



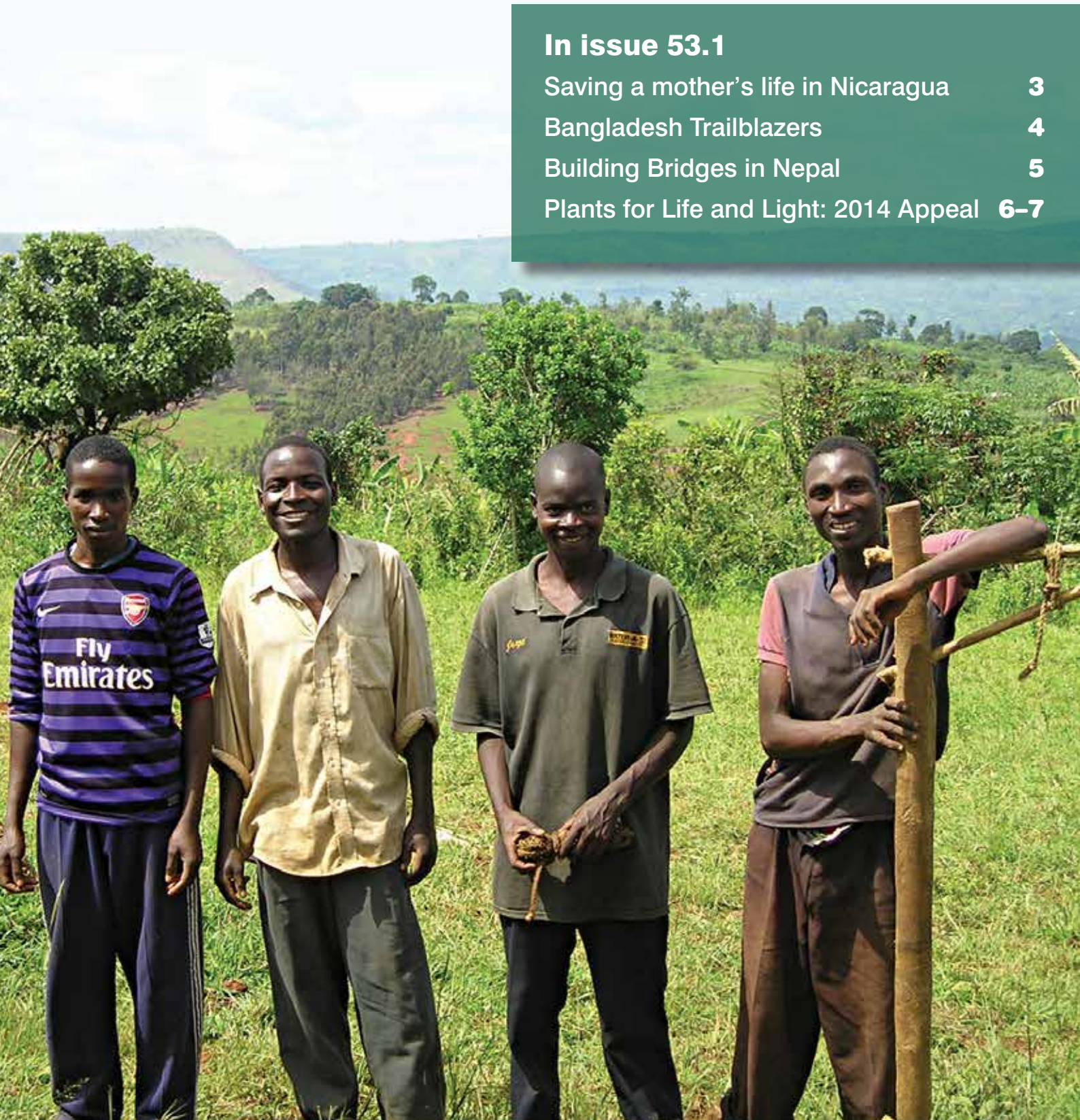
**SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT
IN CHRIST'S NAME**

Outreach Abroad

Spring 2014

In issue 53.1

Saving a mother's life in Nicaragua	3
Bangladesh Trailblazers	4
Building Bridges in Nepal	5
Plants for Life and Light: 2014 Appeal	6-7



Strengthening *communities!*



By Russell Ashley-Smith, Operation Agri's Chairman

Providing care

Amidst the news of the UK's horrendous floods at the beginning of the year, were heart-warming accounts of

neighbours coming together, supporting and helping each other. Many of the projects that OA supports around the world similarly unite communities.

In remote mountain villages in Afghanistan, everyone first has to agree to the project before work can start on their local micro-hydroelectric plant. Sometimes long-standing feuds have to be resolved. We will see in OA's new video the enthusiasm with which the menfolk, young and old, work together to build the infrastructure, unload equipment and prepare for the excitement of the big day when the current first flows through the wires. It's really theirs – they built it, they own it, and two of their men have been trained to maintain it.

Then in the heart of Africa, in north-west Tanzania, a small group of 'Community Farmer Trainers' (CFTs) attends courses, run by Paul Kyalimpa from Uganda. On returning to their own villages, these CFTs pass on what they have learnt to a group of thirty local farmers. In this way the benefits are shared through the whole community and local people are now growing enough food not only to feed their own families but also have a surplus to pay for those extras – school fees, medical costs, etc.

Your role!

These are the projects featured in OA's appeal resources this year, 'Plants for Life and Light.'

Could you encourage more churches to use these resources, either at harvest time or in fact any time of the year? An enormous amount of voluntary time goes into preparing them and those who do use them in churches and other groups invariably applaud their excellence.

The OA community

We give thanks for God's provision of a new editor for 'Outreach Abroad' – welcome Nigel! The next issue of this magazine will be in a new updated format, with lower printing costs resulting in more financial support going to vital projects. There'll be features for children and young people as well as uplifting stories of how the projects continue to lift the lives of some of the world's neediest people. The insert shows how it will appear so please look out for its fresh new look.



We are still much in prayer for a replacement Overseas Secretary – Stan Crees has done it for countless years but is now seeking well-deserved retirement. Please join us in praying that God will lead us to the right man or woman for this very rewarding role.

The biggest challenge

OA's big challenge however is to increase our income which has dropped by a third in recent years. We've been able to cushion some of this by utilising reserves carried forward, but we have had to cut back our funding for the overseas work. We are sadly turning down worthwhile new projects and reducing grants to some of our established partners.

Our partners' work is magnificent – thousands of lives have been changed permanently for the better while the love of Jesus has been powerfully demonstrated. Thank you for your part in enabling this to continue!

Best wishes in the name of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Annual General Meeting

Operation Agri's **AGM** will be held at 3.30 p.m. on Thursday 12th June 2014 at Baptist House. Members of the Baptist Men's Movement and other individuals and representatives of churches and other organisations who regularly subscribe to the work of OA are entitled to attend.

Saving a Mother's *Life*

Operation Agri has supported AMOS with grants of £12,460 in the last twelve months

By Dr. Carlos Escobar, Rural Health Program Coordinator. (Translated from Spanish by Alexis Siegel, Research and Development Project Manager and Christine Lafferty, Communications and Development Manager).

Rosa Ivania Arauz, age 24, was close to reaching the ninth month of her second pregnancy, when she was visited by the local health promoter, Juan de Dios Blandon. A farmer's wife in the community of San José de La Mula, Matagalpa, Nicaragua, Rosa is a very humble woman with a very basic school education and very shy.

Life is hard in mountain communities like San José de la Mula. To walk to the nearest health centre would take her at least 3 hours, which is why women often choose to stay at home to deliver their babies. In remote rural communities, having access to hospital care during childbirth is often the difference between life and death for a mother and her newborn.

The Right Decision Can Be a Difficult One

During Juan de Dios' previous visits Rosa had expressed doubts about giving birth in a hospital. She had swelling in her lower limbs and slightly high blood pressure, which was a concern for the health promoter. Her symptoms indicated a risk of eclampsia at delivery which, in the context of rural Nicaragua, would mean a certain death for mother and baby if she had her baby at home.

Rosa had not paid many visits to the hospital and was nervous about being examined by an obstetrician gynaecologist. In addition, she was fully responsible

for taking care of the family home as her husband and son spent the majority of the time working in the fields. She was hesitant to leave. Juan de Dios, a farmer himself, knows this because he and his family live the same life. The difference is that Juan has had the training necessary to know when someone is in danger.

A High-Risk Birth, But a Healthy Outcome

During his visits to Rosa's home, Juan spent time carefully explaining the potential signs of danger during and after delivery, and the importance of having her baby in a hospital.

With her mother by her side, Rosa discussed the process more fully with Juan de Dios, and in the end, decided to attend the hospital for delivery. Recognising that Rosa was a high-risk pregnancy, the health promoter organized her to be transported to the nearest hospital by an AMOS vehicle the next day. Four days later a healthy little girl was born. Rosa was able to avoid health complications during birth, thanks to the intervention of the health promoter in her community.



Rosa Ivania stands outside the front of her home, holding her one month old baby

Training Local Leaders Makes All the Difference

Juan de Dios Blandón has been trained by the AMOS rural health team in the care of pregnant women and most importantly, how to recognize danger signs during pregnancy. He is dedicated in his work and through his dedication was able to prevent a potential child and mother death.

Rosa and her family are very thankful for all the advice received from Juan de Dios and the patience and love that he shared during his visits. Rosa recognizes that her local health promoter is a person dedicated to the service of God and their community and is grateful for the support provided by AMOS and its donors.



After having a safe and healthy delivery in the regional hospital, Rosa Ivania is visited by Juan de Dios Blandón (Health Promoter) to follow up on her health and the health of her baby.

Duaripara Trailblazers

Adapted by Mary Hart (OA trustee) from an article by Lovely Mondal (Oasis, Bangladesh).

OA has given £15,500 to this project in the last year.

The Duaripara Family Project is based in a large urban slum in the Bangladesh capital city of Dhaka. Operation Agri has been providing funds for this Oasis project which focuses on supporting girls from the slum to complete their primary and secondary school education. Some of the girls have now finished their formal education which takes them to Grade 10 School Certificate level. Mukta, Chonda, Sathi and Fatema are all demonstrating to their younger peers that there is a future for girls from the slum.

Mukta

In 2013 Mukta was admitted into the National University to study Commerce. Her main focus is to get a good degree and later a good job to help feed her family. Mukta funds her studies by working full-time as a teaching assistant in the Duaripara Project teaching the Catch-Up class and Grade Four girls who need extra support. She says *"I love it when girls ask me questions and as a result of my input I am able to see a positive result in their attitude."*



Mukta, working as a teaching assistant.

Chonda

Chonda's dream is to become a banker after passing her Higher Secondary exams and she is applying for admission to university. In spite of the community's very negative attitudes about girls pursuing further study, Chonda bravely took the decision to go to university and support herself in her studies.



Chonda hopes to work in finance.

The political unrest in the country has made it difficult for her to secure a university place but she is still trying and in the meantime is working as a part-time teaching assistant to help fund herself. She loves to spend time doing creative sessions with the younger girls. The project has played an important role in influencing her life. In her words *"I have learned how to love people and how to treat people nicely."*

Sathi

Sathi was one of the first girls who entered the project back in 2004. She has worked hard over the years to complete her education and achieve her Grade 10 School Certificate. In 2013 Sathi enrolled in college to study further and is determined to continue her studies and get a good result. *"I am really proud of this"* says Sathi *"because it is tough for a slum girl to complete her education. I love coming to the centre to teach arts and crafts to the younger girls and take charge of decorations when we have a party or production. The staff team are like my family. Where I am standing today is because of Oasis."* Sathi's creative skills were much in evidence over Christmas when she led a team to decorate the venue with crayons, balloons and other things. She is enjoying this new stage of her life which is empowering her to chase her dreams.



Sathi, surrounded by the girls she teaches.

Fatema

Tragically, Fatema's father died after she passed her Grade 10 exam which left her feeling hopeless for the future. With Oasis' help, she is now studying at college for her Grade 12 exam and works part-time as a teaching assistant with us. However, as with many girls from this community, her mother is looking for a husband for her to marry which could threaten Fatema's future dreams. Our family workers meet with her mother regularly to help her see the value of Fatema completing her education and to discourage marriage at this point. Fatema is studying hard for her final grade 12 exam but is a bit anxious and asks for our prayers. *"I thought my dreams had come to an end but getting involved with Oasis I am dreaming again. I got the chance to study again,"* says Fatema.



Fatema putting up Christmas decorations.

Credit: Oasis, Bangladesh

Good News – *a bridge*

By Kat Wagner, Mission Projects Administrator,
BMS World Mission.

Remote, mountainous terrain in Rukum District, Nepal, makes travel difficult and time-consuming: it can take 30 hours to walk to the district centre. The lack of easy access means fresh food and medicines are in short supply for villagers, hampering local economies and impacting on peoples' health.

Trailblazing

After an inspiring training session for church leaders in Summer 2012, a number of churches decided to take action. They realised that they could share and practically demonstrate the gospel by making a physical improvement to their local community.

A team from the churches started by constructing a shortcut trail between two of the villages, halving the journey time. However, the route includes a river crossing, consisting of a basic wooden structure (see photo), which can be treacherous or impossible in monsoon season.

Bridge brings hope

In partnership with United Mission to Nepal (UMN), a grant from Operation Agri is enabling a new, improved bridge to be constructed, providing a safe crossing all year round.

**OA Operation Agri has given
£3,750 to this project.**

It is anticipated that the new bridge will bring a marked benefit to over 4,000 people. The new bridge will allow traders with up to 100 mules carrying food, materials and medicines to commute every day between bazaars and remote areas. Local people will be able to travel to the administrative centre far more easily, and it will also open up a route for tourists to pass through. Local wild herb gatherers, who are typically from low-caste ethnic groups, will be able to harvest from new areas, improving their incomes and their ability to pay for food, schooling and healthcare.

Church changing the community

As a church-led initiative, the bridge will serve as a witness that the Church is interested in the welfare of the whole community. As the churches start working in the community, people are becoming more open to listen to and network with Christians. Building a bridge is bringing better livelihoods to remote villagers and opportunities for sharing the gospel.



Kat Wagner



The old dangerous bridge.

BMS World Mission

Plants for Life and Light: Filming in Karagwe



This year's Operation Agri appeal "Plants for Life and Light" includes film of a Farmer training project in Tanzania. Tony and Judith Sykes visited on behalf of Operation Agri travelling from Uganda with training facilitator Rev Paul Kyalimpa and the film crew.

This year's Operation Agri appeal "Plants for Life and Light" includes film of a Farmer training project in Tanzania. Tony and Judith Sykes visited on behalf of Operation Agri travelling from Uganda with training facilitator Rev Paul Kyalimpa and the film crew.

Tony writes: We set off from Kampala, Uganda, travelling 3½ hours on good roads to the Tanzanian border, having crossed the equator. Pastor Heavenlight Luoga met us and we transferred to a Tanzanian vehicle for another 1½ hour journey to the town of Kayanga in Karagwe, which is on the crest of a hill so the climate was much cooler.

The farmers to whom Pastor Luoga ministers are fairly widely scattered. Mchuba village is a 40 minute drive on dirt roads. The 'Umamu' village farmers' group welcomed us, with the gift of a chicken! This group was formed by Joseph Mpogazi, who had attended Paul Kyalimpa's organic training course in Uganda (with a grant from OA). When he returned he taught others techniques like washing milk cattle with naturally occurring substances rather than chemicals.



Tony and Judith Sykes receiving the gift of a chicken

Deus, 25 years old, is married with 4 children. We visited his pineapple farm. He planted the first field before being trained by Joseph, who then taught him to plant the pineapples in lines and to replenish the land with nutrients. Pineapple leaves in the first field were yellowing, sapped of nutrients, and fruit varied in size. Plants in the second field had light green leaves and the fruit was regular and larger, with many more pineapples. Paul Kyalimpa showed *Deus* a locally-growing nitrogen rich plant to place around the pineapples to enrich the

soil. *Deus* and his family had lived in a mud house until fairly recently, but now they have a brick house - evidence of his farming success.

The next day, Paul led a training session on pest management, with classroom teaching followed by practical work to make organic/natural pesticide spray from local resources.



Deus Matthayoo and his crop of pineapples

At Katwe Village, farmer *Edmund Martin* is now the pastor of a small Baptist Church that he started here, and we were welcomed with singing and dancing. Inspired by Paul's teaching about using what God has given us, he applied what he'd learned to use previously unproductive land to grow bananas. He was then able to show local farmers how to use poor land and to encourage them to work together. Fifteen community groups have grown out of the Katwe nucleus. Edmund said his vision was to spread these good examples wider afield.

Towards the end of our time Paul Kyalimpa spoke about his work training farmers in both Uganda and Tanzania, with Operation Agri's support.

Paul said "We are training our farmers to develop various enterprises on the farm in order to generate income, but also for food security. God placed man in the Garden of Eden and commanded him to work and keep, or conserve but the way we work has been very destructive. People have been cutting trees and wildlife has almost been wiped out. Nutrients were washed away by soil erosion and water. Now the farmers are learning techniques to stop erosion prevent water run off and conserve wildlife. Biodiversity is good. Once nature is in balance we will not have lots of pests and diseases. Keep the garden and the garden will keep us."



Practical lesson on making pesticide

£14,000 has been sent to this project by OA in the last year.

**NEW! 2014
Appeal Resources**

*"A usual the
DVD was great!"*



*"very well received
at all-age service."*



In African heat and in
Afghan snow, OA is:

- Training farmers to improve crops and harvests
- Lighting homes with hydroelectric plants

**Operation
AGRI**



Christian love in action ▶ ▶ ▶

Order the resources now! ▶ ▶ ▶

Plants for life and light RESOURCE PACK

Operation Agri supports projects led by Christian partners in a dozen countries around the world: agriculture, water and power supplies, education, healthcare, income generation.

This year's resources feature farmers learning how to improve crops in Tanzania, and the construction of mini hydroelectric plants for village lighting in Afghanistan.

- The **DVD** has videos (for DVD player or computer) plus powerpoints, documents and 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
OA speaker
for your church**
Please book early for
Autumn events

Full Pack: DVD, resource book, pair of posters, 25 leaflets, 25 envelopes <i>(delete items you don't need)</i>	Quantity
Extra leaflets (25 per set)	sets
Extra gift envelopes (25 per set)	sets
Extra A2 posters (in pairs)	pairs
Extra resource books	books
Optional: OA Collecting box (cardboard)	boxes
Optional: OA Jubilee bookmarks (25 per set)	sets
Optional: Set of OHP acetates	sets
Contribution towards production costs and postage	£5.00
Donation to Operation Agri	£
TOTAL	£

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Tel / Email _____

Church _____

Please return this to:
Operation Agri, 361 Firs Lane, Palmers Green, London, N13 5LX
 or contact: **Malcolm Drummond, Tel: 020 8803 0113**
 Email: admin@operationagri.org.uk

Pay by cheque to 'Operation Agri', or order by credit card on the website:
www.operationagri.org.uk

Christian love in action

A B C D 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

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A Baptist development organisation
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Design: www.sarahprenticedesign.co.uk Print: Jago Litho, Cardiff

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

BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

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

Church or Organisation

Address:

Post Code

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.

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify.

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

Date

giftaid it

Standing Order Form

To support Operation Agri BMM regularly by standing order, please complete the details below,
IN BLOCK CAPITALS and return this form to the OA Administrator

My Bank Details

To: The Manager,

Bank Name

Bank Address

Postcode

Sort Code

Account No.

Account Name

Please pay to Operation Agri BMM at:

Bank of Scotland, Direct Business Accounts,
Pentland House, 8 Lochside Avenue,
Edinburgh, EH12 9DF

Sort Code: 12-20-29, Account No: 00142961

the sum of

£

starting date

and every *

month / quarter / year

until further notice from me in writing

This order *

is in addition to / replaces

my previous instructions relating to this charity

Signature

Date

* Strike out words that do not apply

Please send this form to Operation Agri, 361 Firs Lane, Palmers Green, London N13 5LX.
Any cheques should be made payable to 'Operation Agri BMM.'

Giving God reason to *Rejoice*

By John Durrant, OA's Treasurer

In OA it is clear that our UK partners are giving from what they have received from God. It blesses God to see the fruit of the good things he has provided for us. We can rejoice as we give, for there is a connection between generosity and the ability to rejoice. J G McConville (1999) says, 'People are closest to God-likeness in self-giving, and the nearer they approach God-likeness the more genuinely and rightly they become capable of rejoicing.' Not only do the gifts bless God, but we see that integrity in giving does too – God is aware of our attitude towards our giving.

As Trustees of OA we are privileged to see the self-giving of our UK partners and we in turn can rejoice with our overseas partners as they make a positive difference through the projects which OA has been supporting.

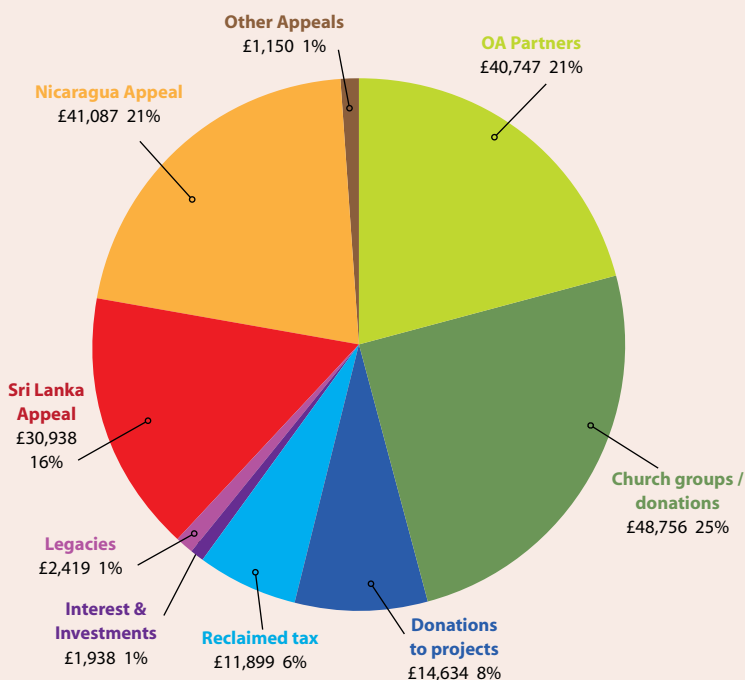
In this context of giving and rejoicing, let us remind ourselves again that we have been experiencing a difficult economic climate including cost of living pressures. The information in the pie charts illustrates this.

Income

In comparison with last year:

- Donations from partners were up by £500
- Donations from organisations e.g. churches were down by £1,250
- Donations to projects were down by £5,000
- Legacy income was down by £112,500 – last year we had a very large legacy
- Income tax refund was down by £1,000 – we wish to encourage more giving through gift aid
- Donations from our appeals was up by nearly £1,400

Income 2012-2013



- Interest and income from our investments was down by £400 – resulting from low interest rates and the sale of our investments

Expenditure

In comparison with last year

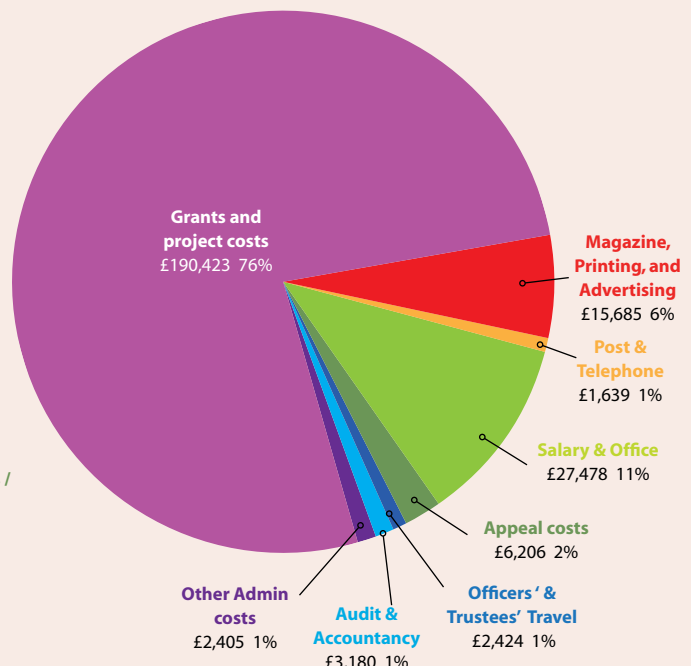
- Grants to projects and related expenses were up by £8,000 – we did not achieve our budgeted grant figure of £225,000 as a number of projects had delayed starts; our expenditure on grants as a percentage of our total expenditure was 76.3%, up by over 3%
- We have reduced our printing and stationery costs by £1,800
- Our support costs have been reduced in real terms taking into account inflation – we continue to look for efficient ways of carrying out our functions and using volunteers wherever possible

We are making as much use as possible of our website and Facebook to provide up to date information in creative ways to our partners and other interested people.

It would be appropriate to remind people who make donations for specific projects, that occasionally e.g. where a project has finished, we will make the best use of the funds by designating them to a similar project, in the same country if possible.

In 2013-14 we continue to seek God's will for the use of the gifts that have been provided; in so doing we have set our overseas grants budget at £175,000 – a challenging figure in the context of our income. We step out in faith confident that God is blessed to see his generosity and goodness come to fruition.

Expenditure 2012-2013



News in Brief

Amazing impact of savings and loans groups

Oasis, one of our partners in Uganda, reports that savings and loans groups have taken off in an exciting way in three communities in Uganda. These small grassroots initiatives can have an amazing impact in the community.



Savings group in Uganda

They empower people to solve their own problems by giving the community the tools and support to run the group themselves, making their own rules. Bills for things like school fees can be saved for, and loans, for example to start a small business, can be made at a much lower interest rate than from a bank or micro finance institution. This benefits everyone, helping grow community, building relationships. The money stays within the community, circling around and growing all the time.

Oasis has six groups running in Kampala, twelve in Mbale (where OA is supporting the Beersheba project) and one in Pader. Another four groups are waiting to start in Kampala and Mbale, with many individuals eager to join them.

School books appreciated

As reported earlier, at the end of last year OA made a grant of £4,275 to our partner Farms Lanka (Sri Lanka) to provide school books and other inputs which will help the parents of around 1,500 children of poor families keep their children in school. We have received a report from Farms which relates some of the experiences as books were distributed around the country.

A programme for mentally handicapped children at Moratuwa was organised by the government's social department. Farms Lanka contributed educational materials and the children performed on stage.

In the Eastern province heavy rains made it difficult to gain access to a newly constructed Anglican Church Mission centre. However, those parents and children who were able to be present were grateful for the Christmas message given and for the school books provided.

In January a distribution of shoes took place in the slum areas of Rathmalana and, at another gathering in that area, packs of school books were presented by Farms Lanka. Government representatives, religious leaders and parents were all present to encourage the children.

We praise God for these opportunities to encourage the children and their parents.

Gifts with thanks

In recent months OA's income has been boosted by the following unusual gifts converted to cash. A watch with some gold value £10. Postage saved by not sending Christmas cards £10. Pensioner's heating allowance donated £100. Sale by auction of a silver trowel £160. A special stamp collection £500. We are grateful for all these gifts. Do you have any items that you could sell to help raise funds for OA?

Our new magazine editor – Nigel Jones – introduces himself

Engineer, project manager, Baptist minister, now project management trainer: what next? That's a dangerous question to put to the Lord. As soon as we genuinely seek him, he turns our inquiry into his opportunity. He made it clear to me that my next role was to become a trustee of Operation Agri and then to take on the editorship of the magazine. I like Paul's testimony in 2 Corinthians 12:9 *"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."* More importantly, over many years, I have come to appreciate the power of God's resources available to us as Christians. Some of that support is currently channelled through the other trustees of Operation Agri who have made me very welcome and 'at home' amongst them.



Nigel Jones, OA's new magazine editor

Taking over the role from Stan Crees who has discharged the role of editor brilliantly for many years is a challenge in itself. As you continue to support the projects which change people's lives and show the face of a caring, loving God, please also pray for me – that I might continue to know His Grace as editor, and as a disciple. Thank you.

Prayer Points

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

Bangladesh

Remember in prayer:

- It has been a difficult year for ordinary people in Bangladesh as political disagreements have resulted in general strikes and outbreaks of violence. Schools have often been closed and transport to and from work has been difficult. In these situations we ask for prayer for both staff and beneficiaries of Operation Agri supported projects and for the country as a whole that peace might return.
- Pray for Lovely Mondol and her team at the Duaripara Family Project based in a Dhaka slum. Pray that the education of the girls isn't disrupted and the outstanding exam results seen this year will be repeated.
- Remember Mahananda Bairagee the Director of SHED Board and the staff involved in the Children's Education Project and the Indigenous Women's Empowerment project. Pray that these projects will continue unhindered and help many children and families achieve their potential.

Tanzania

Farming Partnerships Initiatives in the area around Karagwe.

- Rev Heavenlight Luoga manages the Farming Partners Initiatives project which OA supports. Pray for him and for his assistant, Rev Apollo Anthony the Field Worker. Apollo travels extensively by motorcycle encouraging and supporting local farmers – pray for his safety and for the farmers he visits. Remember the Community Farmer Trainers who attend the courses and then pass on the knowledge they gain to others in their community.

Uganda

- Pray for Paul Woniaye the Programme Manager at Beersheba in Mbale, and for Dave Caswell the Country Director of Oasis Uganda. Praise God that the work they manage is empowering local people in many different ways.
- Remember Paul Kyalimpa in the busyness of his life launching a new project in western Uganda whilst still offering training support to SDKF farmers in Nakaseke and FPI farmers in Tanzania.
- Pray for Dennis Ssettaala as he manages and oversees the work of SDKF, offering career training to disadvantaged youth in Kampala and agricultural training to farmers in Nakaseke.

Zimbabwe

- Pray that the new greenhouse at Ebenezer Training Centre will fulfil the need for locally produced seedlings and that it will serve the centre well. Pray too for the apprentices being trained and for those who are training them.

India

- Give thanks for the Oasis Borivali programme in this deprived area of the city of Mumbai as it approaches its third year giving poor families the chance to improve quality of life. Opportunities include income generation schemes, job training and placement, and

training on child rights, human trafficking and sexual abuse aimed at reducing vulnerability

- Pray for Mihir Sagar and the staff at West Utkal Agricultural Centre in Diptipur, Orissa as they minister to the agricultural needs of the surrounding villages. In particular the construction of retaining dams for the village of Matiamahul, an activity which lies outside their area of expertise and requires them to consult appropriate experts.

Nepal

- Continue to hold in your prayers those who are managing the work MCDS. Amrita Gurung currently holds the post of Acting Executive Director. Remember Amrita and other leaders as they complete the work in current areas and plan new project activities and locations.
- Give thanks that this ongoing work of providing clean water, improved health and sanitation in remote rural districts of Nepal continues to raise the living conditions of the poorest in these areas.

Sri Lanka

- Our partners in Sri Lanka work to address the root causes of poverty in a variety of ways. Pray for Leads as they focus on community development and capacity building, reaching the most vulnerable in many locations.
- Remember too the work of Farms Lanka, currently seeking to help deprived families find ways to develop income from loans. Give thanks that the ongoing work with school children has shown encouraging results.

Nicaragua

- 33% of the population live more than 2 hours walking distance from the nearest basic health services and even further from hospitals that offer specialized care. Those who are poor suffer more, yet use services less. Our partner AMOS is seeking to address these issues based around their health promoters working in many of these isolated villages. Pray for all who work in AMOS that their efforts to provide improved health care in these situations may be successful.

Home

- Give thanks for all the work producing this year's appeal resources (p.6). Pray that there will be a good take up at the Baptist Assembly and in response to the advertising, and that many churches and groups will be encouraged and inspired seeing the video and other materials.
- Operation Agri makes leaflets available each year at Spring Harvest - pray that these will arouse interest and result in more supporters of the ministry.
- May Nigel Jones, taking over as editor of this magazine, find it a rewarding task. Pray for plans to relaunch it in an updated format (see p.2) and promote it more widely.
- Pray that the charity's income will increase and enable existing and new overseas projects to be supported. Pray for the Operation Agri committee as they take crucial decisions as to which of many worthwhile projects to fund.

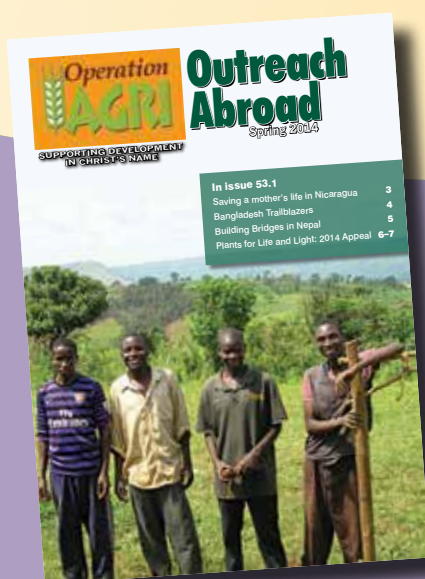


Plants for life and light – our 2014 Appeal

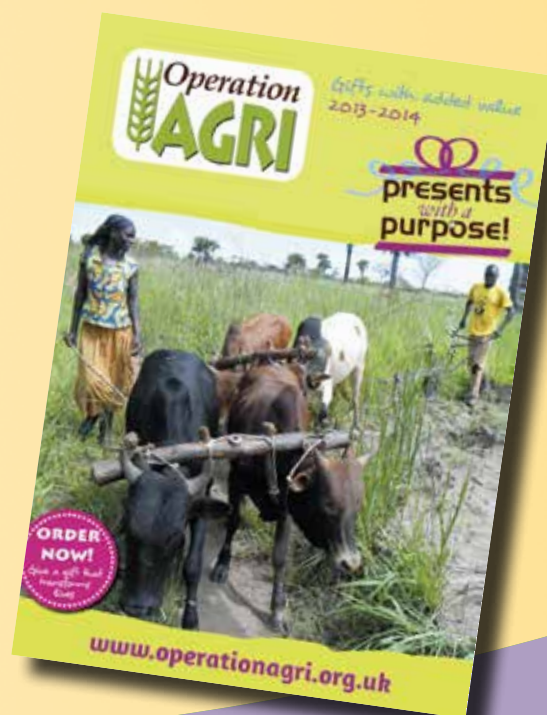
This year's appeal features two very different projects: better crops in Tanzania, and small-scale hydro-electric power to provide electricity to homes in rural Afghanistan for the first time. The appeal pack, with videos, posters and other resources, will be launched in May, and will be available at the Baptist Assembly, online from our website, and by post. See p. 7 for an advance order form.

Presents with a Purpose

Not just for Christmas! Birthdays, Anniversaries and other special occasions can benefit the work we support overseas through our 'Presents with a Purpose' gift card scheme. Churches too can participate in the same way. Do ask for the latest brochure, or visit our website for the full range of gifts and cards.



Front Cover Photograph:
Plough boys in Tanzania (p. 6)
with a wooden ox yoke.



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 Nigel Jones, 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.

Designed and printed by CPO, Worthing, on chlorine-free paper manufactured from wood from sustainably-managed forests.

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