

Outreach Abroad

Supporting rural and urban development projects in Christ's name

Summer 2017



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Prayer focus:

Opposition in Asia

In societies structured around subsistence agriculture working for change challenges the status quo. All our partners face this *but just now we'd like your prayers for particularly sensitive situations in Asia.*

Nepal – “Community Health and Engineering for Social Transformation” (CHEST) is implemented by the Multipurpose Community Development Service of the Nepal Baptist Church Council.

Nepal's first local elections for 18 years took place recently. In the build up to these elections Christian programmes, including ours, were forced to stop work. Pray for:

- Government officials that following the elections they allow Christian organisations to resume work in Nawalparasi and other parts of Nepal,
- the CHEST team to be able to implement all the activities to complete the Nawalparasi project and
- preparations for a new CHEST project – that will establish the constructive relationships needed.



Health awareness training – Nepal

India – “Borivali Urban Community Development and Empowerment Program” in Mumbai and implemented by Oasis India.

The latest report from this project includes: “Oasis needs to work with like-minded NGOs, Government authorities, local police and the Anganwadi (Government care centre for mothers and children) in order to avoid opposition from the local Hindus”.

- Pray for the 6-month “job readiness”

programmes helping disadvantaged youth in the Bandra slum facing many pressures and expectations which lead to destructive behaviour.

- Oasis India want to start a new programme providing one more centre in Mumbai Ganpat Patil Nagar, Borivali. Kindly pray that God would provide the resources and protection for this new project.



Domestic violence advocacy session – Borivali, India

Afghanistan – “Renewable Energy Sources in Afghanistan Programme”.

This quote from a recent evaluation reveals the extent to which electricity in the home is appreciated. “For the rural poor of Afghanistan, electricity’s role in bringing dignity and self-worth ... should not be underestimated. One person said that when there is a problem with the electricity, they would go without eating so that they could get the money to fix it.

- Give thanks to God that funds are available to continue the installation of micro-hydro power units in isolated villages for a further year.
- Praise God for the benefits brought to needy people: electric lighting is good for both physical health and education. Kerosene lamps are no longer needed so homes are smoke free.
- Pray that those involved in this work may be kept safe and be encouraged in their activities.

Spotlight on new partners

Andrew and Miriam Wingfield, Emmanuel International UK



Emmanuel International UK
Helping churches serve the poor

By **Andrew Wingfield**

Andrew and Miriam were sent to serve with Emmanuel International in Tanzania by Union Baptist Church, High Wycombe in 2005.

Partnership is the key

Emmanuel International (EI) is a small non-denominational mission and development agency which works in several countries around the world. It aims to assist, encourage and equip churches to alleviate poverty through holistic community development.

Key to EI's approach is partnership with churches which have a similar vision to meet the needs of the poor, spiritually as well as physically. It encourages and mobilises local churches to recognise and use the resources they have available to serve their communities, and uses simple appropriate technology which can be owned and sustained by local people.

A 'hands-on' approach

Andrew and Miriam are based in Iringa in Southern Tanzania with their children Ben (9yrs), Sam (8 yrs) and Bethany (5 yrs). They head up EI's work in Tanzania which involves leading a small team of nationals and other missionaries and overseeing projects addressing training for church leaders, water and sanitation, food security and environmental sustainability.

Andrew spends much of his time in villages getting his hands dirty and the rest of the time working on project planning and administration, meeting with partner church leaders and fundraising. Miriam, among other responsibilities, has a role teaching health to trainee pastors and vocational students at a local Bible school.



The Wingfield family

All round enthusiasm and efficiency

They are very excited about the new 'Imarika' project which is the culmination of lessons learned and feedback from participants in a recent fuel efficient stoves project funded by the Department for International Development, as well as research Andrew undertook for his MA thesis into the role of local rural churches in holistic mission.

Working together with Andrew and Miriam are Jesca Mgimba, Imarika's Project Officer, who trained as an evangelist and studied community development before joining EI. She loves EI's grassroots approach and is most at home working with village communities,

encouraging and facilitating them.



The VanWoerden family

Andre VanWoerden joined EI in Tanzania with his family in 2015. He previously

worked with EI in Malawi and has a background in forestry and natural resource management. As Environmental Advisor, part of his role is developing training on tree nurseries and conservation agriculture in the Imarika project.

Imarika!



Emmanuel International UK
Helping churches serve the poor

By **Andrew Wingfield**

Poor soil – poor people

Most people in the rural Iringa region of Tanzania are subsistence farmers who depend on the land for their livelihoods. However, degradation of the local environment means that soil quality is reducing so people become more and more dependent on expensive chemical fertilisers to get a good crop and women and girls travel further and further to fetch firewood due to deforestation. This has a direct impact on poverty, especially as people lack access to the credit needed to develop alternative sources of income.

Be strengthened

Imarika is a Swahili word meaning 'to be strengthened' and it is also an acronym for 'strengthening churches, livelihoods and the environment'. The project mobilises local churches with participatory exercises and bible studies to fulfil their role in the community and the environment. They are also helped to recognise the resources they actually have. Following the training the church is encouraged to present what they have learned to the wider community and form an action group comprising church members and non-members. As well as

being trained to run village savings and loans, the groups decide on community priorities and can choose to receive training on a range of interventions including afforestation (establishing a forest in an area where there was no previous tree cover); conservation agriculture; fuel efficient stoves; poultry and bee keeping.



John Kiduge planting a seedling at Lyamungwe

Leading the way

Emmanuel International (EI) has been leading the church in Utengule village through the mobilisation phase in recent weeks. Evangelist Ephraim Nyagawa, the leader of the church said:

"Often we think we have to wait for help to come from outside but actually there's a lot that we can do ourselves. Even if there is help coming later from outside, we need

to be the ones leading. The church had reached a certain place where it had stood still, maybe just waiting for the leaders higher up to bring help, but it didn't understand its responsibilities. Through the training we have realised that we are the church, and we should be serving each other, using our own strength, so we can do God's work. We have realised that God has given us earth, but we've not been using it how it should have been used. We should plant trees and



Eden group in Ibumu preparing planting tubes in the nursery



Moria group at the nursery in Lyamungwe

alternative crops which can improve the fertility of the soil.”

Raising seedlings

Groups choosing the afforestation option are shown how to raise tree seedlings from seeds and plant a range of trees suitable for soil improvement, firewood, fruit and timber production. Group members start plantations on their own land and in community areas. The ‘Moria’ group in Lyamungwe started making fuel efficient stoves in 2015 and they have recently started a tree nursery. John Kiduge, group secretary explained:

“If you look at the state of the place we live, there has been a big reduction in the number of trees. I planted 228 trees this year, and next season I hope to be able to

plant more in a different area of land.

The community was motivated when they saw the group members planting trees, so we expect more people will be planting this year. They know that planting trees will improve the availability of firewood and timber for building. I expect that after five years, the environment of our village will have been greatly improved.”

Generations to come

Tula Mbangwa, a member of the ‘Eden’ group in Ibumu village is also enthusiastic about tree planting:

“So far I have planted 120 trees, a few of them got trodden on but 110 have survived and are growing big. This is a really sustainable programme because you plant a tree and it brings benefits even to the generations to come. We’ve also planted trees at the primary school which are doing well.”



Timeline matrix exercise with church and community leaders

In March this year Operation Agri gave £2,750 to support the first year of the three year Imarika project.

Children's page

Last time Oppy was in NEPAL. To find out where he has travelled to now, rearrange these letters:

G H N N A
A A T I F S



Operation Agri works in many countries. How many can you identify from their outlines below? There are some clues to help you. The same clues will help you do the Criss Cross puzzle as well.



The River Ganges flows in this country.



The flag has yellow, red and black stripes.



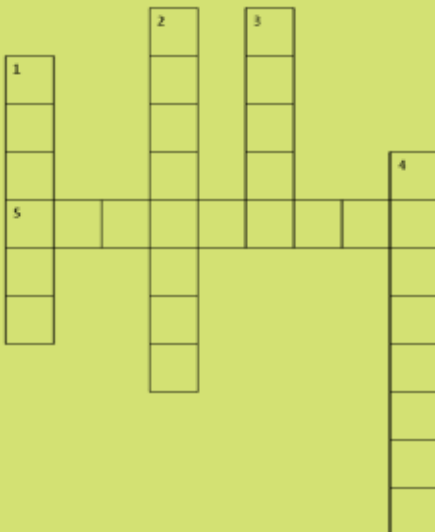
This country is in Central America.



Elephants and lions live here!



Tea grows in this country.



Down

1. This country's flag has yellow, red and black
2. Tea grown in this country (3,4)
3. The River Ganges flows in this country
4. Elephants and lions live here

Across

5. This country is in Central America

Youth page

OPERATION AGRI PRESENTS

“SUPPORT A PROJECT”

Starring you!

Operation Agri provides grants to Christian led organisations. Through project work they turn the funds we make available into life changing opportunities for some of the most disadvantaged people in the world. Have a look at the projects on our new website (<https://www.operationagri.org.uk/item/projects-supported/>) then make a serious decision!

We want to hear from you if you decide that you can support one of the projects. You may, of course, involve your family, members of your youth group, your school friends or... well anyone you know.

Contact Malcolm (admin@operationagri.org.uk) to let him know which project you want to adopt and

he will put you in touch with the trustee who can provide you with up to date information and guide you through your choice of action. You may want to run a marathon (see elsewhere in this magazine), pray, run a stall to raise money or engage with some another activity you think will help the work.

Something else you might start in the meantime is a project of your own. Research the countries in which Operation Agri's partners work. Discover the economic, social and religious situations. Map the needs of ordinary people in those countries with the projects Operation Agri helps to fund. Compare those findings with the equivalent situations in this country.



Overcoming Challenges

A letter from our founders

“All endeavor calls for the ability to tramp the last mile, shape the last plan, endure the last hour’s toil.

The fight to the finish spirit is the one... characteristic we must possess if we are to face the future as finishers.”

– Henry David Thoreau



Drs. David and Laura Parajón

When it comes to health inequities, we cannot ignore the “last mile.” The last mile is where children die unnecessarily.

Formal health care systems are made up of hospitals and clinics staffed by health professionals, but people that need care must travel to them.

We see time and time again that it is the families who live farthest away in rural villages or lack the resources to pay for medications (even if the doctor’s visit is free), who suffer the most.

Bringing healthcare TO the people and uniting communities who live in the last mile to work together is what saves precious lives. For the last 10 years, AMOS has used proven, cost-effective methods to build capacity in communities to help them save babies, children, and mothers from preventable deaths.

And going the last mile has been an arduous journey that we could have never walked without YOU. You have helped us train and work alongside health promoters

in Health Together

and volunteer mothers who know exactly what to do when a baby has pneumonia or pregnant woman is bleeding, hours away from a doctor.

The results have been remarkable – 90% reduction in child deaths and 0 maternal deaths every year in the communities we serve.

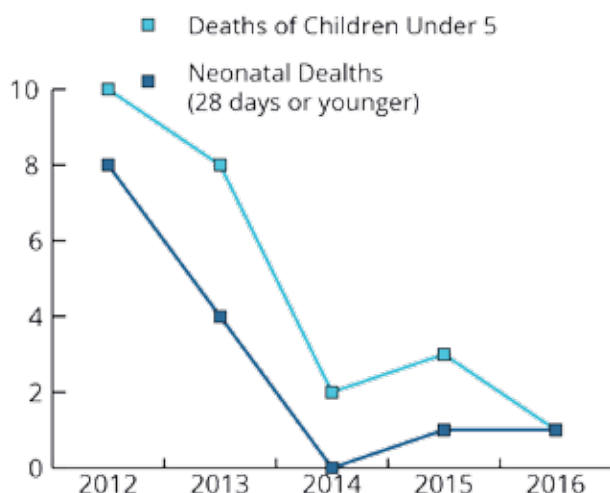
With hope, we turn our eyes to the years ahead to build upon our collective strength to create the world we long to see – one in which no child dies of a preventable cause and there can be health for all. Our passionate, experienced, and dedicated staff are united with community leaders

to do our part over the next decade (and beyond if needed) in achieving this vision. Thank you for always being there for us and for the people of Nicaragua,

*Drs. David and
Laura Parajón*

This letter has been reproduced for our Operation Agri supporters by kind permission of AMOS Nicaragua. Thank you for your ongoing generosity which has contributed to that dramatic reduction in mortality rates.

Decrease of Deaths in Children under 5 Years in Rural Communities



In 2016:

0

Maternal deaths

\$77,000

**saved by rural
families in medical-
related expenses**

Exploring Sustainable

By **Stan Crees**, OA Trustee.

The title of an Integral Mission Forum organised by Global Connections earlier this year.

"Exploring the Sustainable Development Goals' link with God's plan for the world"

Progress has been made!

In September 2000 the world leaders signed up to 8 Millennium Development Goals. In the following 15 years much progress has been made to reduce poverty as reported in an earlier edition of this magazine (New Year 2016). These Global Goals helped raise awareness about the extent of poverty in our world and the need to take action. This led to the launch of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015 with a new deadline of 2030.

Still more to do!

The six goals with which OA is strongly engaged are:

1. **No Poverty** – end poverty in all its forms everywhere.



Child health management with the AMOS team in Nicaragua

2. **Zero Hunger** – end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
3. **Good Health and Well-Being** – ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
4. **Quality Education** – ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
5. **Gender Equality** – achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
6. **Clean Water and Sanitation** – ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

A collaborative approach

The remaining goals are important issues to be tackled and cover affordable and clean energy, decent work and economic growth, reduced inequalities, tackling climate change and justice with peace – issues frequently addressed in the pages of this magazine.

For more detail on all of this see the links below and over the page:

- The UN web site:
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgsproposal.html>
- The actions you might take locally:
<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/takeaction/>

Development Goals

- The Micah Network
<http://www.micahnetwork.org/>
- A new campaign seeking a collaborative approach among Christians:
<http://endpoverty2030.com/>

A better life

“Development goals seek to make a better life for the poor and disadvantaged and this is certainly part of the Good News.

The Gospel does not simply seek a better life though, important as this is. The Gospel is a declaration and a demonstration of God's love and justice; the Gospel breaks the chains of inequality and oppression, it confronts corruption and those who exploit, and the Gospel declares the reign of God."

Under the slogan "Leave No One Behind" the aim is to continue the successes of earlier years and provide a ministry of love for deprived people, representing God's love for all.

"Alleviating poverty is far more than an act of charity....it is an engagement in the ministry of Jesus."

What is our role?

So how do we as individuals and through our churches respond to the SDGs and their capacity to transform this awful injustice



Paul Kyalimpa demonstrating sustainable agriculture in Uganda

which overshadows so much of our world?

- Believe that these goals can be achieved. They are part of God's mission agenda and, as such, should be part of the agenda for action within our churches.
- Pray that our government and those of other leading nations set a good example in contributing to the aims of the SDGs.
- Get involved through the links provided and through Operation Agri.
- Be prepared to lobby the government as opportunity arises.
- Encourage your church to be informed about these goals.
- Emphasise through Bible study the scriptural nature of what they seek to achieve.

The SDGs are there to prompt us to action as part of the call of God on our lives.

Regular readers of this magazine will recognise that much of Operation Agri's support of our partners contributes to the advancement of the SDG goals and will continue to do so. We praise and thank God for this privilege.



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For more on us, contact chris@trousback.com

Commercial Farming

From a report by **Armando Licoze**, director of Oasis Mozambique

Vision

Oasis Mozambique is driven by our vision for community - a place where everyone is included, making a contribution and reaching their God-given potential.

Objective

- ✓ To provide training in conservation agricultural techniques to 50 women.
- ✓ To monitor and evaluate project effectiveness.

Progress – September 2016 to March 2017

The Self-Help Group Officer attended the Foundations for Farming International Champions Conference in Harare in September 2016 as planned. On his return to Beira, the Officer conducted 5 initial trainings in October 2016, for 18 women due to the high demand for training against 10 women as planned. The increase from 10 to 18 women has automatically increased

the number of beneficiaries from 50 to 90 women!

Each person trained replicated the training to 5 of their neighbours. All the training was carried out at Oasis's plot which is a demonstration place. This includes clearing the land and the purchase of initial materials with the assistance of a volunteer expert who added capacity to the team.

Flooding was an issue

Eighteen women are maintaining the Oasis demonstration plot each week. However, the demonstration activities were on hold during February and March 2017 due to flooding. The Trainer has conducted one visit per month for all 18 women attending the trainings to monitor the women's own plots at home and advise on techniques, assisted by five volunteers from amongst the trainees. So far there are no tangible results as many of the houses are also partially flooded.



Training in Mozambique

Training Project

Good news story

This project has attracted local government attention through its strategy of the approach where one person is taught and then teaches five neighbours. Because of this, a well-respected agriculture expert, (Mr Valdemar), joined our team as our main trainer on a volunteer basis.

Mr Valdemar helped secure land from the Bible Institute as community land. He also added value by bringing into the project the production of tree fruits for income generation. Some trees are sold whilst others produce fruit which provides a much needed source of income.

Challenges facing the project

There were unexpected floods in February and March 2017 which put on hold all the work on the land. However, the women



were encouraged to take the baby plants from the nursery to plant in their household farms. This challenge created an opportunity to secure a partnership with a local Bible Institute to use their land for training as well as growing crops as a community plot. On an exchange basis the agriculture expert is training 10 Bible Institute students in sustainable agriculture techniques. Furthermore, Oasis has started preparing the land for fruitculture where women will learn techniques to grow fruit trees such as Litchy in order to have their first fruits within 3 years. Litchy fruits are in high demand in the city of Beira; in particular for middle and high class markets.

Conclusion

The project is progressing well against the targets and is getting support from government through a volunteer expert and local community support and, in particular, the Bible Institute. However, the February and March rains caused significant delay on crops production due to unexpected floods. Although the floods were a challenge it opened an opportunity for stronger partnership with the local Bible Institute offering part of their fenced high lands for community women to grow their food at no cost.

Therefore, Oasis will continue pursuing community partnerships that will allow long term sustainability of the community commercial farming. Operation Agri support us with grants to make the training possible.



We thank God that people are responding to the need for trustees with experience of overseas project work but Operation Agri still needs people with skills in other areas:

- Audio visual - to work on future appeal materials
- Social media - to update and maintain facebook



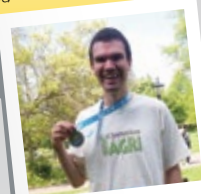
For more information please go to:

<https://www.operationagri.org.uk/volunteers-needed/>

In the previous magazine we said that Phil was running a half marathon in support of Operation Agri. Well, he did just that and raised £672. A great result Phil, many thanks indeed from all who will benefit and of course, we are very grateful to Katie for supporting you.

What will you do to ensure that the most disadvantaged people in the world will be supported?

Oh yes! His time was 2 hours and 8 minutes which is good for a casual runner; can you do better?



A trustee received this:

"If you share Give as you Live and let your family, friends and colleagues know they can help charity for free simply by shopping online, then for every person who signs up and raises £5+, we'll donate an extra £5 to your chosen charity. That's what we call a win-win!"

Did you get that message?
Do you Give as you Live?



Operation Agri has identified the need for someone to take over the role of Chairing Operation Agri in the next year or two.

The new person will be a Christian, is likely to have experience in charity work and possibly overseas development similar to the projects sponsored by Operation Agri – see: **<https://www.operationagri.org.uk/>**

Please contact Nigel Jones
(OA Secretary)

Email: **Nigel.Jones@operationagri.org.uk**



Operation Agri has one guaranteed place in the 2018 Virgin Money London Marathon. Do you want to be that runner and collect sponsorship for Operation Agri? Contact Malcolm: **admin@operationagri.org.uk**

Milking a profit in Sri Lanka

By **Gill Ashley-Smith** – OA Trustee

Water and Welfare in Sri Lanka – OA's 2017 appeal.

Our 2017 DVD shows LEADS, a local Christian agency, helping Tamil people rebuild their lives, with OA's support, following years of conflict.

After the civil war ended in 2009, people gradually returned from resettlement camps to their former homes but found that much was destroyed. The government provided basic help, but to-date hardly anything has been done to address the underlying issues that cause so much hurt in people. Many have lost family members and good answers are needed on the issue of "forcedly disappeared people in the North".

In Malayalapuram village near the town Kilinochchi, LEADS has been building much-needed deep wells, featured in the OA video. Diordre Moraes of LEADS reports that climate change is causing many problems. Weather patterns have been chaotic this year: prolonged drought followed by destructive flash floods at the start of the monsoon. At least now the new wells that OA helped provide will be filling with water.

Community groups

LEADS has also formed community groups, bringing people together to discuss plans, and identify who most needs help such as people disabled during the conflict, war-widows, and families struggling to support their children. With community agreement, LEADS has helped some of the neediest families – by giving them a cow!

- Roni Dayani is a widow and the main breadwinner for her family of three children. The eldest has been selected for university, while the others are still at school. Her parents also live with her. She is raising livestock, and in the rainy season she also works at cultivating crops.



Roni Dayani earns money selling milk

Through the OA project she got a cow, and is glad to be able to earn money selling milk.

- Jeyapalakuru and his wife have 2 girls and a boy who are still at school. This family was identified as one of the poorest and most vulnerable in the village. They live in a wattle and daub house with a thatched roof which is likely to need repairs after the extreme weather. His main occupation is rearing livestock, and the project has also provided him with a milking cow to improve his income.



Jeyapalakuru - poor and vulnerable

LEADS is helping families to become self-supporting the whole village to work together to improve their community and livelihoods.

Available on our DVD or on Dropbox on request – admin@operationagri.org.uk

<https://www.operationagri.org.uk/order/appeal-pack/>

(Photos by LEADS)

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

Your address:

Post Code

Gift Aid Declaration

I want to Gift Aid my donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to:

Name of Charity: Operation Agri BMM

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

My Details (in addition to those above)

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Signature Date

Email address

Please let us know if your address or circumstances change.

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

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To: The Manager,

Bank Name

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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.
A photocopy or scanned copy is acceptable. Cheques should be made payable to 'Operation Agri BMM.'

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