

NewHope Newsletter, December 2020

We really want to thank you so much for your support this year. While in the UK we have suffered some disruption and financial challenges for those in developing countries this has been a disastrous few months.

Lockdown was swift and draconian in many African countries which in itself then caused immense hardship amongst the poorest.

We had to send emergency aid to both Uganda and Congo. We also sent money to a pastor we support in a south Asian country because government aid was only being distributed to Muslims while Christian families were starving. Many were baptised in the weeks that followed!

Alongside these problems a large flood in Congo destroyed the meagre shelters where already displaced people were living. And sadly Coronavirus has not stopped rebels from slaughtering villagers and even more people are pouring into the town of Kasindi in Congo where our health centre is based.

The good news is that our partners on the ground are doing fantastic work among the most vulnerable in their communities.



Our main focus is Congo, where the feeding program is still desperately needed for the most malnourished children of displaced families.

The farming project is progressing as we now own the land being planted, and they are now harvesting. We would like to extend this in future if another suitable area of land becomes available.

The school was closed for several months due to Covid restrictions but all classes have now been allowed to return.

Our next project is to drill wells in the surrounding villages as there have been many cases of cholera coming to the health centre from these places due to

lack of clean water.

The health centre has now treated well over 3,000 patients in the last 2 years since it was opened in November 2018. A new doctor has been added to the staff. The

delivery room has been fully tiled with donations in memorial of the baby of a church family who died at birth. Here it is being opened!



We are in process of adding new buildings on site. These comprise a kitchen for patients, washrooms and a mother's dormitory. The purpose of the latter is to enable pregnant mothers to arrive a few days before their due date and avoid walking many kilometres in labour from their village with all the associated risks.

The cost of completing the dormitory has been met by very generous donations in memorial of a very close friend of ours who died of Covid on October 15th. It will be named the **Phaik See Smith Dormitory**. It's a fitting legacy for someone whose decades of nursing were epitomised by caring for others.



The school we support in Uganda was closed from March until October when the oldest year group returned. It has been a tough time for parents with loss of income and rising prices of commodities.

The medical team in Kampala are continuing to do great work outreaching to poor villages in the surrounding areas.

We had planned to visit Uganda and Congo in March but suddenly the borders were closed and the packed suitcases are still sitting here. We hope to return in 2021 to deliver the ultrasound training and other projects as well as seeing our lovely folk who are so precious to us.



PHAIK SEE

We could not accomplish any of this without you and we really appreciate your partnership in changing the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in our world.

Many blessings,

John & Myra