disciples through a weekly Bible study.'

'Felipe is thankful for the work that God does through him and is thankful for the partnership of faithful supporters.' ■

Extremely poor families in Peru struggle for a better life as our CCW partner Marlies Lange explains...

Basic Food Supplies Bring Hope

'The Quispe family, Mario and his wife Benita, came to Lima full of hopes for a better life. However, very soon they found out that there was no work for people like them. Mario had only a second grade education. Benita had no education at all and is unable to read or write.'

'They have three children: Magaly, who is 9 years old; Rober, who is seven; and Deysi, who is 4 years of age. All three children are in our breakfast programme, which assures that they don't have to start the day hungry.'

'After a long time of looking for employment, Mario is now working as a shoe shine man. He earns very little.'

'After their serious situation became known to our country director, the family was enrolled in our Survival Pack Programme. In the picture you can see the very basics that they receive – these gifts mean more to this family than you can possibly imagine!' ■

The Quispe family enjoy basic food supplies that keep them from the hunger they have lived with in the past.

project 091*



SURVIVAL PACK

Rice, sugar, beans, lentils, peas, milk powder, cocoa, cooking oil, soup mix, jam, noodles, and oats.