



Operation
AGRI

Outreach Abroad

Summer 2013

**SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT
IN CHRIST'S NAME**



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Working with villages in *Sri Lanka*

Last summer Elgan Evans, Operation Agri's secretary, visited projects in Sri Lanka. His visit features in the new "Growing Skills in Sri Lanka" appeal pack and DVD.

Operation Agri's partner, LEADS, has been working in poor village communities high in the hills near Kandy. This work has been led by Priyantha Perreira, an experienced LEADS District Officer, who is also a deacon at Kandy Baptist Church. While visiting the villages, Elgan interviewed Priyantha about his work.

Elgan: It's wonderful to be here in Sri Lanka, and to visit the various projects that Operation Agri and LEADS have been working on. Yesterday we visited a valley deep in the hills. Tell us what's been going on there?

Priyantha: Orayan was previously a tea estate. The backbone of the Orayan estate is a Buddhist temple and High Priest. All our villages focus on the advice from that Buddhist monk. We also work with him, so any decision and any advantages of this project belong to LEADS and the Buddhist temple and the whole community.

E: And the community have benefitted in which particular ways?

P: The main benefits have been the water supply, the pre-school and child education programme, and the micro-credit loan programme. We also had an awareness programme for the community, and identified the need to protect the environment, to restore the moisture of the area. So we started the reforestation programme to protect the water project.

E: Because where there are leaves there's water, and where there's water you can build tanks. It's amazing the way it links together. The project has had a great deal to do with micro loans for animal husbandry, and for tea, especially organic farming of tea. And today, we saw a tea plantation and tea nursery.

P: In my area whole villages are involved in growing tea. We had several training programmes on the best way to run a tea plantation, with pruning and fertilising. We identified a very good leader who can provide tea plants for other villages.

E: He creates the best tea plant for that environment. That sounds an exciting development.



Pre-school children ready for their meal



Priyantha and Elgan meet local villagers

P: Yes, he can create good types of tea plant, depending on the soil conditions, the right age and in the right way.

E: We are also meeting a lady who does tailoring on an old treadle sewing machine. That's one of many projects, but it's very successful for that lady isn't it?

P: Yes! She enrolled in our sewing class, and became a member of our community organisation. When she requested a loan for sewing, the rural society gave her a micro credit loan to buy the Singer machine. Now she earns money, and has totally repaid her loan.

E: A great success story: the training, and the business and the income. Now here on this hillside a new development is coming on line with the rubber plantation. Tell us about this community.

P: This whole village is linked to the rubber plantation. So we had many training programmes about the rubber - how to soak it, to cure it and so on. And we sometimes provide some basic tools for the villagers. Now they are working well and the tools help them to improve their life standard.

E: Brilliant. So together OA and LEADS are giving them the training and tools, and they put in the labour, time and effort, that together makes a difference in lives and communities.

P: My director in LEADS teaches us - show them how to work, and never give them complete things. We are only supporting - and pushing them too. We want to enable them to stand on their own feet.

E: Aiming to develop them to independence! That's brilliant! It's lovely to spend time with you and thank you for all you've done for us in our time with you in this beautiful land.

New work in *Jaffa*

Operation Agri is now supporting work by LEADS in the northern Jaffna area, which suffered greatly during the civil war ending in 2009. Many families had fled from the area, leaving destroyed and deserted villages, but are now returning from the resettlement camps. When Elgan visited Sri Lanka, he would have liked to see this new area of work, but was advised that it was still too sensitive for foreign visitors to go there.

LEADS obtained agreement from the Government to start work with Nagarkovil village which has 182 families (608 people) who returned there in 2012. The bad roads and distance to travel to the village were problems that LEADS have had to contend with. Also the 30 year conflict and consequent destruction and displacement has left the people apathetic with little incentive to start again. Although there had been active community organisations here in the past, only the Fishermen's organisation had restarted.

LEADS first conducted a PRA (Participatory Rural Appraisal), which greatly helped the community to identify and prioritise the needs. Then LEADS helped them set up and officially register a Rural Development Society and a Women's Rural Development Society. Committee members were elected and visited every home, inviting people to become members.

The activities of these societies include:

- Monthly meetings with all members
- Monthly accounts settlement
- Identify community needs and liaise with government authorities to achieve these needs
- Give priority to women and children in developing activities
- Encourage students to actively participate and develop leadership skills.

This year Operation Agri has donated a total of **£17,600** towards the activities of these projects



Meeting with community leaders under a tree

LEADS are conducting leadership training programmes, and community awareness programmes, and plan to set up children's clubs.

A major need was identified – there was no community meeting place for all these activities, other than under a tree! So work began on a community hall. LEADS provided cement, roof beams and equipment, and the local people dug foundations and started building. This hall will be of immense use for meetings, training programmes and evening classes.

Wells are the next priority. The initial plan was to construct two community wells. However, as a result of input from the people and the availability of some of the material in the village, there are now six wells being constructed.



Roof beams for the new community hall

There was initial apathy and lack of participation by the people, but thanks to the persistent care and concern of the LEADS workers, there is now a significant change. The people have been rejuvenated, and are now actively involved.

Seeds of Change

By Ruth Visick-Evans, Capacity Building Director, Oasis Global

Operation Agri supports Oasis linked projects in Bangladesh, India and Uganda

“Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering” Jesus said to a woman who, in society’s eyes, was at the bottom of the heap. She had been sick for many years, unclean from her bleeding condition, penniless, no doubt friendless and... a woman. She had nothing, yet what she did have – faith – Jesus recognised as the source of her healing.



Staff from the Duaripara project in Bangladesh

When faced with desperate poverty and immense injustice, it is easy to be moved by compassion (and perhaps our own sense of discomfort) and want to help alleviate people’s pain and provide for the things they lack. This may be the right response in a relief setting but in a development context, we at Oasis have learned that this response is rarely in people’s interests long-term. We believe that God has created each person with capacity and potential and rather than doing things for people, a more lasting and effective approach is to envision and enable them to make their own contribution and be the agents of change in their lives and communities.

Self Help Groups

An example of this is our self-help groups (SHGs) in the Beersheba Community Development Programme in Uganda. These groups, made up primarily of women, pool and save their minimal resources so that collectively they have access to a larger ‘pot’ of the collected funds. Individual members can take a loan to invest in setting up a small business, which is to be returned with 10% interest. Though Beersheba helps with the set-up, direction and oversight, the members are largely self-selected and self-governing. Before SHGs were organised, families in this very poor community struggled to access the basic necessities needed to live

full and productive lives, and largely lived a day-to-day, hand-to-mouth existence. Now they are planning well for their future, engaging in well-planned and executed small businesses, and generating and saving enough income to meet their basic needs of food, medical fees, and children’s school fees.

Self-Governance

The principle of self-governance is also exercised at a national level within Oasis. In the same way that we think it better for local communities to discover their potential and be part of the solution, we also believe in local leadership and governance structures, and a contextual approach to local issues. Whilst striving for a sense of ‘global family,’ where members are accountable to each other, support each other, learn from each other and resource each other, what you will see on the ground in Oasis projects around the world is national staff teams and national boards. We are all committed to the same vision, mission and ethos but how that plays out in the local context may look quite different.

Christian Ethos

At the heart of all Oasis is and does is its Christian ethos. A great deal of thought and work has gone into creating an ethos statement which has Christ’s life, message and example at its centre and yet creates opportunity for us to constantly ‘make the circle bigger.’ That means we can be very clear that we are a Christ-centred organisation yet work with people of other faiths or no faith, including staff. At the Duaripara Project in Bangladesh we work in a Muslim majority slum community, where nearly all of our girls and families are Muslim, as well as some of our staff. Each person is being introduced to Jesus through being part of a Christ-centred community which is trying to live out his message. All over the Oasis world, we are seeing that a commitment to openness, welcome and inclusion, alongside a strong Christian identity, is having a transformative effect on many for whom the ‘circle has been made bigger.’ That’s also what happened for the woman who had been bleeding.



Duaripara Muslim Staff and Girls

Building Community, *Transforming* lives

By Dave Caswell, Oasis Uganda County Director

At Oasis "Our vision is for community – a place where everyone is included, making a contribution and reaching their God-given potential." While we believe whole-heartedly in working with individuals to bring about positive and holistic change, the long-term transformation of individuals is intrinsically linked with the community in which that transformation takes place, and where people interact.

A grant of £10,000 has been made available to the Beersheba project this year.

income, they have also built a tangible sense of community and belonging.

Livelihoods Project Officer Mary Mugaba, oversees the groups: "It's amazing to see how the members work together to support and encourage one another, especially when they face challenges or are struggling to fulfil their commitments. In other groups, you often see people having their property seized or violence being used to address issues, but with the BCDP SHGs, it is very different. We are seeing community being formed to such an extent that members are committed to contributing to the success of the groups, not because they fear retribution if they don't, but simply because they do not want to spoil the relationships they have formed. The identity, belonging, and sense of community is a strong governing factor in how they operate, and you often see all the members coming together to support an individual in times of personal crisis."

Transforming

The set up and dynamics of the groups demand interaction, cooperation, unity and trust and we have seen the lives of people previously on the margins being transformed simply through this positive engagement with others. Judith* explains how being part of a group has changed her life:

"I used not to have friends, and used to struggle just to survive in life without any help. I wasn't confident when I joined the group but over time I began to make friends and have so many people now who can help me in life, who I can talk to, and whom I can work together with. I'm so grateful that I now have many friends."



Judith

Judith's is just one of many stories we have of people who have been brought back into community, who are making a contribution, and who are reaching their God-given potential.

**name has been changed to protect identity.*



A self-help Group in Musoto, Uganda

Belonging

There is an innate sense in all humanity to belong; and our identity, at least in part, comes through belonging. We were created to be in relationship and when, either through circumstance or choice, we live in isolation our identity and indeed humanity, is affected. Those who have committed horrendous acts throughout history have often done so because their isolation from community and positive relationships has somehow affected their moral compass and sense of humanity. One of the outcomes that Oasis seeks to achieve therefore, is that those on margins of society; the vulnerable, the lonely, the isolated, are brought back, not just into community, but into vibrant, healthy, productive community where everyone is involved, respected, and contributing; the excluded included, a place of wholeness and belonging.

Building Community

At the Beersheba Community Development Programme (BCDP) run by Oasis Uganda, this vision of building community underpins all that we are engaged in, and is demonstrated significantly through our Self Help Groups (SHGs). These groups of around 15 women in each meet regularly to save money together which is then given out in loans for individuals to engage in small businesses. While the groups are highly successful in their primary aim of helping the woman to generate

Excitements and *Success Stories* in Nepal

The MCDS/CHEP team of the Nepal Baptist Church work in remote villages to improve community health. Stories from Chuk Rana, adapted by Gill Ashley-Smith.

Operation Agri is providing a grant of £18,260 to help support the activities of the CHEP Project

Januka Thapa:

I live in Timnahi, Ward 1 Triveni, with my husband and 2 daughters. He is a farmer and I am a housewife. I used to worry how to manage the daily livelihood of my family and this always troubled me. But then I got an opportunity to join a Health Group formed by MCDS/CHEP and I became aware of many health related topics like personal hygiene, nutritious food available in our surroundings, and I have managed to plant nutritious food in my kitchen garden.

I have been spreading what I learnt to my children, neighbours and friends. I feel so good that I have learnt so much and can share this with my community. I got an opportunity to take Basic Sewing and Cutting Training, and plan to use it for income generation to support my family. The CHEP team has given meaning to my life and I heartily thank them for coming to such a rural place as ours and sharing their selfless love through the projects. I really appreciate them working for deprived people like us.

Saraswoti Majhi: I live with a daughter and husband at Kalikhola, Ward 3 Triveni. Seven years ago my husband was badly injured in a gang fight, and as a result became



Januka Thapa with her husband



Saraswati Majhi with her daughter and husband

dumb and paralyzed. Life had become hell for me and very stressful, as I had to see my husband suffer and take care of him and my daughter all alone. I had no hope of freedom from this pain and suffering and my life was meaningless.

Then MCDS/CHEP entered our area with their development projects and started groups for health awareness training, and even encouraged a saving and credit group that had been inactive for 7 years. Through the inspiration of CHEP the group started up again and members have begun saving. The awareness and precautions about various kinds of diseases, as well as sanitation, has been very meaningful for me. Also the opportunity for Basic Sewing and Cutting Training has added new hope and strength for me to do something for my family. It has really empowered me and I am determined to take it up to earn income. I am indebted to CHEP for opening our eyes and taking us out from the bondage of ignorance. Thank you!

Prem Bahadur Katuwal: I live in Chaufal, Ward 2 Triveni. I was struggling to build a toilet but could not afford it on my own. Then I heard that MCDS/CHEP had come with development projects like toilet construction, health training, and livestock training.



Prem Bahadur Katuwal preparing cement for toilet construction

I was longing to be in the toilet construction program but realised I wasn't in the list of beneficiaries. I really felt bad and asked the CHEP coordinator why I wasn't included. She told me it will go to another person who was poorer than me, but she assured me that if someone fails to do the construction work, I would definitely be included. It turned out that I did get the chance. I was very happy and started collecting sand, stone and local resources, and then I received three cement bags from CHEP. I have begun making blocks needed for the wall. I am very grateful towards CHEP for such an incredible support for me and my community. I heartily thank the entire Team and the donors as well. Thank you all!

Growing skills RESOURCE PACK



Operation Agri supports projects in a dozen countries around the world: agriculture, water supplies, education, healthcare, income generation.

This year's resources feature Christian partners in Sri Lanka, who help marginalised families to grow their skills and improve their livelihoods.

- The **DVD** has videos (for DVD player or computer) plus powerpoints, document, photos.
- The **resource book** has information and ideas for worship, fund raising and children's activities.

Order on-line: www.operationagri.co.uk or post this form.

Ask about an
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for your church.
Please book early for
Autumn events.



Full Pack: DVD, resource book, pair of posters, 25 leaflets, 25 envelopes (delete items you don't need)	Quantity
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Optional: OA Jubilee bookmarks (25 per set)	sets
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Email: admin@operationagri.org.uk

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a Baptist development organisation.

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CHRISTIAN LOVE IN ACTION

A B C D 1 2

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OVERSEAS SECRETARY

Operation Agri is looking for an overseas secretary.

Operation Agri is looking for an overseas secretary. The overseas secretary is the officer of the charity with overall responsibility for liaison with our overseas partners, who actually do the development work. He/she is supported by a small team, individual members looking after particular countries. He/she also sits on the BMS Development Committee and liaises closely with the BMS' manager for partnerships.

Stan Crees, our current overseas secretary, who is looking to retire, estimates that he spends 4-5 hours weekly on this very rewarding work, plus roughly 12 daytime meetings per annum in London or Didcot.

Please draw this need to the attention of anyone you feel may be interested.

Contact chairman@operationagri.org.uk.

London Marathon: he made it!

Richard Herring (pictured) successfully completed the London Marathon on 21st April. On crossing the finish line he said, *"The marathon is complete! 4 hours 16 minutes and a great amount of money raised – although I'm struggling to walk now! Thank you so much for the opportunity – it is a lifetime dream achieved and I'm very proud that the sponsorship is going to such a great cause!"*



So far Richard has raised over £2,000 for OA (including postal donations), but it is still possible to sponsor him, either through his fundraising site, www.justgiving.com/richard-herring2, or write 'Marathon Sponsorship' on the response form over the page. And a big 'Thank you!' to everyone who has already helped!

Response Form

I enclose a personal gift towards the work of Operation Agri:

£

I enclose a gift from our church/organisation towards the work of OA:

£

Please send me the "Outreach Abroad" magazine by post every 3 months:

Yes/No

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Full Name: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Rev/Dr

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Gift Aid Declaration

Operation Agri BMM

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made: ☐ today ☐ in the past 4 years ☐ in the future

Please tick all boxes you wish to apply.

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Please notify us if you: want to cancel this declaration/change your name or home address/no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

Donor's details (in addition to those above)

Signature

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Standing Order Form

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Any cheques should be made payable to 'Operation Agri BMM.'

Developing Skills and Providing *Good Leadership*

Daveen and Mike Wilson, former BMS workers in Brazil, conclude their story of life in Trapiá in this third article in the series.

Eagles Year

We began this period with a trip to Ecuador and Peru, where BMS wanted us to consider working. However, our conclusion was that we saw no area needier than the interior of NE Brazil, and that what we needed to focus on was on training the leaders we had to be able to train others. And so began our “Eagles Year,” an intensive discipleship course. Several young folk came to live at the church next to our house and we lived in community, passing on all our skills and passions. The mornings were mainly academic, and the afternoons more practical, with courses on organic gardening, motorbike maintenance, and – our new venture – beekeeping.

Beekeeping

The market had opened up to Brazilian honey after Argentinean and Chinese honey had become contaminated with tetracycline. At an international Beekeeping Conference held in our state capital (that Operation Agri paid for us all to attend), we learnt that our area was actually particularly suited to organic honey production because of the lack of large plantations and therefore of pesticides.



A view of the Honey House

Operation Agri then helped us acquire a few hives for each of the “Eagles,” and we began to learn the fascinating art of capturing bee colonies from the bush and getting them to produce honey in a sustainable way. This led to the building of a “Honey House” to process the honey - not where bees are kept - that is an apiary and has to be several hundred metres from habitation or roads because of the dangerous nature of these Africanised bees.

The good thing about bees in this part of Brazil is that in a dry year, although they won't produce honey, they will survive without much work or expense from the beekeeper – unlike goats. And in a good year (our last year there was good and they produced over a tonne of honey) there will be enough earnings to give a family the extra for luxuries like a fridge, or school supplies for the children.

The Toyota

The vehicle Operation Agri supplied continued to earn its keep right up until we left. Collecting the frames from the apiaries is a lot safer

when the driver, who does not wear the protective clothing, can shelter in a cab. Transporting building materials for the endless alterations to the Honey House that the government required was another use.

Taking sick folk to hospital or doctor's appointments continued as well, though on a reduced scale because more folk now have transport than when we first arrived in Trapiá 24 years ago. Operation Agri also supplied us with a sum we could use on medicines, and one of the last things I did before we got on the container ship bringing us back to the UK was to buy a stock of asthma inhalers for a lad who depends on them but cannot afford to buy them.

New Leadership

One of my dreams for Trapiá was to see stronger families, beginning with proper weddings. The first couple to get married in church was one of the Eagles – Edilson married Raniela just after the year finished, and they now have two children. The church voted him in as their new leadership team leader some months before we left and it was wonderful to see his wise way of handling people and the problems that arose. He was then voted the president of the Beekeepers' Association as well.

They are now living in our house and carrying on the work, along with several others. Please do pray for them to be protected from evil and for God's Kingdom to continue to come in Trapiá and the surrounding areas.



Mike loading the Toyota with building materials



The new leadership team

A Day with *Dennis Ssettaala*

Tony and Judith Sykes report from a recent visit to the SDKF project in Kampala, Uganda

This year OA will be supporting SDKF with grants to the value of around £10,650

Dennis Ssettaala is a slightly built middle-aged fellow, married to **Helen**. They work at the SDKF Training Centre in Kampala. Operation Agri helps support SDKF (Setting Development and Keeping the Foundation) with training young people in sewing skills, plus agricultural training in rural areas. Dennis is also pastor of the Divine Shepherd Church, a congregation of around 150. Judith and I had opportunity to meet Dennis at the Centre and ask about his work.

We had heard from OA Trustees of Dennis' integrity, and when we met we saw his passion for helping the poor and standing up against injustice. As we drove through wealthier areas of Kampala he commented on the size of properties behind secure fences. Dennis, like many in the city, originates from a rural village where his parents still live, and he observes the world from a balanced perspective.

Dennis works closely with **Paul Kyalimpa** on OA supported agricultural work in a region north of Kampala. Paul juggles several roles, including acting General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Uganda. He met us at SDKF. Despite his busy lifestyle he had a calming manner and ready smile. He uses his extensive agricultural knowledge to train farmers in Nakaseke, with Dennis interpreting into the local dialect.

Each day the Training Centre starts with a devotional time. The fact that Dennis is a pastor with a transparent practical ministry is a great witness to the students and their families.

I asked what the greatest needs were for SDKF, looking at the tin roof above us, pitted with holes. Dennis

acknowledged that rain came in, but then disregarded my engineer's hint, and mentioned a catering course that is starting through another donor. SDKF use whatever facilities are available, and we gathered that helping the needy in the community takes priority over infrastructure problems.

We are all stewards of the resources we have been blessed with, however meagre. Dennis expressed gratitude that, through Operation Agri, Christian brothers and sisters in UK share what they have to make a difference in this corner of Kampala.

I was interested in what drives Dennis to carry out SDKF ministries over and above his pastoral duties. So I asked his favourite Bible verse, and was surprised when he said Revelation 20:11-15, in particular that we will all be judged 'according to what we have done.' I remarked that preaching on hell and judgement had fallen out of favour in 'the West,' maybe from fear of further reducing congregations. Dennis astutely commented that promises of worldly blessings and prosperity are soon seen as vain hopes in the African context, and that a wider eternal view has more meaning. As he spoke we realised he'd shifted a gear, speaking as pastor rather than centre manager. Judith and I found ourselves discussing God's leading for us as a couple, and appreciating his wisdom.

We shared a Ugandan meal with Paul and Dennis, and then Dennis insisted on returning us safely to our guest house. Again he commented with a hint of sadness as we passed large houses, and I was challenged by the

disparity between resources in the world and the great responsibility we have to help repair the imbalance.

We were left with an impression of a gracious, humble man with a burden for the physical and spiritual well-being of people who find themselves with few resources of their own.



Prayer Points

Please use this page in conjunction with other information in the magazine

India

Remember in prayer:

- Oasis Borivili. Give thanks for the progress made during the first year that Operation Agri has supported this project in a slum community in Mumbai. In one of the groups a number of auto rickshaw drivers received advice on the health and addiction risks of tobacco and gutkha (chewing betel nut).
- Pray that the training carried out during the past year on child rights, human trafficking and sexual abuse will reduce vulnerability, while efforts to improve relationships with local police and government will benefit the community.
- WUAC. Pray for Mihir Sagar and the staff at West Utkal Agriculture Centre in Diptipur, Orissa. Give thanks for village families who have followed WUAC's guidance in developing their own kitchen-garden plots, praying that this season's crops will be successful and give them an income.
- Give thanks that the water retaining dam being built in the village of Matiamahul will provide a source of water to the village during the dry season, and also for renewed vision for the future of WUAC in addressing the greatest needs in the surrounding villages.

Tanzania

Farming Partner Initiatives around Karagwe

- Oxen are being purchased and trained for use in ploughing. This is the first time that oxen have been used for ploughing in this area. Please pray for the farmers who receive the oxen that they will be able to train them well to respond to voice commands spoken in Swahili, and that the oxen will be well cared for and remain in good health. There is considerable local interest in this new venture so please pray that this will be an opportunity for sharing faith as well as new agricultural techniques.

Uganda

- Beersheba: Dave Caswell has been appointed country director for Oasis Uganda. Pray for him in this new role with all the additional responsibility that he now carries and for the person taking his place to oversee the work of Beersheba, the project that OA supports at Mbale.
- Pray for the ongoing work at Mbale as the Self Help Groups continue to bring encouragement and hope to their members through training and the provision of loans made possible by the regular savings scheme for members. Remember also the Beersheba Young Farmers as they are trained in agriculture.
- SDKF: Pray: for the new phase of agricultural training underway with farmers in and around Nakaseke, north of Kampala; for plans to start a new programme of training in hairdressing for unemployed youth in a slum area of Kampala; for employment to be found for those who have completed the tailoring course.
- Gulu: Pray for Paul Kyalimpa and Alex Vickers as they continue to deliver training, help and advice to farmers in the north of the country around Gulu.

Bangladesh

- Duaripara. Give thanks for the brilliant exam results achieved by the girls last year and pray that they may be able to build on that success this year. Pray for the girls elected to the children's committee as they work with their teachers to plan and develop new initiatives.
- Remember in prayer all who work in the garment industry and those who suffered life changing injuries in the garment factory collapse in Dhaka earlier this year - that they may find the help they need to rebuild their lives.
- Pray for political stability in Bangladesh and an end to the disruptive strikes that hamper economic development and that Bangladesh may continue to be a country where people of different faiths can live together in peace.

Afghanistan

- OA has agreed to support the provision of another microhydro project that will benefit about 700 people with electricity for lighting and TV reception and can provide power for income generation possibilities. Pray for ongoing stability in this area of Afghanistan so that these benefits and others like them may be brought to the people without hindrance.

Sri Lanka

- Pray for the leadership of Farms Lanka as they continue their vital work in many different areas of this needy country. Many of the support activities that Farms provides are directed through community based organisations where help is given to sewing projects, small sales outlets, carpentry, home gardening and vocational training programmes. Give thanks to God for the benefit these activities bring to the poorest in these communities and pray that improved financial support will enable this work to continue and expand.

Nicaragua

- A recent report from our partner AMOS reminds us that every year over seven million of the world's poorest children die from completely preventable illnesses. Pray for the health promoters who are trained by Amos to recognize the signs of danger, know what to do in an emergency, and can mobilize their community to help save lives. Their work in the villages is vital to mothers and their children. Give thanks that through the community based primary health care programmes much is being achieved to bring health improvements to all.

Home

- Pray for the Lord to guide and encourage the officers and trustees of OA as they seek ways to encourage further support and enlist voluntary help.
- Give thanks that the new Sri Lanka based appeal resources were well received at the Baptist Assembly and pray that many more churches will take up these materials for use at harvest and other occasions.



GROWING SKILLS IN SRI LANKA – OUR 2013 APPEAL

This year we will be focussing on the work we support in Sri Lanka. The appeal materials are available now and can be ordered from our website or using the order form on p. 7. Please pray with us that these will receive a warm welcome in churches and groups.

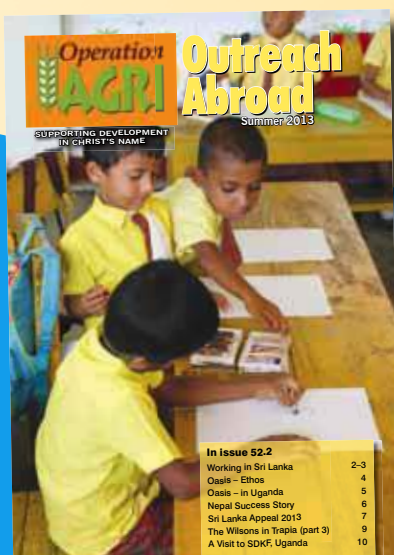
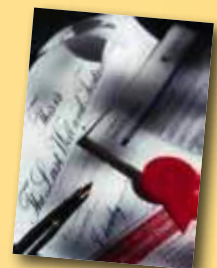
YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

Offset the carbon dioxide you release into the environment by air or road travel by making a small donation to one of our carbon offsetting projects, providing solar powered water heaters to villagers in Afghanistan, or fuel-efficient cooking stoves to people in Nepal. Visit our website to see how easy this is to do!



OA IS GRATEFUL...

... to those friends who include a bequest to OA in their wills. An example of suitable wording do to this is given on our website, or contact our administrator.



Front Cover Photograph:
Pre-school children colouring in
Sri Lanka (LEADS).

Operation Agri (charity no. 1069349 and a member of Global Connections) supports rural and urban development projects on three continents, attacking the basic causes of poverty among some of the least fortunate people in the world. Many of the projects are run by churches or organisations in partnership with BMS World Mission.

Outreach Abroad was compiled and edited by Stan Crees and Malcolm Drummond. To be added to the mailing list, or for donations or other enquiries, contact Malcolm Drummond (administrator): Operation Agri, 361 Firs Lane, Palmers Green, London N13 5LX. Tel. 020 8803 0113, or email admin@operationagri.org.uk.

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