

# Outreach Abroad

Supporting rural and urban development projects in Christ's name Summer 2018



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Operation  
**AGRI**

# Children's page

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



**LAST TIME** Oppy was in **NICARAGUA**.

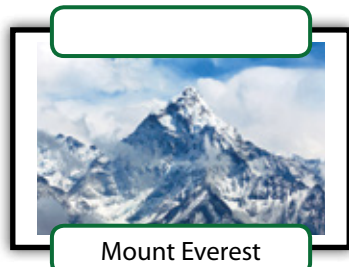
To find out where he has travelled to now, rearrange these letters:

**A A A T N N Z I**

The answer to what was to happen on 22 April 2018 was  
**OPERATION AGRI DAY.**

Oppy was looking at some of the photographs he took on his trips to visit some of the projects supported by Operation Agri. He can remember what he photographed but not the name of the country where he took the picture. Can you label each photograph with the country where Oppy used his camera?

Oppy knows he went to Tanzania, Nepal, Nicaragua, Uganda and India.



# Youth Page

## Think:

- Take a look at your surroundings.
- Yes, exactly where you are right now. Now estimate:
- How far are you from a water tap or water fountain .....
- How far are you from a kitchen capable of cooking food .....
- How far are you from a mobile device (laptop, tablet, phone) .....
- How far are you from medical help (GP, hospital, clinic) .....

## Consider:

- What would you do if the water pumping system failed for several days?
- What would you do if there was no food to cook in the kitchen?
- How would your life change if the electricity supply stopped for weeks?
- What would you do if the nearest medical help was two or three days walk away?

Apart from some off-hand and humorous comments, think seriously for a while about how you would live without books, equipment or teachers at school or college. What if there were no part-time jobs around and no prospect of future employment at all? For many people these are not idle speculative thoughts, they are the gritty reality of everyday life. No guarantee of fresh drinking water, food, medical help, education or income. Even, no hope and not just for themselves but for their children and communities!

## Act:

Here's a real test for you: Ask the Lord what he wants you to do to enable some of these people to have access to the things we, in this country, take for granted day by day. Pray over these words from the lips of Jesus in Matthew 25:44-45: 'Master, what are you talking about? When did we see you hungry or thirsty or homeless or sick or in prison and didn't help?' 'He will answer them, 'I'm telling you the solemn truth: Whenever you failed to do one of these things for someone who was being overlooked or ignored, that was me – you failed to do it to me.' (The Message).

So, what is he saying to you?

# Spotlight - James Townsend

By **James Townsend** – Trustee and Treasurer

## All our yesterdays . . . and the future . . .

It would be nearly fifty years ago as a youngster attending Sunday School that each September we celebrated harvest. The church's financial gifts for the day, including a special harvest offering from the Sunday School, regularly supported Operation Agri and the work they were doing in what we then called 'the developing world'.

Since that time I have travelled around the globe managing international companies in the laboratory equipment sector. Following early retirement, I was a business consultant for a period and served as a judge on a number of local business award programmes.



James Townsend

For several of years I have been the treasurer for my local church and I also support other churches with financial advice and completion of accounts. Over the last couple of years I have worked one day a week raising grant funding for a Christian development agency which has funded schools and medical centres in a number of African countries especially Uganda, Ghana, Kenya and Burkina Faso - a project I was privileged to visit at the opening of a new maternity centre in 2017.

Nearly half a century later, I was delighted to be asked to join Operation Agri as a trustee and treasurer designate and contribute towards the amazing work that Operation Agri has achieved through the years. OA's service to the Lord Jesus is in meeting the needs of deserving communities and in changing the lives of so many people and communities.

Married to Kathryn, for 45 years, we have two children and three grandchildren who keep us quite busy especially in the school holidays. We enjoy travelling to different counties; I play the guitar, lead worship and get involved in numerous projects amongst many other activities.

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Editor's note: James kindly provided this Spotlight piece for the magazine prior to the 2018 AGM at Baptist House, Didcot on June 7th June at which time, we are delighted to announce, he was indeed elected to serve as Operation Agri's new treasurer.

The photograph of James was taken at Didcot as he looked at the Woodside Handcraft products produced by another trustee, Theo.

# Using what God has Given Us

By **Andrew Wingfield** – Tanzania Advisor, Emmanuel International



**Agape Group**

When faced with a crowd of 5,000 hungry people, Jesus asked his disciples to feed them. Although it seemed insignificant to them, he expected them to make use of the little resources they had (five loaves and two fish). Many people living in the developing world, when faced with problems, assume that they need resources from outside. This mindset is partly the result of unhelpful approaches by aid and development agencies and churches over many decades which have been focused more on giving handouts than encouraging communities to use the resources they already have.

Through the 'Imarika' project, Emmanuel International is working with churches in Tanzania to help them to recognise and use the resources that God has already given them to serve the community. Through a series of Bible studies and interactive games, local churches are encouraged to consider their roles as church in the community and what resources they already have available to them.

## **Community participation:**

Following the mobilisation training, the churches invite members of the community from outside of the church to join them

in an action group. Based on priorities which the group identify themselves, Emmanuel International provides training on conservation agriculture, tree planting, fuel efficient stoves, and VICOBA (village community banks).

Through VICOBA, groups save money together through weekly meetings where members can buy shares. The share fund is then used to provide loans to members who use the money to fund entrepreneurial activities. They pay back the loan at a modest interest rate which increases the share price. After one year all the members get the value of their shares back at the new, higher share price.



**Keeping records of shares**

The 'Agape' group in Mangawe village surpassed expectations when they saved 2.5 million shillings (over £800) in just six months. This was all from their own resources; no input of capital was given from outside.

*Photographs courtesy of Jesca Mgimba, Andre VanWoerden and Andrew Wingfield*

## Testimonies:

Evelina Mponda, a member of the group said:



Evelina Mponda

*"The first loan I received from the group I used to make donuts and to buy eggs which I sold on. Then I got a second loan which I used to continue with my small business while*

*my husband prepared rocks to build our house. We've now finished our house but I also thank God I was able to buy one cow using a loan from the group."*

Through Conservation Agriculture training the 'Kilimo Elekezi' group, established through the church in Utengule village, is learning the importance of caring for a vital resource God has provided them with – the soil. Nuhu Muyemba, a muslim, was attracted to join the group because of the training on agriculture. He said:



Nuhu Muyemba

*"Through the IMARIKA project I have learned about conservation agriculture, using cover crops and how to grow trees for timber and fruit. Also through this group I have learned*

*about building good relationships even for husbands and wives sharing the household income fairly. The project has also taught me to be self sufficient; especially by using conservation agriculture techniques so we can improve the soil as an asset for the future."*



Sophia Nkwama, mother of seven said:



Sophia Nkwama

*"Through the group I have learned how to read and understand the Bible, especially to understand that God was the first farmer, so it is very important for us to care for our earth as*

*God has instructed. I have learned to make good use of the resources God has given us, by planting trees, improving how we grow food and working diligently. Now I'm using conservation agriculture methods. In the past I didn't use any of these techniques and I can see how they are improving my life."*



Kilimo Elekezi Group

# Improving chances for a better education experience through the Oasis School Feeding Programme - Pader



By **Phina Kamanyire** – Country Director, Oasis Uganda

**DENIS ODONG** is from Northern Uganda and has just joined Oasis Uganda. He will be at the forefront of implementing this impactful and life-changing project – the school feeding programme. He enjoys farming and seeing things grow. Before coming to Oasis, Denis previously worked on similar projects with other organisations, so we will benefit from his experience and the passion and energy he brings to this programme.



**Denis Odong the Agricultural Specialist**

## The Genesis...

For ten years Oasis Uganda has been implementing community development programmes in the Northern Uganda district of Pader. Delivering our work under the thematic areas of education and economic empowerment, we have successfully delivered child rights programmes in eleven

primary schools, and an initiative that encourages school children aged between 9-16 years to learn about their rights and responsibilities and to be an advocate for them. Alongside this, we have supported at least 500 men and women in savings groups to improve their social and economic status. Established findings in implementing our activities showed that these schools did not have a programme that provided a midday meal for the school children and consequently the children could not focus on and be attentive towards their education with empty stomachs. The entire school was hit with hunger with no feasible plan to respond to the situation.

## Our Response...

In an effort to tackle this problem of a lack of a midday meal for children, it emerged that engaging parents and community volunteers would be the best move in creating a viable solution. However, parents lacked some agricultural inputs, tools and materials to support a sustainable school feeding programme. With support from Operation Agri we will work with government stakeholders, school heads and members of the community to fulfil the need to provide food for learners in four primary schools. Lack of a midday meal contributes to high school dropout rates, poor academic performance, low esteem in children and, in the long-term, communities characterised with slow economic progress and exclusion as they face reduced opportunities to compete for basic services.

### Progress...

Using the participatory approach we are working with the community to open farm fields where parents and other community members will provide their labour and resource to establish school gardens. School farm committees have already been established to oversee and manage the progress of activities. From the crops that are harvested, children will be provided a daily midday meal at school. The impact of this project will be felt when the children's lives are elevated from poor nutritional statuses, and cognitive abilities are improved as a result of improved school attendance and increased classroom participation. Our main aim is to see our vision for community fulfilled – a place where everyone is included, making a contribution and reaching their God-given potential. We want to see local communities that are characterised by high levels of trust, safety, cohesion, mutual support, vibrancy, health and opportunity, and have increasing capacity to address their own issues.



### Full support...

Okello John Pagai is the Chairperson of a School Farm Committee and says, "I am excited for the school farm programme at Ogom Telela Primary School, one of the schools where Oasis is delivering the project. For a long time, the school never had such an intervention to provide food for learners in school. Children who come from afar cannot go back home for lunch, they persevere with hunger during the afternoon lessons which affects their performance and retention in school. I'm also the area Local Council Chairperson and I offer my full support in ensuring that the project succeeds."



# Oasis Mozambique Commercial Farming Training Project

From **Clive Dudbridge** – Global Director at Oasis Global and Arnaldo Chambela



Ana attending training at Oasis demonstration plot

There are 10 million hectares of arable land in Mozambique with good soil, a temperate climate and access to water, but the potential for commercial agriculture has not been realised. Beira City, along the Beira corridor, is a trade gateway to South East Africa. At present there is limited commercial agriculture there; the poor rural population is almost entirely reliant on subsistence agriculture.

## Subsistence farming moves on:

Oasis Mozambique works in Manga Loforte, a semi-rural community just outside Beira, where 95% of households depend on subsistence agriculture for their livelihoods. We currently work with 2,688 vulnerable women and their families. We are addressing water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) issues alongside running adult literacy classes, training in reproductive health, establishing

a social protection network, conducting training on legal rights, and facilitating the formation of savings and loans groups.

Oasis has 20 saving groups each with 15-20 women involved in the WASH project. Members of these savings groups often buy food such as tomatoes, onions, cabbage, lettuce, pineapples, spinach, beans, and maize from outside Beira City (100km) and re-sell it in the city centre. This process is time consuming and only make around \$20 USD per month. The group members farm land around their houses, as well as other larger fields around the community, however they lack skills to farm commercially. Fifteen ladies from these savings groups asked Oasis to train them to improve their agricultural skills in conjunction with 5 local churches who provide meeting spaces for the groups.



Sónia and other participants getting nursery plants for their food gardens

## Who takes care?

Numerous studies and Oasis' experience of WASH and commercial agricultural training show that women, the caretakers of the family, put their resources into improving their community and family. These women help produce food for their families and local communities. When the production is increased, more produce is sold in the local market, increasing profit that can be used for education, medical expenses, childcare, and water sanitation.

Oasis has a successful cascade method of training and giving participants the ability to train others. While there will only be a small group of women who will be initially trained, they will then be able to train other women in the community using an Oasis plot of land.

There were no projects providing commercial and sustainable agricultural training in Manga Loforte so Oasis asked Operation Agri if they would be willing to fund such a project. We received training from Foundations for Farming, based in Harare, Zimbabwe. and we incorporate this in our conservation agriculture training, since it is Biblically based and internationally recognised as improving yields.

## Fruitfulness:

The training is already 'bearing fruit' as evidenced by the testimony of **Ana**.

**Ana Marçal Bazo** a 42-year-old, mother of 3

children living in the 18 Ndunda Community and she is mother leader to one of the care groups set up by Oasis for 3 years.

Ana says: "I met Oasis through the work they've been doing in the area of health. I was chosen as a mother leader to lead other women to give them training in health care and sanitation. I normally get training from my facilitator and then I train my group on how to treat malaria, diarrhea, cholera, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS etc.

When Oasis introduced training on agriculture, at first I didn't want to participate because I thought I knew everything about agriculture but I went out of curiosity. I was surprised that they were teaching things that I didn't know! Now I manage my home plot better and also an allocated larger space where I produced tomatoes, onions and cabbages. I think Oasis should extend this program to more people who lack knowledge of good practices. We do not use chemicals products on our farms, we practice crop rotation to improve the soil, and use grass like manure to fertilize the soil.

I am very grateful to Oasis for the opportunity to learn very important things that help us to transform our life in this community."

*Photographs courtesy of Arnaldo Chambela*



Cabbage from Ana food garden demonstration

# Economic impacts on our partner AMOS and the country of Nicaragua

Introduction by **Stan Crees** – OA Trustee

*Following an announcement in April by the Nicaraguan government of a significant hike in the social security taxes, Nicaragua had five days of unrest with university students and opposition groups taking to the streets to protest. Unfortunately, there were clashes between the groups leading to violence and deaths on both sides. Buildings and vehicles were burned and looting of some shops also occurred. The loss of human lives caused for pain and sorrow for families, loved ones, and the nation.*

*Reacting to our promise of prayers, Laura Parajón, medical director of AMOS, wrote this update:*

**We would like to express** our deep gratitude for the overwhelming number of messages we have received filled with prayers, hope, and love for Nicaragua and AMOS. The ongoing support and kind words in these difficult moments for the country have touched us and encourage and strengthen us.

We are monitoring the situation daily, and share here our latest update on Nicaragua, and how it is impacting our ministry.

## April marches

In April there were two large and peaceful marches in Managua: a “Peace and Justice” march and vigil and a rally “For Peace and Dialogue”. Statements by Cardinal Leopoldo Brenes and President Daniel Ortega were hopeful as they both recommitted to take part in the national dialogue process. Our prayers and hopes are for long-lasting peace and justice.

Members of staff are returning to their normal activities, including clinic services in Nejapa, facilitating support groups, and visits to the rural communities, health promoters and community clinics.

The recent events have had and will continue to have significant financial and programme impacts on both AMOS and the Nicaraguan economy. In April the U.S. State Department issued a Level 3 Travel Warning which caused many people to reconsider their travel plans to Nicaragua.



Sharing in the circle

## AMOS responses

While we feel there is no threat to our staff or visitors, AMOS has taken the following proactive measures:

- We closely monitor and assess the security in each local setting where we work. Protests or demonstrations are usually contained to specific geographical points, nowhere near AMOS, so it is important for our staff and visitors to be aware of these and to assess their significance.
- Our Delegations and Volunteer Programs staff has been in close communication with team leaders and volunteers planning to come to Nicaragua this summer. We are heartened that several groups have indicated their intention to proceed to send, as planned, delegations and volunteers because the situation has improved.
- We are taking measures to prepare for financial and project losses due to cancellations. The ongoing community health work of AMOS relies on a mix of income from individuals and churches, foundation grants, delegations and volunteers, and from our guesthouse.

## Loss of income

Our value of sharing love with our neighbours is even more important in times like these. Nicaraguan economists project that the protests will result in the loss of over \$100 million US dollars for the Nicaraguan economy. Low-income families in rural and urban communities are the most vulnerable.



The support of Operation Agri helps AMOS to continue its critical work. You make it possible for us to continue to provide jobs for our staff, to support our health workers, and to carry out our programs that improve the health of thousands of vulnerable children, new mothers, youth and chronic patients.

Thank you for continuing to share your prayers, love, and support for this ministry.

With much love and gratitude,

DAVID & Laura

Dr. David Parajón, Executive Director  
Dr. Laura Parajón, Medical Director

*On behalf of the AMOS Team*



AMOS Staff praying for peace

# Prayer Points

*Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."*

*Lamentations 3:22-23*

These verses were chosen by our partner [LEADS](#) in [Sri Lanka](#) to open their latest prayer letter.

## Sri Lanka

This is the final year of our post conflict livelihoods project in Kilinochchi district and we are in communication about a possible future partnership. Here are some prayer points from LEADS:

- ♥ Wisdom and clarity to make decisions that align with God's will.
- ♥ Doors to open for new projects.
- ♥ As an organisation, to display God's glory in our nation, through our service.

## Malawi

- ➞ Give thanks that local farmers are copying the techniques that project participants use as they see the difference it is making.
- ➞ Pray especially that the team will be able to help communities tackle the threat from invasive pests like army worm caterpillars which have become endemic across the region.
- ➞ Pray for Pastor Lloyd Chizenga and his team of trainers from New Life Christian Church.

## Bangladesh

The Duaripara Family Development Project is in transition. Pray for:

- A successful and smooth transition for the project and its staff,
- Girls and their families who often suffer greatly during the monsoon,
- Protection from heavy rainfall, wet and damp housing, stagnant water and scabies and
- The elections scheduled for December, including a peaceful run up to that event.

## Nepal

- ★ Pray for the Morang Community Health and Education Project which ends in July, and the planning and approval of a new project.
- ★ Give thanks that Nepal has locally elected officials in post after many years.
- ★ Pray for MCDS as they look to the future, take new approaches and reach new areas.

## Nicaragua

It has been a time of uncertainty and concern in Nicaragua, but we have a deep hope for peace.

- ◆ After the recent violence and unrest pray for families who are mourning, or still looking for, loved ones.
- ◆ Praise God for the health workers in the communities where AMOS serves. These communities had no maternal or neonatal deaths last year.
- ◆ Pray for pregnant mothers concerned about access to healthcare, small children, and chronic patients in vulnerable communities who need medical care and support.

## Uganda (SAFI)

- ✓ Give thanks that through this project, subsistence farmers have increased food security as they grow enough for their families and have more to sell to generate income.
- ✓ Please pray for the third phase beginning this year in which groups will learn how to use donkeys for ploughing and transport.

Many thanks to you, from everyone at Operation Agri and all our partners, for your continued prayers.

## GDPR:

The General Data Protection Regulation came into force on 25th May 2018. We now need your consent to contact you directly. If you want to hear from Operation Agri and have not given this permission (or would like to make changes), please advise our administrator Malcolm Drummond in one of these ways:

- **Send an email to:**  
***admin@operationagri.org.uk***
- **Phone on 020 8803 0113**  
***(day or evening)***
- **Write to Operation Agri, 361 Firs Lane,**  
***Palmers Green, London, N13 5LX***

Let Malcolm know how you would like to hear from us and provide him with the relevant information e.g. address, phone number etc.

## Our assurance to you:

We collect and hold your data for these purposes:

- to provide you with information and news about the work
- to fundraise for the projects we support
- to communicate concerning donations and orders for resources
- for any gift aid claims we can make
- to arrange speaking engagements.

We have procedures to keep your personal information secure. We never sell your data and we will never share it with another company or charity for marketing purposes. We only share data where we are required to do so by law.

## Finally:

It has come to our notice from various sources that if you once gave your permission for OA to contact you we may continue to do so. However, you have the right to opt out. If that is the case please let Malcolm know.

## Finally, finally:

If you are normally given this magazine by someone local to you - that will not change.

*If this magazine was passed on to you and you would like your own free copy please let Malcolm know.*

## OA's giving to the projects featured in this edition:

Emmanuel International, Tanzania £3,500 April 2018  
Pader, Uganda £8,010 March 2018  
Commercial Farming, Mozambique £5,000 committed  
AMOS, Nicaragua £7,991 November 2017

## Woodside Handcrafts

Theo Lambourne, one of OA's trustees, creates pens and bowls and door wedges (to name but a few items) from recycled wood. He had stock pieces and also takes custom orders. For price, availability and possibilities please contact him:  
*theo.lambourne@btinternet.com*

**Go to: <https://www.operationagri.org.uk/news/>**

Hear the testimony from Heavenlight and sign up for the OA email updates.

*Articles may be freely copied without any changes provided an attribution to Operation Agri is added.*

## What an achievement!

That describes Dai Morgan's amazing efforts as he ran the London Marathon on April 22nd to raise funds for Operation Agri. We are so glad that this committed supporter of OA came all the way from South Wales and completed the mammoth task in safety.

What more can we say than express our great appreciation of Dai's efforts and the support provided by his family. Thank you Dai! Thanks to everyone who sponsored Dai – from many disadvantaged people across the globe who will now have a route to a better standard of living.

We are also grateful to all who encouraged Dai through donations at his Just Giving site and through friends and churches. The total raised to date exceeds £2,500 – the treasurer is still counting the pounds.

The photo shows Dai on Horse Guards Parade, the gathering point at the completion of the run.



Dai Morgan

## Have you read the Spotlight article?

If you have you will know that it can take a long time for someone to make the journey from Sunday School supporter to OA Trustee! It does not have to be that way. We need young people (or young at heart) who have social media skills to increase and improve our presence. Adept at facebook or twitter or both (or something else) and want to help?

Contact [chairman@operationagri.org.uk](mailto:chairman@operationagri.org.uk) for further information.

## Want to raise money for OA without it costing anyone anything?

If the answer is, yes, contact [editor@operationagri.org.uk](mailto:editor@operationagri.org.uk) – not a scam and no catch. Used ink cartridges can be recycled for OA. One church recently raised £107 this way. Thank you.

## Keen to help disadvantaged people without leaving your armchair?

Our website offers many ways you can support the vital work of OA  
<https://www.operationagri.org.uk/donate/>

## Keen to help disadvantaged people and desperately want to leave your armchair?

There's a variety of project work waiting for you to do overseas. From a few weeks in the summer holidays to assignments spanning several months; you could make a difference and return richer in life's experiences.

Contact [editor@operationagri.org.uk](mailto:editor@operationagri.org.uk) for more information.

## Are you a prayer warrior?

- δ Pray for the trustees of OA; for wisdom, stamina and openness to God's call.
- δ Pray for the partners of OA; some have admin work to tackle; others have frontline training to deliver – they all need strength to continue and love for people.
- δ Pray for those who benefit from the projects; mothers, fathers, families, neighbourhoods.

## Make a δifference.

# 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)

Signature ..... Date .....

Email address .....

Please let us know if your address or circumstances change.

*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.  
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.

