



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

STOP PRESS
As we go to press, the UN reports a cholera outbreak in Dadaab.

project 072*

*“And then the lion dragged my child away!”
As Mrs. Yarow told me how a lion had attacked her family, tears streamed down her face. I could hardly believe my ears. How could this be?...”*

The Face of Compassion

‘Flying to Dadaab, Kenya, from the air, masses of tents seem to go on forever. It holds no clue to the individual horrors that each one of the almost 500,000 refugees have gone through.

‘But here is Mrs. Yarow: a real person, a mother, who has experienced hardship that we cannot even begin to understand. In Somalia, her family worked for bare necessities. Then drought led to starvation. She had to make a decision. In neighboring Kenya, people would help them. So she took her children and left. They walked for 30 days! Day after day in scorching heat, with little water and even less food...

‘Then came that fateful night when a hungry lion confronted them. He took away one of her children. She never saw the child again!

‘I could weep with her, which I did. But Mrs. Yarow needs more than sympathy — she needs compassionate help. Every day, over one thousand people arrive at Dadaab. Each one has a story of hunger, exhaustion and deprivation. Many come from areas of intense fighting. All of them need immediate help.

‘What we want to do is to focus on giving food and other essentials to the new arrivals in a personalized way: one family at a time. We want to be a face of compassion for them as they enter the refuge of Dadaab. We want them to know that we love them even as God loves them! It costs just £32 to give a family a starter kit of food items, soap, blankets and a mosquito net. I saw so much suffering — people escaping the horror of famine and war with just the clothes on their backs. They have nothing! Let us give them a new start in life, as unto the Lord!’

Dr. Max Lange, Director of Childcare Worldwide



Main picture: The face of human suffering: the Yarow Hasan family.
Inset: With almost half a million people living in tents, each traumatised individual urgently needs practical, compassionate help.

INSIGHTful Equation

Glaucoma =

2nd leading cause of blindness in the world.

How many people will be spared blindness this coming year?

Help In Sight

With thanks to the Lord and generous supporters, the nerve fibre analyser has been purchased for Siloam Thomas Eye Hospital in India. It has the potential to prevent countless numbers of people from going blind. Detecting early symptoms of glaucoma, it allows treatment to prevent blindness. Dedicated staff members are now being trained to operate this vital equipment – bringing hope to many in the year ahead. ■



project 009

Committed staff at the Siloam Thomas Eye Hospital extend season's greetings to Siloam supporters who enable their work to move forward into the New Year.



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

project 050



On a trip to Israel, Sandra Middleton and Marion Stearn volunteered to help Haim Barak, Director of Love to the Needy, as Sandra explains...

Love for Needy Children

'In Tel Aviv, we visited kindergartens run by women of the foreign workers' community who are at the lowest end of the economic scale. These kindergartens cater for babies and children due to a large number of single, working mothers, since foreign men are often deported. As a result, children are frequently traumatised as well as impoverished.

'Love to the Needy offers practical assistance. We travelled with Haim and one of his volunteers, Nessia, distributing food, baby products and toys. The homes also badly need clothing, blankets, nappies, dishes, etc. My friend, Marion, and I were quite overwhelmed to see how much more needs to be done for these little ones. There were often 30 to 40 babies, side by side, on mattresses with only two or three house mothers. The rooms are dark and dingy, no furniture, babies were crying for attention.

'House mothers look after the children with a joyful spirit but the needs are too great for them to be able to give individual attention. Haim and his team are doing their best to improve the lives of foreign workers, refugees and their children. But more funding and support is needed from charities like Siloam if the lives of these people, especially the children, are to be improved.' ■

Top: Sandra Middleton with a baby who responds to her caring touch. Above: Marion Stearn (left) and Sandra Middleton found an overwhelming need to provide for babies and children. Inset: This baby is just one of thousands living below the poverty line in Israel.

A CHILD'S VIEW

There are 2,000 children living in poverty among the 35,000 foreign workers in Tel Aviv.

'Is it selfish to want to want to experience somebody else's life?'

Together Child Sponsorship

In answer to his question, Nigel Picken discovered how fulfilling living at the Spirit of Faith Children's Centre in Kenya would prove. He worked with the maintenance man and interacted with staff and children.

'A number of women, who they call Mammias, care for the children. Before first light most mornings, the children are up doing chores. They amazed me just getting on with their work and never complained about doing it. They are focused, seeing education as the passage to a much better life. Despite any trauma they may have suffered, the children appear happy. Many of them witnessed atrocities that no human should encounter, hence making them wise beyond their years.

'My visit to this centre has been an amazing and fulfilling experience which will be difficult to top! I hope that I was able to make some difference (however large or small) to the lives of the children. The manager told me that even the children who didn't interact with me very much still enjoyed the fact that someone had come to see them.' ■



project 022



Top: Children accept work as a way of life with sweeping and food preparation part of their daily chores. Above: This kitchen provides a basic diet for the community. Inset: Hundreds of children and caring staff make up the Spirit of Faith community.



Above left: Food will provide good meals for this hungry family. The Survival Pack is half the size of the little girls. Above right: This is Doris and her two little boys. Several years ago, her husband left and never returned. Inset: The father of these children is unemployed while his wife works at a low-paying job at a community kitchen.



project 091*



Helping the destitute in Lima, Peru, as our CCW partner Marlies Lange explains, changes the lives of families who often don't know where their next meal is coming from...

When Children Ask for Food

'A common reason for the extreme poverty of these people is unemployment. Most of them do not have an education or specific work skills. They came to Lima with only their will to work; but obviously, this is not enough. It is difficult to find a job and, even if they do, the pay is usually so little that even the most basic needs cannot be met.

'If they wanted to return to their village, they would not be able to do so. They had to use everything they owned for the move to the city. Many men who have been unemployed for a long time want to get away from their responsibilities and leave their family, never to be seen again.

'Can you imagine what a Survival Pack means to a mother whose heart is breaking when her children ask for food and she has nothing to give? These food gifts mean more to hungry families than you can possibly imagine!' ■

SURVIVAL PACK

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

People arriving for a prayer meeting at the Oasis Christian Centre in Stratford-upon-Avon were surprised to find a bear and three dogs already there and ready to sing...

Animals Emigrate to Africa

It transpired that one of the deacons was unable to attend and had let the animals in earlier. They behaved impeccably although they were rather reserved during the singing and praying.

The animals explained that they were emigrating to Kenya to work with the pre-school children of the Lambwe Christian School for the Deaf. They were a little apprehensive about their mode of transport as their custodian, Martin Mackenzie, said there wasn't room in his luggage and they would have to travel by some strange system called Air Mail. However, despite the vagaries of the Kenyan Postal Service, they arrived the day before Martin was due to return home and soon found that their training in play therapy was very useful.

Deacon Meg Hewins had decided that they would be of more benefit to the deaf orphans than sitting in her house. Martin has been raising funds for the school for over four years now and the initial project saw the installation of electricity. Since then, four 10,000 litre water butts have been purchased. Now he is raising funds for a bore hole which should be drilled in the New Year. ■

project 058



Top: In Kenya, underprivileged children played jubilantly with the newly arrived animals. Above left: With his experience of meetings, Martin Mackenzie assures us that these emigrating animals were attentive. Above right: Deacon, Meg Hewins and Martin Mackenzie are committed to helping deprived children at Lambwe School for the Deaf.

PRAYER DIARY

Please pray for:

SUNDAY - The work of the pastors that we support, that they may faithfully lead their congregations, especially in areas where there is persecution.

MONDAY - CAST (Christian Ant-Slavery Today) that their message to raise awareness of slavery activities that continue today may be more widely heard and accepted.

TUESDAY - Leamington Christian Mission who reach out to the homeless and needy in Leamington Spa. Pray especially for the health of Steph and Geoff during the busiest quarter of the year.

WEDNESDAY - The churches in Bulgaria, Ukraine and Portugal as they plan and carry out the distribution of Christmas food parcels to the poor in their areas.

THURSDAY - The sight-saving mission in Coimbatore, India, that the new nerve fibre analyser may be installed quickly and soon help those with glaucoma.

FRIDAY - Love to the Needy in Israel – that their contacts with non-profit Christian organisations to help the poor may flourish.

SATURDAY - Richard, Teresinha, Michael and Lan who faithfully work in our office to administer your gifts, and for the volunteers who help them from time to time.



project
006/092

In the Philippines, a 100th birthday party celebrated Christian heritage with a view to the future.

'I had the privilege of attending the 100th birthday party of Mrs Luisa Calamba,' said Don Foster, Siloam's South East Asia Voluntary Representative. 'Her sister Facunda Evangelista hid my Auntie Merne Neilson Graham, a member of a medical missionary family, from the Japanese occupation forces during those dangerous years. Today this Christian hospital work continues to help others.' ■

When the Critical Care Centre opened in India, our CCW partners note that many people were sceptical, especially since Christians operate it...

Opportunity for Children – and their Families

Slowly things changed. Some parents were desperate because they didn't have enough food for their little ones.

'We could try it,' Alayamani said to his wife Amul. 'Just look at our tiny son. He is four years old and he doesn't act at all his age. He is so thin, he cannot speak and he doesn't play.' Amul took listless Gokul into her arms. 'I think we should,' she agreed. 'So what if they are Christians! We don't want to lose our baby.'

They went and children were all lovingly welcomed. Activities included good food, singing, a Bible story, play time, and a practical lesson with general things that a toddler should know. Eating, learning, playing and resting all had their place.

Within a few months, Gokul's physical and mental condition had remarkably improved. He can speak, count, write simple words and sing songs. Other good news is that the whole family regularly comes to church. Several other parents have joined them and two of them have already been baptized. This Critical Care Project not only helps children survive but gives whole families the opportunity to get to know the true and living God. ■

project
067*



With help from the Critical Care Centre, young Gokul is now progressing like other children his age.

MATTERS OF FACT

Half the children who die in the world suffer from malnutrition, the main cause of their death.