



Operation
AGRI

Outreach Abroad

Spring 2013

SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT
IN CHRIST'S NAME



In issue 52.1

Nicaragua: saving lives	3
The Wilsons in Trapia (part 2)	4
Simon's story from Uganda	5
OA in Sri Lanka	6
This year's Appeal	7
Giving and Blessing	9

Operation Agri is *special!*

By Russell Ashley-Smith, Chairman of OA

'Has Operation Agri a Unique Selling Point,' I was asked recently. In fact, it's when we look at all OA's features that we confirm that the charity is indeed special...

- Christian - OA is unashamedly a Christian mission and we work only with overseas partner organisations which are Christian led.
- Long-term development - OA is fundamentally concerned with long-term development – originally this was focused on agriculture but now encompasses any work which promises a permanent sustainable improvement in the quality of life for disadvantaged people somewhere in the two-thirds world. Help is given on the basis of need.
- BMS & Oasis - OA works closely with BMS World Mission and their overseas partners, but we are not limited by this, e.g. we also have strong links with Oasis Global. Many of our project partners are non-denominational.
- Small is beautiful - OA is small, and we can and do respond flexibly to partners' needs, more as equals.
- Volunteer ethos - OA is primarily run by volunteers which gives us a different operational ethos; people outside the church see us giving a lot of time and effort to help others.

- Not paternalistic - OA does not initiate overseas projects – we respond to requests for support from our partners (present and potential); in this way we avoid being paternalistic or condescending. We believe development should be bottom-up from local communities and not imposed.
- Professional - OA is professional, striving to observe the highest standards in terms of financial probity, in our publicity, and being cost-conscious whilst maintaining standards. Amongst our trustees and officers there is a wealth of relevant experience.
- Loving care - OA supports its partners in delivering loving care rather than aid.

Eight features which, combined as they are in Operation Agri, give much more than a single unique selling point and confirm the trustees' determination to ensure OA's continuation as long as God so wills.

If you have any questions or observations please do write to me at the address on the back cover or at chairman@operationagri.org.uk.

Thank you for your interest, support and prayers.



Noticeboard

OA Seminar and AGM

Mike & Daveen Wilson - Assembly Seminar speakers

Mike and Daveen Wilson (former BMS workers) will be the speakers at OA's Annual Seminar at the Baptist Assembly. They will reflect on the development lessons they have learnt living and working in NE Brazil for 24 years. It is not necessary to be registered for the Assembly to attend the seminar at 2.15pm on Sunday 5th

May. Venue: Warbreck Suite, The Savoy Hotel, Queens Promenade, Blackpool, FY2 9SJ

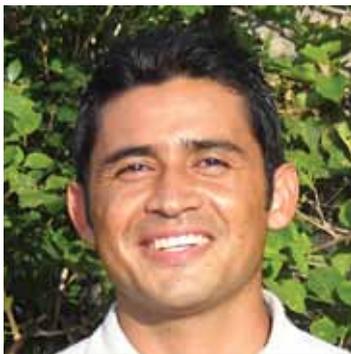
Operation Agri's AGM will immediately follow the seminar at 3.15pm at the same venue. The abridged Annual Report and Accounts will be available in advance on our website or from OA's exhibition stand at the Assembly or by post from our administrator.

Saving Lives *Through Home Visits*

By Christine Lafferty and Jessica Martínez of the AMOS Communications Team in Nicaragua.

AMOS Health and Hope, one of Operation Agri's partners, is a Christian NGO that seeks to put faith and love into action by promoting health and preventing deaths in difficult to reach communities. AMOS currently works in 27 remote, rural communities in Nicaragua where they train and supervise community leaders, called health promoters, to provide basic health care to local families. There are no doctors, nurses, or hospitals nearby and so the health promoters are often the first to respond, both to prevent illness and save lives when people get sick.

Home visits are an important part of the health promoters' job because it allows them to reach homes that are far away from their community clinic and to better understand how the patient's everyday environment affects their health. They make a map of all of the houses where vulnerable people live in their community so that they can be sure to visit them more frequently.



Health Promoter Leonel Jarquin.

Leonel Jarquin is the health promoter in the community of Las Macías, Boaco. Below, he shares his story of how his home visits helped save a young child's life.

Young Esteven Jarquin (no relationship to the health promoter) had been frail for a while.

He had a severe case

of malnutrition that was worsened by pneumonia and an intense anemia. His health was deteriorating so we decided



Health promoter Leonel making a house visit.

Operation Agri has provided £12,885 towards AMOS activities for the current year.



Esteven Jarquin (no relation).

to transfer him out of the community to the health centre in Teustepe. We did this on two occasions, but the doctors could do very little for him and his health wasn't improving.

One day after they released him from the health centre, he and his mother paid me a visit at my clinic. I gave her the normal health recommendations for how to improve his nutritional state and promised to follow-up with them through home visits.

So we continued the nutritional education with her and their family and the AMOS supervision team also helped me with this. We needed to give the family a proper nutrition orientation on a regular basis to be able to solve this problem. We talked to her about how often he should be eating and about which foods are rich in iron and vitamins.

It was a long and hard fight against malnutrition and respiratory illness, but in the end we were victorious, thanks to God and the intensive work we did. Today this child is enjoying life and good health. He has recuperated to a normal nutritional state, his pneumonia has gone and the anemia has diminished leaving him with his natural skin color.

His mother is thankful because she found that what the hospital couldn't do for her family, she could do in her own community without spending any money. Her child doesn't get sick anymore and her worries are over.

Breaking Drought and Baptising Believers

Daveen and Mike Wilson, former BMS workers in Brazil, continue their story of life in Trapiá.

We were told at All Nations College (where we trained) that all good missionaries end up doing something very different than they imagined before they went - certainly true in our case. We'd imagined we would be helping poor people live better lives, but our first eight years could best be summed up as making friends, building relationships, earning a right to speak and facing the problems of drought.



Edilson watering a garden created by the young people of the church.

It didn't take long to realise that folk in Trapiá had a very low opinion of themselves. Although, as small farmers, they do one of the most important jobs on earth, city folk despised them, and they came to despise themselves. They needed to see how much God valued them, so we started Bible studies. A challenge, as illiteracy was almost 100%. Gradually, more folk learned to read. We started Sunday School for all ages, to teach the Bible story, to learn songs, to write and draw and act in plays. We invited Baptists from the town to come and hold meetings.

Eventually we felt they knew enough about Jesus to be able to decide whether they wanted to commit to him. We showed the JESUS film over a few weeks, and then asked, "Who wants to follow this man?" One man, Tontonho, answered quietly, "Don't know about anyone else, but I do." Tucking our 9 year old daughter Debbie into bed that night, she said, "Daddy, I want to follow him, too." We were in the middle of yet another drought year, but as they prayed together, a soft rain began to fall. Eight baptisms quickly followed and by 1998 we were able to baptise a further 47 people. At the request of these new Christians church building activities were soon underway with our own labour. The completed church was inaugurated in July 2000. At the same time, with a grant from Operation Agri, we were able to install a consulting room for visiting doctors and dentists, and a room to store and dispense medicines, in the Community Centre.

Problems with drought continued and Mike introduced Leucena trees whose leaves are high in protein and provided a valuable addition to the diet of goats during drought. It was a welcome relief when in summer 2000 rains came in abundance and a bumper harvest resulted. Farmers were able to grow cotton as a cash crop in addition to the dietary staples of black beans and maize.

Following more heavy rain in 2004 providing much lush vegetation, the latest venture of bee-keeping began. At the end of June that year Mike wrote, "We now have 20 beehives occupied. This afternoon we watched a swarm of bees move into one of our bait boxes - just a cardboard box smeared with lemon grass." A plentiful supply of honey was soon available.

It was during these years that the hardest part of our time in Brazil began - saying repeated good-byes to our children, and having to live apart from them most of the time. We home-schooled them for the early years, but decided together that the best option at 11, was for them to go to boarding school in the UK. So we left Debbie just after her baptism, and then Paul in 2004, and finally Julia in 2007. It never got easier, but Jesus said, "no-one who has left ... children ... for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much ..." (Mk 10:29-30). He gave us so many children, and even grandchildren, in Trapiá - and then our own three back as well, each one faithfully following Jesus themselves. We give thanks to him, our Heavenly Father.



The first beekeepers.



Making beeswax base sheets.

Using Sustainable Agriculture to *fight poverty* -

Simon's Story

By Dennis Ssettaala, Director of the Sustainable Agriculture Project, SDKF* in Uganda.

Simon is one of our Community Farmer Trainers (CFTs) in a Kibose Uganda Development Group where SDKF started training farmers in 2010. At the time we started training, Simon had two acres of land but most of it was full of bushes and he could only grow enough food just to feed his family. He had a lot of financial problems making it difficult to pay school fees and meet medical costs for his family.



Credits: SDKF, Uganda.

A sustainable agriculture training session being led by Paul Kyalimpa.

The sustainable agriculture training (conducted with the help of Paul Kyalimpa) was really an eye opener for Simon. Previously he had a belief that his land had become old, so no crop could give him a good yield. He and his family had also come to believe that bananas could never grow on their land. However, during the course of the training, Simon embraced the idea of using compost manure to fertilize his farm. He started with beans which gave him a very high yield. We later advised him to grow bananas. He then dedicated one

acre of land for growing bananas and another acre for growing other crops and keeping poultry which help him in the process of making of good compost.

Simon says that before planting bananas he first added compost to the hole where he is going to plant. Now, all across his farm, he has made raised beds to prevent water runoff and he uses green cover crops like beans and mucuna (another legume) to cover his garden. His crop of bananas is increasing and he keeps on adding compost to his plantations. This produces very big banana bunches which will give him a high price once sold. With the ongoing dry season, Simon is turning to mulching his land which gives better results by retaining soil moisture more effectively.

From the recent harvest income Simon has been able to pay his children's school fees and he continues to show a real example to other local farmers and to the community as a whole.

Through hard work and applying the skills we taught him, this farmer has not only attracted the attention of local people but also international organisations. He was selected by Caritas (an international catholic group) as a model farmer.

SDKF say "We are happy to be part of Simon's success story and we shall continue to work with him and others so that many more farmers can acquire these helpful skills. Thank you OA! You have made hundreds of people smile again. With sustainable agricultural skills, we are transforming Uganda."

Description of SDKF's work

SDKF (*Setting Development and Keeping the Foundation) Sustainable Agriculture Project is a project run in collaboration with the subsistence farmers (mostly women) of Kikamulo Subcounty in Nakaseke district and funded by Operation Agri. The project is aimed at improving food security and sustainable livelihoods of vulnerable subsistence farmers of Nakaseke district using sustainable agricultural technologies. Started in 2010, through unique training methods using demonstration gardens, farmers' field schools and Community Farmers Trainers, the project has so far benefited over 200 farmers. It promotes organic and sustainable agriculture, protects the environment, promotes farm mechanization, offers credits to farmers and generally seeks to build their capacity to improve their livelihoods.



Simon on his banana farm.

Enterprise and *Opportunity*

Operation Agri Secretary Rev Elgan Evans writes of some experiences whilst visiting Sri Lanka with his wife Wendy and family, gathering material for OA's 2013 appeal.

OA has provided grants totalling £25,705 to these two projects in the past year.

"A small island in the Indian Ocean with a cricket team and history of being in the news for its long civil war and more recent Tsunami" is about all that I knew of Sri Lanka until last summer. I was, of course, aware that OA has long-term partnerships with Farms Lanka and LEADS, and I'd read many documents about the various projects with OA involvement. However, the time spent with our partners, and in the communities with whom they are working, brought those facts and figures into a new light when seeing them in the context of wholly transformed lives and opportunities.

The publication of this edition coincides with the 40th Anniversary of Farms Lanka's ministry through the remarkable vision and continuing work of its founder Clarence Mendis, who introduced a remarkable family with whom he has been working for many years.

Ruan (in white shirt) is the elder son of blind parents. As newly weds Mum used her weaving skill to make table mats etc which Dad, with his slightly better vision and white stick, sold from door to door. Later Farms Lanka were able to help them through its income generating programme. This provided a simple roadside stall outside their home and extended their range of goods. Both sons were born with impaired sight but Ruan had surgery which has given him greatly improved vision. Of course with no NHS type provision the cost was a great challenge to their finances. The family business has further developed. We joined them on the opening day



Anil taking care of his chickens.

of their larger premises. Ruan has passed the running of it to his younger brother and a team of staff employed from the local community, as he begins studying for ministry in the Anglican church.

High in the hills above Kandy we met Anil and his family. In his early 20s Anil worked at commercial chicken producers in the city but is now using the skills he learnt in a family enterprise of chicken rearing, through a scheme with LEADS. Anil's parents are good models for enterprise and hard work. His father, as well as being involved in the chicken rearing, supplies his wife with the sugar leaves she uses in her weaving business. That means cycling a 10 hour round trip to the sugar cane plantations where he gathers enough leaves to make what we would think an oversize load for a bike and brings it home.

These are long, hard days which begin well before dawn and end far past dusk on rough unlit roads. These combined efforts generate the extra income needed to keep Anil's 17 year old twin brothers in school with the prospect of further education which will improve their opportunities and the family's situation even more.

Both LEADS and Farms Lanka are able to work in the northern region which was most directly affected by the civil war. Sadly political sensitivities prevented foreign filming at the time of our visit, but each partner spoke of that region's amazing opportunities and incredible challenges. Thirty years of mutual violence, animosity and distrust, together with the pressures of resettling and re-establishing physical and functioning communities is an unpromising base upon which to build, but their skills and our partnership with them, together with the Lord's blessing, will see many more such transformations.



Ruan (in the white shirt).

Growing skills RESOURCE PACK



Operation Agri supports projects in a dozen countries around the world: agriculture, water supplies, education, healthcare, income generation.

This year's resources feature Christian partners in Sri Lanka, who help marginalised families to grow their skills and improve their livelihoods.

- The **DVD** has videos (for DVD player or computer) plus powerpoints, document, photos.
- The **resource book** has information and ideas for worship, fund raising and children's activities.

Order on-line: www.operationagri.co.uk or post this form.

Ask about an OA speaker for your church. Please book early for Autumn events.



	Quantity
Full Pack: DVD, resource book, pair of posters, 25 leaflets, 25 envelopes (<i>delete items you don't need</i>)	packs
Extra leaflets (25 per set)	sets
Extra gift envelopes (25 per set)	sets
Extra A2 posters (in pairs)	pairs
Extra resource books	books
Optional: OA Collecting box (cardboard)	boxes
Optional: OA Jubilee bookmarks (25 per set)	sets
Optional: Set of OHP acetates	sets
Contribution towards production costs and postage	£ 5.00
Donation to Operation Agri BMM	£
TOTAL	£

Name

Address

Postcode

Tel/Email

Church

Please return this to:
Operation Agri, 361 Firs Lane, Palmers Green, London N13 5LX.
 or contact: **Malcolm Drummond, Tel: 020 8803 0113**
Email: admin@operationagri.org.uk
 Pay by cheque to 'Operation Agri BMM', or order by credit card on the website:
www.operationagri.org.uk



CHRISTIAN LOVE IN ACTION

A B C D 1 2

London Marathon

Keen rugby player Richard Herring (pictured) will be running the London Marathon for OA on 21st April. He says, 'nothing gives me greater pleasure than to be able to take on the challenge of the London Marathon and raise much-needed funds for a fantastic charity like OA.'



Richard Herring

Do please pray for Richard, and consider sponsoring him, either through his fundraising site, www.justgiving.com/richard-herring2, or write 'Marathon Sponsorship' on the response form over the page.

Thank you!



OVERSEAS SECRETARY

Operation Agri is looking for an overseas secretary.

The overseas secretary is the officer of the charity with overall responsibility for liaison with our overseas partners, who actually do the development work. He/she is supported by a small team, individual members looking after particular countries. He/she also sits on the BMS Development Committee and liaises closely with the BMS' manager for partnerships.

Stan Crees, our current overseas secretary, who is looking to retire, estimates that he spends 4-5 hours weekly on this very rewarding work, plus roughly 12 daytime meetings per annum in London or Didcot.

Please draw this need to the attention of anyone you feel may be interested.

Contact chairman@operationagri.org.uk.

Design: sarah.premittedesign@gmail.com Print: Jago Litho, Cardiff

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

Address:

Post Code

Gift Aid Declaration

Operation Agri BMM

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made: today in the past 4 years in the future
Please tick all boxes you wish to apply.

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify.

Donor's details (in addition to those above)

Signature

Date

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.
Any cheques should be made payable to 'Operation Agri BMM.'

Giving and Blessing

By John Durrant, OA's Treasurer

God is blessing Operation Agri, and we in our turn are committed to blessing our overseas partners in their work. We also know that the donations we have received come by God's grace and we seek God's blessing on our donors. It is an immense privilege to be the recipients of God's care!

This sets the context for a few comments on our finances in our continuing difficult economic climate. Let me highlight some points from the pie charts when compared with last year.

Income

- Donations from partners were up £3,600.
- Donations from churches and other groups were down by £750.
- Donations to projects were up by £1,900.
- Income tax refund was down by £1,800; we would be pleased to discuss Gift Aid with you.
- Legacy income was up by £102,450; we thank God for the generosity and wisdom of people who have made bequests to OA. This was the main reason for our overall income increasing by £78,500.
- Income for the Nicaragua Appeal was down by £33,700; there were fewer opportunities to publicise this.
- We sold a vehicle in Brazil for £9,450; this was no longer needed for a project.
- Interest and dividends were down by £1,400 as a result of low interest rates and previous sales of some of our stock.

Expenditure

- Overseas project expenses were down by £2,200.
- Grants to projects were down by £27,700; we reduced our grants by 10% across all projects because of an anticipated drop in income; our expenditure on grants as a percentage of our total expenditure remained the same at just under 73%.
- We have reduced our expenditure on travel, in part by holding fewer meetings.
- Administration costs have been kept to a minimum with one part-time administrator and our continuing dependence on volunteers.

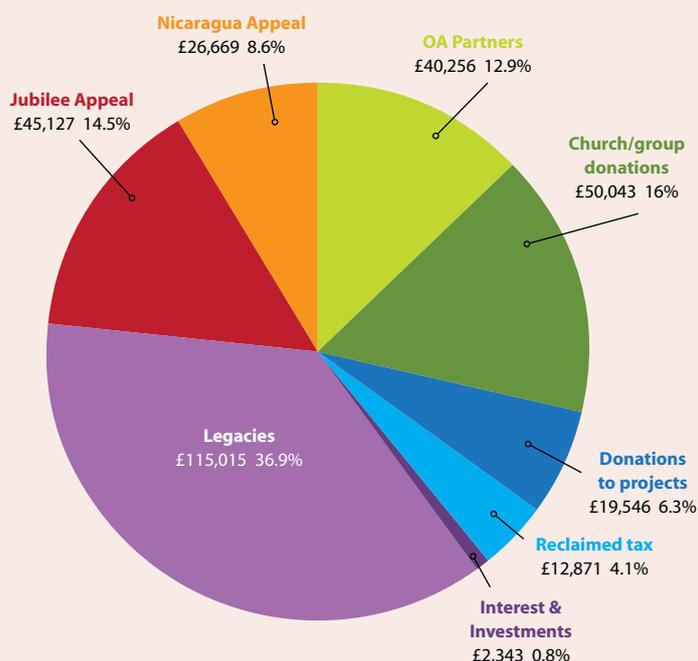
Wherever possible we are using digital communications, particularly social media, to promote the work of our overseas partners by keeping our UK donors up to date and to highlight good news stories.

There are new ways of giving, such as by mobile phone and by receiving donations from companies when we order goods on-line (see the back page for more).

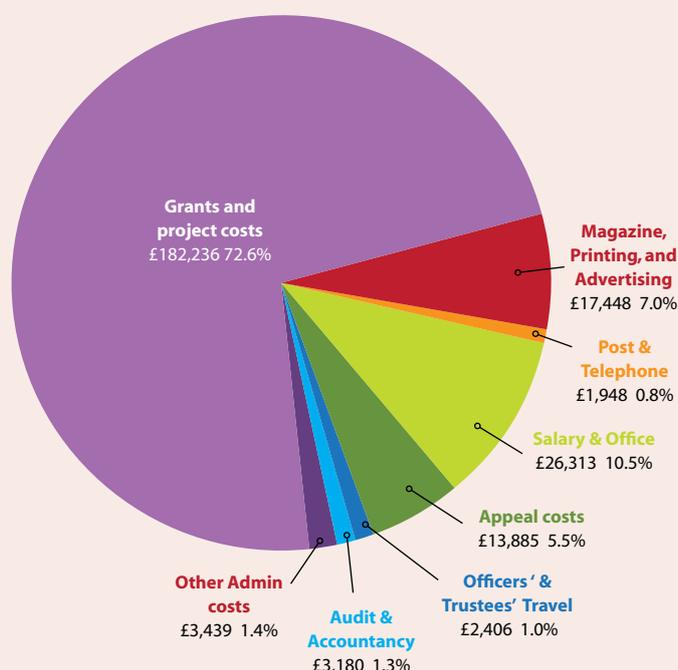
Occasionally for a variety of reasons, donations designated for a particular project cannot be used for that project. We want to make the best use of such funds and therefore we will allocate them to a similar project either in the same country or in another country.

In the 2012-13 financial year we are expressing our confidence in God's blessing by proposing to make overseas grants of £225,000, an increase of nearly £43,000 compared with 2011-12! We trust in God's commitment to act when we act with faith; ultimately we realise that the success of anything we do depends on God's blessing.

Income 2011-2012



Expenditure 2011-2012



News in Brief

Positive results from training

One of OA's principle activities in Tanzania is to provide the funding for Paul Kyalimpa (Uganda) to set up training activities for local groups of farmers in the Karagwe district of North Tanzania. In a recent report Rev Heavenlight Luoga (our partner contact in Tanzania) relates some of the successes that are emerging from this training and other initiatives in the area. The training itself covers composting, green manures, plant pests and diseases and how to deal with them, water conservation and soil erosion. It is now becoming apparent that many farmers are really benefitting from this training.

As a result of improved income from his farm, Mr. Boaz was able to follow the instructions provided and construct a water tank to collect run-off rain water from his roof for use around the home. He has qualified for further training and it is hoped he will be able to share his new knowledge with many others. Already Mr Deus has followed his example and also collects rain water from his roof. In the village of Mchuba, Remigius and his wife have been able to purchase a cow after selling their surplus crops. A tailoring project has also been initiated for women and girls in the villages.

The activities of this Farming Partnerships Initiative (FPI) is vital to the task of improving food security in these rural areas and we look forward to further good news as this programme continues to benefit from OA's funding for another year.

School books for deprived children

As a result of a request received from Farms Lanka in November last year Operation Agri provided a grant of £2,000 to help with the provision of school materials to deprived families in the communities served by Farms Lanka. Whilst sending thanks for this grant, Clarence Mendis, General Manager of Farms reported that the distribution went well. One of the beneficiaries was the Moratuwa Social Services Organisation which seeks to serve destitute children in the area. This year the educational materials went to a linked pre-school there and Clarence and his wife were guests at the distribution ceremony. Other people and organisations involved in the distribution of school materials included the local police HQ inspector, the monks at a Buddhist temple, several community based organisations, a group serving slum area children through a pre-school and a number of churches in the previously war-torn region of Jaffna.

We are glad that so many needy children have been assisted in this way.



Children holding their school books received from Farms Lanka.

Credit: Clarence Mendis, Farms Lanka.

We congratulate Farms Lanka as they celebrate 40 years of valued service to the communities in Sri Lanka. May the Lord continue to encourage you in your service for him. (See also page p. 6).

Enough Food for Everyone IF

Many of our readers will have noticed that the major UK charities have launched a new campaign (Successor to Make Poverty History) aimed at ending global hunger and timed to coincide with the visit of the G8 to the UK this year. Under the title "Enough Food for Everyone IF" it aims to tackle four main areas of need posed by these statements:

IF we give the poorest people the power to feed themselves.

IF we stop corporate tax dodging.

IF we use land for food, not fuel.

IF we force global corporations to play fair.

Operation Agri is already engaged in this process of providing more food as it supports sustainable agriculture, advocacy and empowerment around the world. The most obvious example is our work in Uganda where Paul Kyalimpa is helping to establish clear land ownership rights and encouraging the people to farm their land with the minimum of external inputs, but there are many other projects which we support where a campaign such as this could bring lasting benefit.

If you want to support this global hunger campaign log on to www.enoughfoodif.org or <http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/if> and sign up.

Prayer Points

Please use this page in conjunction with other information in the magazine

Bangladesh

Remember in prayer:

- Angela (Lovely) Mondal the Project Manager of the Duaripara Family Development Project, and Ruth Visick-Evans who oversees the project from UK.
- The girls enrolled in the project – that they will not be under pressure to leave school early and start work. The need for a suitably qualified and experienced person to lead the planned economic development work with parents and siblings of the girls.
- The Director and staff of SHED Board and their work amongst pre-school children. We desire that the children may benefit from this early intervention and go on to be enrolled into mainstream schools.
- The new project just being established in the Rajshahi district of Bangladesh which seeks to improve the lives of tribal women and their families.

Tanzania

Farming Partnerships Initiatives in the area around Karagwe.

- Pray for Paul Kyalimpa giving sustainable agricultural training to the new group of farmers in North West Tanzania; that the teaching he delivers will be well understood and applied.
- Seek God's blessing on the farmers who have been trained as they share with others their new skills. Remember Rev Heavenlight Luoga as he oversees the work of FPI along with all his other responsibilities in and around Karagwe.

Uganda

- Beersheba project in Mbale (Oasis). Through the self help programme many youngsters have been trained in making cakes, candles and liquid soap. Pray for them and the developing mushroom growing project as it moves from demonstration to become a further source of income. The "Tackle Africa" football programme seeks to deliver HIV and AIDS education as well as training in sustainable agriculture to teenage boys.
- Gulu agriculture. Give thanks for the good progress of work amongst farmers and their families in and around Gulu in the north, as they continue to receive training and help from Paul Kyalimpa and his BMS World Mission colleague Alex Vickers.
- SDKF. Pray for the young people in a slum area of Kampala as they train in tailoring and then are given help to establish themselves with their own sewing machines to support their families.
- The next phase of sustainable agricultural training is about to start amongst a new group of farmers in the Nakaseke area. Pray for wisdom in the choice of farmers and for Paul Kyalimpa as he commits to this further use of his time and expertise.

Nepal

- MCDS was recently able to carry through a plan to conduct a two day workshop on budget plan revision and a one day training on orientation for

micro planning and report writing. In this workshop and training there were participants from all MCDS projects and administration side of MCDS. Pray that the activities and outcomes from this gathering will be fruitful as the work progresses and that the Lord will bring encouragement to all concerned.

- MCDS is now planning to take on extra activities in the Rayale district. Pray that the right staff will be found to implement this outreach which includes the construction of new gravity water supply systems, the building of toilets and the installation of domestic biogas plants.

Thailand

- Remember the many farmers who live in the mountains of Northern Thailand. They farm mainly on steep hillsides, endeavouring to grow sufficient food to support their families. We thank God for the help that has been given to these groups as they have been encouraged to grow cash crops like coffee, strawberries and vegetables. Praise God that many people who had been addicted to drugs have been helped and are now living new lives! Pray that their faith will remain strong so that they will not be tempted to return to taking drugs again.

India

- Borivali (Oasis). Give thanks for this partnership project with Oasis India through which OA support a Slum Community Development project in Mumbai. Pray especially for the 25 children who have enrolled in the pre-school programme, and the teachers managing the classes and events.
- WUAC. Pray for the ongoing activities of West Utkal Agriculture Centre in 4 villages surrounding Diptipur in Orissa under the direction of Mihir Sagar. Give thanks for the establishment of farmers clubs and the storage in seed banks of treated rice seed for next season. Give thanks too for new women's self-help groups and those members who have started kitchen-garden plots. Pray that the staff of WUAC will continue to be inspired by the Lord as they work in these needy villages.

Home

- OA will again have a stand at the Baptist Assembly in Blackpool in May. Pray that we may be effective in promoting the work so that God may be glorified as through your giving we seek to improve the quality of life for disadvantaged people around the world. This is one of our key opportunities to promote this year's appeal resources featuring Sri Lanka.
- Pray for Mike and Daveen Wilson as they lead our thinking at the OA Seminar at Blackpool. Their presentation will centre on some of the principles of development that have arisen during their 22 years of service in NE Brazil.



GROWING SKILLS IN SRI LANKA – OUR 2013 APPEAL

This year we will be focussing on the work we support in Sri Lanka. The appeal materials will be available from the beginning of May, and can be ordered from our website or using the order form on p. 7. Please pray for us as we put together the video and other materials.

NEW WAYS TO GIVE

■ **by mobile phone.** We are now able to receive donations via JustTextGiving by texting OPAG12 and the amount to 70070. For example to give £10 text OPAG12 £10 to 70070. JustTextGiving even send us the gift aid from these gifts, when appropriate.

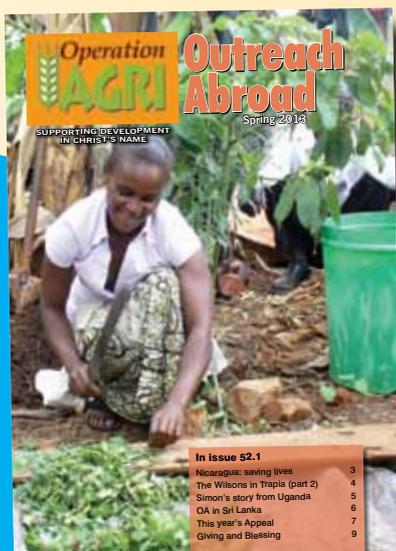


■ **while you shop.** We have now linked into the all4charities shopping website www.all4charities.co.uk. Over 500 retailers are listed, many of them major online stores

and include M&S, Tesco, ASDA, John Lewis, iTunes and Amazon. Register and request that Operation Agri receives a percentage of the value of your purchases. You will not pay any extra for any goods your purchase this way.



■ **in eBay.** People who use eBay can register to have some of the proceeds from the sale of goods given to Operation Agri. Every time a person lists an item for charity, s/he will automatically get a free credit on the insertion and final value fees equal to the percentage that is donated.



Front Cover Photograph: Trainee farmers in Tanzania chopping leaves to make green manure (see 'Positive results from training' on p. 10). Photo: Rev Heavenlight Luoga, FPI, Tanzania.

Operation Agri (charity no. 1069349 and a member of Global Connections) supports rural and urban development projects on three continents, attacking the basic causes of poverty among some of the least fortunate people in the world. Many of the projects are run by churches or organisations in partnership with BMS World Mission.

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