

the promise

News about our Covenant With the Poor

"Now we feel we are alive"

Two years ago we told you about the ambitious plans of a young, new and local charity - SUDA, Sumbawanga Development Action - to provide the funds for the villagers of Kalalasi, in Tanzania, to build their own medical clinic and health centre. In the following months you raised the £7,800 pounds needed. And now we have good news to report.

Although circumstances meant that the building work was delayed until this summer, by July this year the foundations were drying out and ready for the walls to go up. The doors and windows were on site and the district engineer was giving the village advice on building. And now the clinic is almost complete. SUDA's Kitty Todd writes:

"Many thanks to the Covenant With the Poor for making this project possible. The Health Centre is just about up and running. Here is the news of our trip to Kalalasi.

Mbeka, Rhea, Davinder and I flew to Dar es Salaam, arriving on the Saturday 25th August. We stayed with Mbeka's sister, Mama Willie and her husband Noah in Mbagala Kuu. On Monday we

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Welcome to the *promise*, the newsletter of our Covenant With the Poor.

Our Covenant was started in 1997 in response to Bishop Crispian's Lenten letter when the parish agreed to seek to help the poor. Over the years we have supported projects in the UK, Europe, Africa, Central America, the Middle East and India.

Our Covenant is signed each year at Pentecost when, as a Parish, we agree to support specific projects.

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The Kalalasi Clinic under construction



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These are all run by registered charities so that we can be sure that all the money sent is going to the right place. We select projects that are small and self-contained, such as building a clinic in Tanzania or buying water tankers in India, or are defined parts of larger projects, such as funding the purchase of a van for Emmaus Hampshire, to help the furniture recycling work undertaken by homeless people here in Winchester. We keep in contact with the charities and often return to fund other projects run by them.

The Covenant has four appeals each year: Trinity Sunday, the 1st Sunday in September, the 1st Sunday of Advent and the 1st Sunday in Lent. This parish has always been extremely generous and I would like to thank everyone for their continuing support

If you know of a project that could use our support, or would just like to know more, you are very welcome at our meetings - they are open and informal (see Peterpost for dates and times). *Jenny Livy*

shopped for Kalalasi - skipping rope, basket ball, generator and other essential items. Then on Tuesday we were up at the crack of dawn for the twelve hours on the bus to Mbeya, then on to Sumbawanga next day.

The Health Centre was coming on nicely. We had sent money over the previous few months for cement, window and door frames and furniture. The walls were up to roof level and

The women sang songs they had composed for us; Mbeka translated. One line that sticks in my mind was 'Now we feel we are alive'.



First make your bricks...

way back with people unloading their purchases along the way. We cashed £4,000 worth of travellers cheques and bought in the materials needed to finish the project; we got to know the people at Jeggo Hardware quite well. A team of men from the village came to help load up.

By the time we left, the roof was on, the walls plastered and the floors cemented. Rainwater storage tanks were under construction and the furniture was in the storeroom nearby. And now, the verandas are finished, the walls painted inside and out, and the water harvesting tanks are being finished. The only things

the community were pitching in - women carrying water and bricks, and men with bullock sledges bringing sand and cement. We paid some key workmen - plasterers and the main roofer - but the villagers made the bricks and worked for free. Mr Chole, the former village chairman, acted as foreman.

Over the next couple of weeks we had two trips to Sumbawanga on the lorry that runs daily from Matai. The road is really rough so it takes three hours to travel the 63 miles there, longer on the



... then build the walls



... then raise up the roof

left to do are the toilets; they are waiting for money from the local government for that.”

Before the Kalalasi clinic was built, this sick woman faced a two-hour ordeal propped up on a padded bicycle just to get to where she could get transport to take her to a hospital. Now, with the construction of the clinic - a collaborative community project - her health needs, and

those of the 2,500 inhabitants of this remote village, will be seen to in their own local health centre.

For more information visit
www.sumbawanga.org.uk



GIVING PEOPLE A BED ... AND A REASON TO GET OUT OF IT

The Emmaus approach to an old problem

There's an old adage "Give a man a fish and he'll eat for a day; teach him how to fish and he'll eat forever." Solving the problem of homelessness has to be about more than simply giving people a roof over their heads. It has to be about giving homeless people opportunities, skills, support and a social structure so they can regain their self-esteem and their lives – for good.

Local homelessness and social enterprise charity, **Emmaus Hampshire**, is building a new live/work Emmaus Community on the outskirts of Winchester where formerly homeless people will be offered a home and work in return for signing off benefits and committing to a 40-hour week working within the Community. The "Green Roof" building will be an innovative and eco-friendly development which will provide a supportive environment for 23 Companions (as residents are known) to work towards independent living and to become part of the local community once again.

There are a number of key benefits that the Emmaus Community will provide:

- A worthwhile alternative to homelessness
- Companions will re-use, refurbish and recycle donated second-hand goods and sell them on at affordable prices
- It will save taxpayers money – it will reduce the burden on the health service, the criminal justice system and other social services
- It will reduce the volume of waste going to landfill each year.

It is hoped that construction will begin in early 2008 but there is still much to be done in raising funds to cover it's start-up costs until such time that it operates as a self-financing Community. Our Covenant With the Poor's Advent 2007 and Lent 2008 appeals will be to raise funds to purchase a van for the Community which will enable Emmaus Hampshire to offer a valuable service by collecting and delivering furniture in the local area.

For information contact Avril Robinson 01962 828817 or visit www.emmaushampshire.org.uk



Thank you, again

This year you raised some £6800 for the Sisters of St. Lucy's education projects in Eluru and Janampet, in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, providing essential equipment to help the poorest of children. In August, after our first appeal, Sister Mary Elizabeth Lloyd, the Mission Office Director, wrote to Sister Antonietta:

Dear Sister Antonietta

In the name of Mother General, Sr. Nicolina Bandiera, I am writing to express our gratitude to all who contribute to the Covenant With the Poor. Your very generous gift of £4977 has been forwarded to our mission in India. We have used your very generous gift to help the 300 children attending Barbarigo Centre Kindergarten and the 100+ children staying with us at Siena House. These are some of the neediest children in the world. The Covenant With the Poor can be proud of all it is doing to change the lives of these children.

As benefactors, know that all who contribute to help out missions are remembered daily in the prayers and sacrifices of our Sisters throughout the world. Thank you again and may God grant you every good.



... and again

“Thank you once again for all your efforts made this last year and for the love and affection that you have for all the Treasures (*the children living on the rubbish dump in Guatemala City*). With gratitude,
Edgar and Gladys Güitz, Directors, Potter's House”

Thanks to your generosity, the money raised by the Covenant With the Poor funded two of the eight classes in the Potter's House school, for a whole year (not just the one class we had hoped to help with). That has changed the lives of 225 children.

