

Outreach Abroad

Supporting rural and urban development projects in Christ's name

New Year 2018



Ideal getaway or challenging homeland?
See pages 4 and 5.

In this issue 56.4

Responsibilities	2-3
Transforming lives	4-5
Charity to Development	6-7
Lasting employment	10-11
2018.....	15



We All Have Responsibilities

**How will you use Sunday
22nd April 2018 to care for
the earth and everything in it?**

By **Nigel Jones**, Trustee of Operation Agri



Nigel Jones



**Decreasing Polar
Ice Caps**



**Increasing Carbon
Dioxide**

One in ten affected

The concentration of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere is at its highest level for 3 million years and 2016 was the third year in a row with record-setting surface temperatures. The polar ice caps have melted faster in the last 20 years than in the last 10,000. Global sea level has risen over the past century and the rate has increased in recent decades; it continues to rise at a rate of about one-eighth of an inch (more than 3mm) per year.

Global warming is modifying rainfall patterns, increasing coastal erosion and altering the range of some infectious diseases. The impacts of climate change such as droughts, floods, heat waves, extreme weather events and sea-level rise affects 800 million people – one in ten of the world's population.

Actions and reactions

The main human sources of greenhouse gas emissions are: fossil fuels, deforestation, intensive livestock farming, synthetic fertilizers and industrial processes.

In the Amazon 1% of tree species sequester (the long-term storage of carbon) 50% of the region's carbon. Less than 1% of the world's forests are coastal mangroves but they store up to 5 times more carbon than tropical forests. An area of coastal ecosystems nearly as large as the county of Huntingdonshire is destroyed every year, removing an important buffer from extreme weather for coastal communities and releasing carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

In Genesis chapter 2 we read about God's continuing creativity including the lush and lovely Garden of Eden. Even though Adam had not yet rejected God's plans and purposes for him the garden still needed to be tended: 'The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it' (Genesis 2:15). Once



Burning fossil fuels

Adam had fallen from grace the situation became worse with all creation suffering as a consequence. The land bore the marks of the fall resulting in 'thorns and thistles' which meant 'through painful toil you (Adam)

will eat food from it all the days of your life' (Genesis 3:17-19).

A time to act

Agricultural work is hard enough without the additional problems imposed by changing weather patterns brought about by our collective and often thoughtless and selfish activities. The responsibility given to all of us to care for the planet has never been withdrawn and never in the life of humanity has it been more urgent to be obedient to the injunction.

Since humanity is causing global warming we have a collective responsibility to alleviate it and its injurious effects. In 2016, the Paris Agreement was adopted with all 196 parties to the United Nations Framework – Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) agreeing to limit global warming and adapt to climate change, in part through the use of nature-based solutions. In June 2017 the USA administration decided to withdraw from the Agreement.

Operation Agri Day

In the late 1950s Operation Agri started to help farmers work their land and take care of

it – we're still doing that – and more! Partner with us to help fulfil your responsibilities to God and man.

Sunday 22nd April 2018 is Earth Day

when events will be held worldwide to demonstrate support for environmental protection. On that day please make a special **Operation Agri Day** gift* to continue the work which still helps farmers move from subsistence to surplus farming whilst caring for the soil they cultivate.

*** Go to: www.operationagri.org.uk/donate/ or the back page of this magazine.**



Operation **AGRI** Day

22nd April 2018

The trustees of Operation Agri have adopted Earth Day 2018 as Operation Agri Day.

Please use this opportunity to make a special donation to support some of the most disadvantaged people in the world, regardless of their religious, ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

Everyone of them is loved by God.

Together in transforming life ...

By the **CHEST Project Team** – Nepal

Ikudol and Malta - at a glance

The tangible jungle and rural village have formed Lalitpur district where the northern part is occupied with urbanites and the southern part by rural areas. About fifty kilometers south from the MCDS office in Kathmandu and, finally, along a dusty road is the small scattered settlement lying in the slopes - Ikudol and Malta of Bagmati Rural Municipality. It is a home to about 3,700 people comprising, in the main, indigenous, Brahmin, Chhetri and Dalit communities. People here rely mainly on agriculture for livelihood which is done in subsistence scale. The average annual family income is USD 571 (≈£430) in Ikudol and USD 500 (≈£380) in Malta.

Entangled challenges

Ikudol and Malta have been badly affected by the earthquake that hit Nepal in 2015. Frequent thunder and lightning and a landslide a few months back brought victims and damage to buildings. Since then 83 percent of total population is living under temporary shelter as their houses were destroyed by earthquake though these

shelters are not safe during monsoon. People are still struggling to restore their livelihood and waiting for the declared fund from the government for house construction. This has also affected the practice of proper excreta disposal where survey data shows that 45 percent of the total population practices open defecation. The lack of toilets was a problem even before the earthquake. The fund has been delayed due to unstable government in leadership. The main sufferers are the poor people. The land topography may seem beautiful but it has been a real challenge. It's a very hilly district with minimal flat land available and landslides are a constant reality. The monsoon used to bring light rain all the time but it's becoming stormier. During the monsoon, the soil is carried away massively leading to landslide that block the poorly constructed dirt roads and act as a barrier to mobility of people and goods.

With these geographical obstacles, socio-economic obstacles have added to slow and inefficient development. Only 11.5 percent of total population has been



Scattered temporary houses in lower part of Ikudol



Poultry training

trained in works such masonry, carpentry or other skills. Eighty percent of the total population still depends upon subsistence agriculture. Ignorance, poverty, and high alcohol consumption are also the reasons behind their backwardness as majority of people residing there belong to indigenous community.



Ikudol households

Together in transforming life

In line with the vision of MCDS:

“Transformed communities in Nepal enjoying life in its fullness”, Ikudol and Malta have been chosen for community development and transformation where the Community Health and Engineering for Social Transformation (CHEST) project will be executed. These are the ‘forgotten middle’ communities – neither the attractive cities nor the very remote areas. This project shall bring community people, local government and the organisation together as a team to continue the transformation journey. MCDS looks forward that the proposed programs on health, drinking water, education, socio-economic, environment protection, institutional and capacity development along with partnership shall jointly pave its way to transformation.

From your generosity Operation Agri has been able to grant the Ikuole and Malta project £15,093 this year. Thank you.

From Charity to Development

Many people in rural areas show signs of having lost the meaning of life; no hope and no light for their future.

By **Project Manager**, Heavenlight Luoga



Agnes, with two of her children, Irene and Victor

Meet Mrs. Agnes

Mrs. Agnes Balugahare is 49 years old, has six children and is among the many beneficiaries of Farming Partner Initiatives (FPI) training projects. She has been living under the poverty line for 20 years and because of that has tried to commit suicide many times and cried most of the time. Her children were struggling with malnutrition; life was so hard for her and her family.

Agnes was looking for development, empowerment, and a sustainable improvement in her living conditions to help her restore the lost meaning of life. Because of that she finally decided to join with the Umoja

Group, Tanzania and since that time has started to see a new dawn for their new life.

Firstly, Agnes was allowed to identify her needs on her own. She identified her priority needs which meant that she bought sheep to sustain her future even though her whole family was sleeping on the floor which was covered by plastic sheeting and even though they needed a mattress. Agnes borrowed some of money from her group and bought sheep and bean seeds.

Secondly, Agnes was allowed to do things herself because she was the one who knew the pain she was experiencing. That is why

she was allowed to choose/decide what to do and solve her family problems in a sustainable way. Agnes decided to keep small animals. Now she plans to produce more animals to earn more money to establish a new farm to produce enough food and a surplus to be used to earn money.

Thirdly, I would like to involve her in decision-making so I've asked her many questions. Because she is the one who understands her situation best she is able to find her hidden talents. This why Agnes appreciates her group and the FPI Programs, she has now started to see a new dawn after a long darkness of 20 years.

The Project Impacts

The Umoja Group has 30 members which FPI is helping through the training project sponsored by Operation Agri (OA). In January 2017 the Umoja Group contacted the Karagwe District Council and received Tzs 3,000,000, (Tanzanian shillings worth about £1,042), from them to enable the group to provide small loans to the group members to improve their farms' activities. FPI has always wanted to see development become a reality in rural communities. FPI feels proud to see our groups recognized by our local government which is a big impact and it shows how the project will become self-sustaining and not reliant on grants; true development.

This is empowerment and no longer charity. Lifting people up so that they can help themselves is what the FPI do for the poor through Operation Agri's support.



Agnes with her sheep



Evelin, Monica, Seraphina and Agnes

What people need is development and empowerment and not just relief work. It means a sustainable improvement in the living conditions of humanity.

Appreciations

Very special thanks to the UK churches through Operation Agri which serves as a very useful instrument for rural community transformation. FPI training projects, with OA support, has the priority of helping people to restore their lost meaning of life.

From your generosity Operation Agri has been able to Grant FPI Regular Farmer Training £11,382 this year. Thank you.

STOP PRESS – BREAKING NEWS

A one-off request has been made to Operation Agri by an existing partner. It has been described by one trustee as a 'lifeline' to the beneficiaries of the project. At the time of writing some details still need to be clarified but the trustees have agreed to support this vital project. That agreement is an act of faith as the £12,400 is not part of this year's budget. Pennies and pounds will be greatly valued. Please identify your gift as 'lifeline'. See the back page or go to www.operationagri.org.uk.

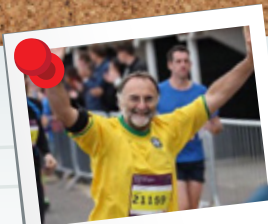
Thank you.

Facebook

do you have the skills to help manage facebook for us? We will provide the material but we need you to manage the online presence.

Email:
editor@operationagri.org.uk

OA email newsletters:
if you do not already receive our newsletter and would like to have them please contact Malcolm:
admin@operationagri.org.uk



London Marathon 2018 – Dai Morgan

I've always enjoyed sport and have played all sorts through different phases of my life. In my fifties, whilst trying to find a more family orientated exercise, I began cycling and event running.

Anyone who has run for fun will know that keeping motivated is sometimes the biggest challenge so following a 10k run in Cardiff Bay in 2017 I looked for a new objective. Whilst considering a marathon I was approached by a friend at our Baptist Church who asked me to run the London Marathon for Operation Agri in 2018. He reminded me about the work of OA and its commitment to development work to alleviate the causes of poverty amongst some of the most disadvantaged people in the world.

I consider myself blessed to be healthy enough to take on this challenge; and supporting OA will make my training schedule worthwhile – even through the Welsh winter!

I have no idea how long it will take me to complete the 26.2 miles, but I can promise you that I'll try my utmost to do the best I can. Your donations, whatever you chose to give, will give fresh reasons for hope to people who may never have heard of the London Marathon but will be encouraged by your generosity.

My Just Giving webpage for donations is:
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/dai-morgan>

OA AGM -

There will be an Annual General Meeting of Operation Agri BMM at Baptist House, 129 Broadway, Didcot, Oxfordshire OX11 8RT at 3.30pm on Thursday 7th June 2018 at Baptist House, 129 Broadway, Didcot, OX11 8RT. All members of Operation Agri BMM are invited to attend.

OA Speakers

if you lead meetings in churches, homes or schools (or elsewhere) and would like to speak about the work of Operation Agri please email your contact details to me: editor@operationagri.org.uk

OA Chair -

Russell Ashley-Smith has indicated that he wishes to stand down from being the OA Chairperson.

The trustees are inviting Christian people who have some experience in charity work and, possibly, overseas development projects similar to those sponsored by Operation Agri to make themselves known. Please contact Nigel Jones (OA Secretary) email: editor@operationagri.org.uk for further information.

*OA Ambassadors -
want to spread the word
about Operation Agri by
distributing Outreach Abroad
or receiving information and
making it known?*

*Please contact me:
editor@operationagri.org.uk*

*Baptist Assembly -
Operation Agri will have
a presence at the Baptist
Assembly, Saturday 12th
May 2018 at KingsGate
Centre, Peterborough -
see you there?*

Presents with a Purpose:

the new booklet has been available for while but if you need one please contact Malcolm:
admin@operationagri.org.uk

General:

Please feel free to pass on any of this information to anyone who may be interested or copy it to your church newsletter or magazine. If you reproduce an article please ensure you add an acknowledgement to Operation Agri.
Thank you.

Creating Lasting Employment Opportunities

Vocational skills for the youth in the slums of Kampala

By **Pastor Dennis Ssettaala**, Director, SDKF Uganda

Enabling young people to escape poverty

Providing vocational skills training for underprivileged and marginalized groups of young people has been pinpointed as a powerful weapon against poverty and hunger. By focusing on the need for vocational skills for the disadvantaged youth we make a big difference for many of the poor slum dwelling youth by improving household productivity, employability and income-earning opportunities.



Hairdressing class

What we do at SDKF;

Setting Development and Keeping the Foundation (SDKF) started the Vocational Skills Training Project in 2006 to cater for children and youth that have dropped out of school at a very early age. Since the start of this project, we have trained over 960 disadvantaged young people in vocational skills, of which 87% are girls. A huge 80% of these youth are now in employment and many others have gone back to further their studies.

In the months January to October 2017 we have trained a further 45 students and

we are now recruiting students for the next intake. We expect to be training over 90 students in tailoring and hairdressing courses this year.

Meet Mirembe Rose

"My name is Mirembe Rose, I come from the Kyebando slum in Kampala. I am 23 years old. In 2011 when I was in senior three, I got stuck after the death of my father. I had no hope of continuing with my studies yet, before the death of my father, my ambition was to get to become an accountant, but one day, after I had stayed home four years without going to school, I was surprised when the SDKF field officer came home and told me about an opportunity to study a course in tailoring for free. He then gave me an application form and I applied for a tailoring course, of which after the interview, I was among the selected beneficiaries."

"This news came to me like a dream because I could not easily believe that I could be selected from among the very many youth who had applied. When we reported to school, my first month was not good



Tailoring class



Hairdressing students

because I realized that the course I had been admitted for was not easy for me. I failed my initial tests in practical and my classmates laughed at me but I calmed myself. I decided to go to my teacher and I explained all my problems to her of which she appreciated and understood. She started staying close to me during time for practical lessons. This encouraged me to work harder. At the end of my course, I had improved and my surprise was that I emerged the best student in my department of tailoring.”

“After completing SDKF a private tailoring shop employed me for five month but with a small pay, but one day I got a phone call from one of the staff at SDKF to apply for a position of a teacher after the former

teacher had got job with another company. I then applied, went through interviews and was offered a job. I am now one of the teachers in the department of tailoring and getting a good salary of which I am now able to support my siblings.”

Thank you

Dear friends at Operation Agri, thank you so much for supporting us so that we can provide employment through vocational skills to hundreds of young people just like Mirembe in Uganda.

From your generosity Operation Agri has been able to grant SDKF Vocational Training £6,500 this year. Thank you.

Spotlight on a Trustee

– Jane Hanger

By **Jane Hanger**, OA Trustee

How have I landed up becoming an OA Trustee? Well . . .

It started very early in life

My father's family were farmers so I spent several childhood holidays on my 'uncle's' (cousin's) farm which I really enjoyed. When I came to decide what God wanted me to study for my degree agriculture was an obviously choice as I felt called to work overseas. This led me to Wye College, London University, for my first degree. Then I was off to Makerere University in Uganda to do research into the role of women in small scale farming in East Africa for a higher degree (Post Graduate in Agricultural Economics (Development) Uganda).



Jane with a basket maker

Not only Uganda but Kenya as well

As part of a team I collected data for the East African governments to inform their 5 year plans. For part of my research, I lived in the Chief's Camp in Nembure near Embu in Kenya, and visited my 'lady farmers' with the help of an African female school leaver. It was a fascinating and very enlightening time for me.

Also Malawi and more . . .

After marriage, I lived for 15 years in Malawi, working for Scripture Union with my husband, Ralph. Nonetheless I continued developing my understanding of African agriculture. When we returned home I used

the facilities at Reading University to 'catch up' on 'new' ideas. During that time I met Stan Crees on the OA stall at the Baptist Assembly and, later, was asked to join JADEC (Joint Agricultural Development Committee involving both OA and BMS). When Ralph, (by then a Baptist minister), and I were called back to East Africa to work with pastors and their wives I found myself involved in helping the wives with their income generating projects, many of which were agricultural. We worked in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Eastern Congo, Tanzania and Malawi for 12 years.

Family and hobbies

We have three daughters, who are now all married and have their own families. They have mission experience in Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa and Indonesia. We have enjoyed experiencing those cultures on our many visits to them.

I teach swimming, spin wool, knit, and weave and am involved with the Family Work at church. I produce fruit and vegetables in our small garden and the surplus goes to the church folk.

I am looking forward to bringing my experiences with women and small scale farms in East Africa to the work of OA.



Discussing an income generating project

Prayer focus:

By **Martin Butterworth**, OA's Overseas Secretary

Many of our partners experienced extreme weather last summer and the relatively long-term work we're involved with was delayed as partners focused on relief. Although we're not involved in relief pray for those impacted by natural disasters and other traumatic events.

Bangladesh

Already a poor and overcrowded country, Bangladesh has suffered this year.

- Pray for those who have lost homes and possessions in the summer flooding, that they will receive the support they need to recover.
- Duaripara is a large community in Pallabi, Dhaka, Bangladesh where the value placed on girls is still very low and as such they have limited opportunities to go to school. Commercial and sexual exploitation of girls is common. Pray for the Oasis' Duaripara Family Development Project as they improve the life of the girl child.
- A new project proposed by the Bangladesh Baptist churches will focus on early year's education. Pray for consensus on the objectives and complex relationships involved.
- Please pray for the Rohingya of Myanmar that they may see hope in their lives; for those who are struggling to provide their basic needs and for politicians in both countries will have wisdom in finding a just long-term solution. It is estimated that most of the 1.1m Rohingya will end up in Bangladesh. Give thanks that the Government of Bangladesh has adopted a welcoming attitude.

Nicaragua

The country became a victim of extreme weather last year when hurricanes caused destruction and flooding. Our Nicaraguan partner, AMOS, has been involved in relief and restoration. Pray for the ongoing work and the task of restoration.

Nepal

Baptist churches and many others responded to flooding close to the Community Health and Empowerment Project, (CHEP), we support in Eastern Nepal. Pray for those affected and those engaged in relief work.



Flooding in Nicaragua

Operation Agri

We would value your prayers for Operation Agri as well. Please pray for:

- the trustees to continue to be good stewards of the opportunities provided by your giving,
- someone to take on the role of Chair when Russell steps down next year,
- someone to take on the social media work of OA, especially Facebook,
- a widening knowledge and support of OA in Christian churches and groups,
- people across the country to become ambassadors for OA,
- the preparation of 2018's resources,
- sufficient donations to enable OA to give projects the funds they need in their own currency as exchange rates fluctuate.



Flooding in Sri Lanka

Children's page

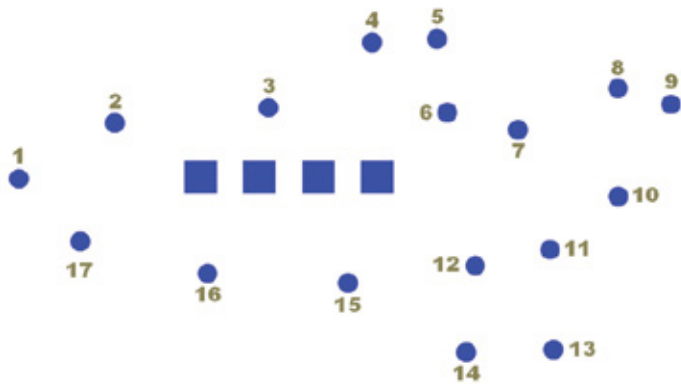
By **Janet** – a friend of Operation Agri



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

W A A L I M

To travel to this country
Oppy had to use the
particular form of
transport below.
Connect the dots and
then colour in the
picture adding any
lines or other detail
to complete your
masterpiece.



People have to use
different kinds of
transport to visit
Operation Agri projects.
See if you can
unscramble the letters
to find the different
forms of transport.
A clue is that the word
at the end is the same
as the dot to dot!

LIHROECTPE

BAOT

RINAT

CRA

SUB

LIEYCBG

The answer to the puzzle
last time is:

**'Oasis are training
women to grow fruit
trees such as litchy'.**

What will you do this year for Operation Agri?

2018



"What will you do this year?" is a question we are often asked. So, let me ask you the personal question: "What will you do this year?" For some of you the answer will be about the opportunities of a new school, college or university but for others it maybe that full time education will come to an end and employment beckons.

Bruce Springsteen will be very busy as he has extended his Broadway production into 2018 and his dates for January and into February have been sold out for a long time.

Almost at the other end of the calendar for 2018 will be Sunday 11th November which will be both Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday when the end of WW1 in particular will be in many people's minds.

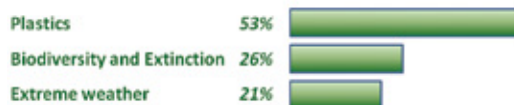
During the year our nation, together with many other people around the world, will share in the joy of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge as they welcome their third child into the family. Then soon afterwards St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle will be the venue for the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle.

So many people have so much for which to look forward during the year including the Chinese New Year, Robbie Burns Night,

Valentine's Day and Easter just to mention a few. There will of course be birthdays, anniversaries and awards celebrations with some of them being very significant milestones in life and experience.

Coming back to my original question, "What will you do this year?"

As of the end of November last year voting for the theme of Earth Day 2018 showed these results:



How people voted was a result of their passions and commitment to certain world events. Fishermen may have been concerned for fish stocks, birders for the conservation of certain bird types or farmers for harvests.

Sunday 22nd April 2018 is Earth Day and also **Operation Agri Day**. We have no open poll for you to cast your vote so the only decision you have to make right now is how you will support Operation Agri on that day.

What will you do in 2018 that you will be able to look back on and say, "I did that for OA in 2018"?

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)

giftaid it

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

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

Operation Agri BMM is registered in England and Wales as a charity, no. 1069349. Tel. 020 8803 0113.

