

BREAD News

MAKING A BIG IMPACT IN A SMALL PLACE

Issue 6 – Winter 2009



Dear Friends,

As Trustees we've recently been thinking about the future of BREAD – what our role is in Berega and how we can be good stewards of the resources that God has given us.

The word 'philanthropy' literally means 'the practical expression of love towards humanity'; this definition encapsulates exactly what we're hoping to do through the work of the Trust – show God's love to people in a practical way. The needs can sometimes seem overwhelming, but we're in the privileged position of being able to help – both financially and through prayer. We may not be able to change the world, but we can hope to help make a difference in Berega, which is why we've chosen the phrase 'Making a Big Impact in a Small Place' as our new tagline.

The contributions you have made over the past year have had a significant affect on people's lives. We are enormously grateful for your support and are excited about the opportunities for change as we look to the New Year.

Blessings,
The Trustees.

SONAB - School of Nursing at Berega to open in 2010

In the last edition of BREAD News we reported that we would be helping to fund a new nursing school in the village. We donated £7,000 to help with the construction of the first phase of the building project, which as you can see is well underway.

As well as funding the construction of the school, BREAD have also given £2000 to SONAB for the purchase of equipment to help with its day to day running, such as desks, office equipment and



SONAB: the multi-purpose dining room, classroom and toilet block under construction

teaching materials. We also received a very kind donation of £500 towards the purchase of laptops, which we have passed on.

The first intake of 33 students for the three-year diploma programme will arrive at the school in January. British couple John and Mair Pugh will be travelling out to Tanzania to work at the school at the invitation of Bishop Sahaba of Morogoro Diocese. John will take up his post as Principal and Mair will work alongside the Matron to improve the general standard of care at the hospital.

John and Mair are both trained nurses and have considerable experience setting up and running nursing schools. In the early 1990's they spent three years in Romania, working with a UK based charity, where John headed up a school of nursing in Bucharest.

From January 2005 to October 2007 they worked at a Baptist mission hospital in Madagascar, setting up a school of nursing there. Their students qualified in July 2009.

The village will benefit greatly from the nursing school – both economically with the influx of

students, but also in terms of raised standards of healthcare within the hospital. Not only will Mair be lending her considerable experience to the nursing staff, but it is also hoped that some of the newly trained nurses will decide to stay in the village – which, as a rural posting, often has difficulty attracting and retaining staff.



SONAB – the view from the new dining room

It's obviously essential that the community is behind the project to ensure its long term sustainability, so we were encouraged to hear that at a recent meeting of local leaders, chiefs, politicians and teachers, a staggering 7 million Tanzanian shillings - just over £3,000 was raised to help fund the project, made all the more remarkable given the famine that has hit Berega and the surrounding area. This shows incredible commitment on the part of people locally, and a real hope that the school will have an impact on life in Berega and the surrounding areas.

If you would like to support SONAB you can do so through BREAD, or if you would like to directly support the Pugh's either in prayer, or financially you can do so by contacting International Teams who are overseeing their move to Berega on: 01874 611 995.

BREAD FUNDS NEW STAFF HOME AT THE ORPHANAGE

The orphanage provides a much needed home for children left without parents. Many of them have lost their mothers in childbirth owing to

complications as women often don't get to the hospital early enough.

BREAD has already gone some way to help to address this issue through funding the maternity waiting wing at the hospital, but for those women for whom it's too late, the orphanage provides a loving and nurturing environment for the children they leave behind.

Ute Klatt, Director of the orphanage in Berega for over ten years, and her team of staff, are committed to fulfilling not only the physical needs of the children in their care, but also their spiritual and emotional needs too.

They have developed an innovative approach to looking after these children, resulting in the development of happy, healthy individuals – defying the stereotypes of children brought up in an orphanage.

Each child is looked after by a 'binti' a young woman from their extended family who comes and stays with the child forming a strong bond with them. This has seen a significant decrease in problems reintegrating children back into their extended families – and ensures that important links are maintained with relatives.

This also gives these young women a chance to learn and develop new skills – many of them have no formal education, but during their time at the orphanage they learn life skills – cooking and sewing and some of them who arrive illiterate, learn how to read.

In recent years, BREAD has funded a number of projects at the hospital and the lay training centre, as well as giving money to support famine relief, but we haven't funded work at the orphanage for a few years. Ute told us that there is a need for improved infrastructure and explained that existing staff accommodation needed renovation and improved security. We have contributed £1,500 towards upgrading the existing staff house on the compound, which will help tackle this problem.

Ute is also hoping to employ another senior member of staff to relieve the burden on existing workers but needs to be able to provide accommodation. BREAD will be helping to build a second staff house, with new toilet block, kitchen and storehouse, which will hopefully encourage a new member of staff to commit to working there.



Children at the orphanage playing in the banda

We are also delighted to be able to share with you that Ute recently became the legal guardian for quadruplets, Willy, Theo, Stella and Idda. They very sadly lost both of their parents – their mother in childbirth and their father in a road traffic accident, but are now looking forward to a new future together with Ute.

BEREGA IN THE NEW YORK TIMES

Denise Grady, a New York Times journalist travelled to Berega last year to report on healthcare in Africa. She wrote a series of articles 'Death in Birth' looking at the risks affecting women and children owing to poor maternal healthcare and used Berega as a case study for understanding the issues facing Tanzanians.

She praised Ute for her innovative work at the orphanage and we were encouraged to hear from people who read the article and were keen to get involved with BREAD's work in Berega. You can read the articles online at www.newyorktimes.com

THE LAY TRAINING CENTRE

We have recently heard that the Lay Training Centre (LTC) in Berega is facing closure owing to a lack of funds. An Australian missionary organisation, which has funded the centre for a number of years, has recently announced that they will no longer be able to provide funding.

In rural areas like Berega and the surrounding villages, the church relies heavily on lay people and the closure of the LTC, the only training centre like it for miles around, could have a significant affect on churches locally.

Would your church be interested in helping to fund this important work? Perhaps your congregation would be willing to commit to funding it for a year? If so, please do contact us at BREAD for more information.

Please do remember the LTC in your prayers, particularly for wisdom for those in positions of leadership and authority that they would know how best to help secure its future going forward.

HELPING TO RELIEVE FAMINE IN BEREGA

This year has been a difficult one for people in Tanzania, with many in rural areas, including Berega, suffering from food shortages. Prolonged dry spells led to crop failure, with many people having little or nothing to eat.

BREAD has a specially dedicated fund for famine relief and we were pleased to be able to send support. Food assistance was distributed through the church and the hospital to those identified as most needy, including orphans and widows.

BREAD WEBSITE

We're very sorry that there has been a bit of a gap in communication since the last newsletter, but please be reassured – we've been working

to establish a new BREAD website, which we hope to launch in the Spring.

The website will give information about all of the projects that BREAD has funded to date, as well as updates on the work that's currently going on. We want to make sure that it's as user friendly as possible, so if there are things that you'd like to see included, do let us know and we'll do our best to incorporate your feedback.

The website will also have a secure online portal for donations, with 100% of the donation going directly to BREAD (unlike some charity websites which charge an administration fee).

We will continue to send out regular newsletters, but hope that the website will become an additional tool to communicate with supporters on an on-going basis with what's happening in Berega.

We're also keen to help equip you with as much information as possible about BREAD's work, so that you can share it with family, friends and church members. We are working on a number of powerpoint presentations, explaining the work of the Trust. If you'd be interested in receiving one of these, please do contact us for further information.

As well as financial support – prayer support is obviously key. We'd very much like to start sending out regular prayer requests to supporters via email. If this is something you'd be interested in, or, indeed, if you'd like to receive the newsletter via email, please get in touch with your email address.

BISHOP SEHABA TO VISIT UK

Bishop Sehaba of Morogoro Diocese is planning on coming to the UK sometime in 2010. We are helping him plan his trip and are keen that he meets as many BREAD supporters as possible while he's here.

Would you be interested in him coming to your church or home group, to tell you more about



life in Tanzania and the challenges of life in a place like Berega?

If you would like him to visit, please do get in touch using the information in the orange box below.

Contacting BREAD:

BREAD is operated entirely by its Trustees who all act in an unpaid voluntary capacity. Information about BREAD is available by mail or in electronic format.

If you would like to contribute to any of the initiatives mentioned in this newsletter, or to give unrestricted funding, please contact:

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catrionasanderson@hotmail.com

If you are a UK Taxpayer, you can increase the effectiveness of your giving through Gift Aid. We have produced forms for your use. Please let us know if you would like one.

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact Clare Marnham at:
claremarnham@fsmail.net

We would love to hear about your own experiences in Berega.