

Outreach Abroad

Supporting rural and urban development projects in Christ's name

Spring 2016



In Nepal, it takes team work to move a drainage pipe to protect a road from erosion.

See this year's appeal on pages 2-3 which includes Nepal

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Operation
AGRI

Help for Health and Harvest

By **Gill Ashley-Smith**

Operation Agri Appeal 2016

Operation Agri's 2016 Appeal and DVD will feature projects on three continents!

NEPAL:

The Nepal Baptist Church MCDS (Multipurpose Community Development Service) has long experience in building water supplies and toilets in mountain villages.

A Baptist church in the plains of south Nepal asked MCDS to help and the team had to adjust to a hotter climate! MCDS helps villages to form community groups to assess their greatest needs. Taps and toilets were not the first priority here, but a major issue was dirt roads being washed away by monsoon rains. The MCDS team provided huge drainage pipes (see the cover picture), and everyone dug and shifted earth to lay pipes under roads and raise the track so water flows underneath. Now children can get to school and people to market, even in the wet season.

NICARAGUA:

AMOS Health and Hope are proud that this year their village Health Promoters report that no women or babies have died in childbirth. They are now concerned to prevent spread of the mosquito-borne ZIKA virus, with the danger of babies with birth defects. There

are few cases here at the time of writing, but they are alerting communities to preventative measures.

UGANDA:

In Musoto, East Uganda, Operation Agri supports community work by the Beersheba centre, linked to Oasis Global. Mothers who care for the children that the centre helps to educate are encouraged to form savings clubs. There are now 16 clubs, each with a constitution and elected leaders, meeting weekly. The women keep their savings in a security box with three padlocks, and keys are held by three leaders. However, they are advised that money in the box is not growing, so the aim is to make one or two loans each meeting, to people who will use it to make a profit and pay back the loan over a period – with interest. Each woman has a book to record her savings, and profits are shared according to the amount saved.

Beersheba's garden is also used to teach women good ways to grow healthy crops. Nambozo Grace used a loan to start growing tomatoes. From her earnings she has now built a better house, compared to the grass thatch one she had before. She is thankful that she can now support the basic needs of her six children.

The pack will be launched in May.



A village Health Clinic in Nicaragua



Nambozo Grace growing tomatoes in Uganda



2016 Operation Agri resource pack

This pack features 3 very different projects where Operation Agri's support is helping to improve health, education and harvests for families in struggling communities.

- In Nicaragua, local people are trained to provide medical care in their own remote villages
- In Nepal, a water project to irrigate fields is resulting in much better harvests
- In Uganda, catch-up classes help children, and saving clubs help mothers pay school fees

The pack includes:

- a DVD with videos, powerpoints and photos

- a Resource Book of ideas for worship, fund-raising and children's activities

Full Pack: DVD, resource book, pair of posters, 25 bookmarks, 25 envelopes <i>(delete items not needed)</i>	Quantity packs
Extra bookmarks (25 per set)	sets
Extra gift envelopes (25 per set)	sets
Extra A2 posters (in pairs)	pairs
Extra resource books	books
Contribution for production cost and postage	£5.00
Donation to Operation Agri	£
(Cheques to 'Operation Agri') TOTAL	£

Post this to:

Operation Agri, 361 Firs Lane,
Palmer's Green, London N13 5LX.

Or order online:

www.operationagri.org.uk

Contact: **Malcolm Drummond,**

Tel: 020 8803 0113

Email: admin@operationagri.org.uk

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

Name

Address

Postcode

Tel

Email

Church

Operation
AGRI

Children's page

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

Last time Oppy was in SRI LANKA

To find out where he has travelled to now rearrange these letters to see where Oppy is this time:

T N N A A A Z I



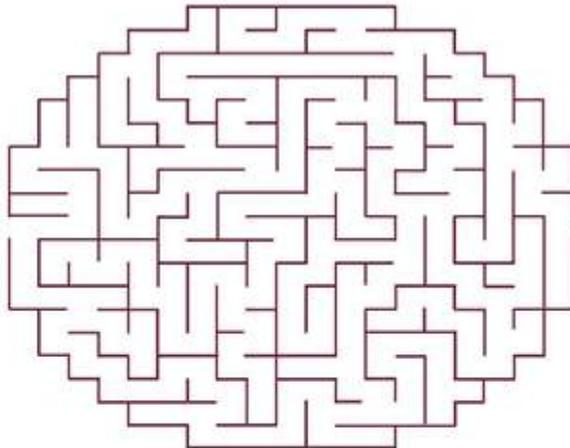
The words to be unscrambled last time were Sustainable, Poverty, Sanitation, Clean, Water, Community, Tank, Education, giving the answer **SRI LANKA**.

Unscramble these tiles to reveal a message about the work Operation Agri is doing in the country where Oppy is this time. One tile has been placed correctly for you.

P S S H I G P M I N A R T F A R N E R

G P

See if you can return the lamb to its mother through the maze.



Youth Page

By the Beales family

– friends of Operation Agri– edited from information published by AMOS.

We are highlighting the work of AMOS this time; a Christian, non-profit organisation dedicated to improving the health of communities in rural Nicaragua. AMOS stands for “A Ministry Of Sharing” and is supported by Operation Agri.

Before looking at some reasons to support AMOS through OA let’s look at the work of one health promoter, Yadira.

Yadira Sevilla does a lot of walking. Health promoters often have to walk several hours just to visit one patient in their home.

A child is sick with pneumonia so ... she walks!

A pregnant woman goes into labour too early so ... she walks!

A newborn has diarrhoea so ... she walks!

A farmer is accidentally cut badly with a machete so ... she walks!

Yadira walks miles because the houses in her rural community are far apart and it can take several hours for patients to travel to the nearest doctor or hospital. The network of community health workers know they have the knowledge and skills to, literally, help save someone’s life.

Throughout the year Yadira meets with pregnant women to teach them about good nutrition, to help them recognize signs of danger so that they can go to the hospital on time, and to plan how they are going to get there! She takes vitamins to anaemic children, cares for wounds caused by machetes or wood burning ovens, and helps arrange emergency transport for patients to the nearest health care facility which can be hours away from where the accidents happen.

This work is not easy for Yadira. As well as serving these communities she also has to provide for and take care of her own family.

Four reasons to support AMOS

Drs. David and Laura Parajón (AMOS Directors) want you to understand how AMOS works hard to ensure that donations are always used responsibly and effectively.

1. Annual external audit

Every year our financial statements undergo an independent external audit to rigorously examine our income and expenses to make sure we use our resources wisely and for their intended purpose. Every year our audit results have been rated satisfactory!



2. Transparency

We love to share with our supporters everything going on in our ministry from saved-life stories to exciting news about our program’s impact, how we are funded, who are our partners, and about our expenses. We do this on Facebook, in our monthly emails, in our annual report, and on our website.

3. A wise and experienced Board of Directors

Our Board is made up of professionals and people of faith from the U.S.A. and Nicaragua who are strong supporters of AMOS and oversee our ministry to ensure the highest standards of accountability and stewardship.

4. You can come see it for yourself!

We love having the opportunity to host and work alongside our donors and supporters in the communities with work with in Nicaragua. You can come visit us as a part of a service team or as a volunteer to witness first-hand how we help local leaders improve the health of their own communities.

Interested? Contact Nigel by email:
editor@operationagri.org.uk

Prayer Points

By **Stan Crees**

Please use this page in conjunction with other material in the magazine.

INDIA – OASIS BORIVALI

Give thanks that the pre-school has helped children's behaviour and that parents recognise the importance of children's education. Praise God for the continued spiritual growth of the community, the active involvement of local churches and some residents coming to faith.

BANGLADESH – OASIS DUARIPARA

Praise God that the centre has brought significant blessings and changes to girls, their families and the community. Give thanks that the girls achieved excellent exams results and 75 girls progressed to high school, college and university. Uphold the work of dedicated staff who take a holistic approach to developing educational, life and vocational skills for the girls. Pray for guidance as the project refocuses on catch up classes and empowering families.

SRI LANKA – LEADS

We thank God for our partners who have supported LEADS, for staff who are committed to walk the extra mile and reflect Christ in the work they are called to do and for many media organisations willing to work with LEADS..

Please pray:

- that submitted proposals will receive a favourable response from donors to meet the needs of communities with pockets of poverty,
- for church relations to be strengthened in our working areas to carry out our mission,
- for special initiatives funding making provision of livelihood support to families, bicycles for children and support for our work in the prevention of child sexual abuse possible,
- for staff and communities who are under threat and protection of staff when travelling,

- for discussions with private sector organisations to bear fruit in their support of LEADS.

NEPAL – MCDS

Political action, which limited the movement of essential goods across the border with India, has officially ended. Pray that supplies will be replenished quickly and available to the people and projects needing them, including OA's Partner MCDS and the many delayed earthquake restoration projects.

Pray for the ongoing work of MCDS as it continues with its two main projects funded by OA and the provision of earthquake recovery assistance.

TANZANIA – FARMING PARTNERSHIPS INITIATIVES

Pray for Rev Heavenlight Luoga, Rev Apolo Anthony and Boazi Kashubi as they celebrate the conclusion of the two year Phase 3 training in sustainable agriculture and as they soon commence Phase 4 with a new group of farmers. Pray for the continued development of their new Training Centre at Rugu.

UGANDA – SETTING DEVELOPMENT KEEPING THE FOUNDATION

Pray for the ongoing work of SDKF training Hairdressers and Tailors in Kampala and providing the means of establishing new businesses. Pray for the work in providing rain water harvesting tanks for primary schools around Kikamulu up country from Kampala, particularly for good construction and effectiveness in serving the needs of the schools receiving them.

UGANDA – SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE FARMING INITIATIVES

Pray for Rev Paul Kyalimpa and the work of SAFI in Kyenjojo district of western Uganda as they attempt to measure development in the area at the start of Phase 2, so that they can more accurately report on the outcomes and successes of the project.

Spotlight on the OA Treasurer

By John Durrant – OA Treasurer

I'm fascinated by the way in which God works in our lives. Through his Spirit he is the inspiration of how we should live our lives; in the opportunities with which we are presented we are then able to demonstrate his love and grace.



EARLY ASSOCIATIONS WITH OA

I've been an Operation Agri partner since 1971; hearing about OA through a men's group at Newbury Baptist Church. Marion, my wife, and I had family links with agriculture and horticulture; we were both concerned about disadvantaged people in the developing world. It was quite natural, therefore, to want to be part of a Christian organisation that was focused on tackling the causes of poverty.

THE BREADTH OF THE ROLE OF TREASURER

Fast forward to 2010 when I saw an advert in an edition of this magazine seeking a treasurer for OA. I had recently retired and felt that God was prompting me to use my work and church experience in such a role. Following a satisfactory interview with Trustees and the support of Bethel Baptist Church, Llantwit Major, to which we had transferred, I took on the position.

The role is not just about keeping a financial record, ensuring that figures balance, carrying

out the decisions of Trustees when making grants, and meeting the requirements of the Charity Commissioners. All these are far outweighed by the experience of having my faith constantly challenged as we experience God's generosity through gifts from many individuals and churches. It is a role also where my faith is broadened as I read of the impact of how our gifts for projects are improving people's lives.

THE CHALLENGE

It is a privilege to be part of the OA team as we discuss the vision for a just world and our role in it. We are committed to being good stewards of the resources with which our partners have entrusted us by modernising our practices to become even more efficient.

During the recession our income has diminished along with that of other charities; regrettably we have had to reduce our overseas grants. It is pleasing to note that there are some signs we are coming out of these difficulties. One ray of light has been the donations from legacies; we are thankful to God for the way in which people have included OA as a beneficiary in their wills.

As I respond to God's leading, I would wish to encourage you, perhaps to become a Trustee or take some other role, and be part of the mission of OA.

Editor's note: *Your challenge ~ Assistant Treasurer?*

God may be calling **you** to the new role of Assistant Treasurer. You will need financial accounting capability and be able to take over, should the need arise, or continue to act as the Assistant Treasurer until a new Treasurer is appointed.

Interested in finding out more? Please email John Durrant: treasurer@operationagri.org.uk

The Projects supported by Operation Agri and some of the people working on the projects.



People serving in Asia with an Operation Agri partner organization.



Nicaragua



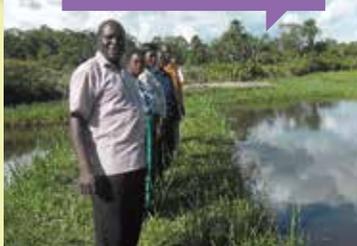
Drs. David and Laura Parajón – AMOS

Uganda



Dennis Ssettaala – SDKF

Uganda



Paul Kyalimpa – SAFI

Uganda



Jon and Charlotte Temple – Beersheba

Afghanistan



Ray Sherrod - RESAP

Bangladesh



Mahananda Bairagee - SHED

Bangladesh



Angela (Lovely) Mondol - Duaripara



India



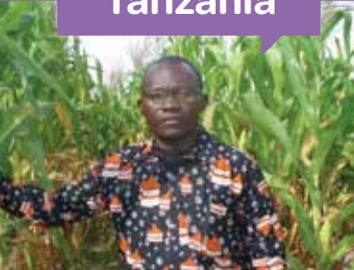
Vishwas Udgirkar - Borivali

Sri Lanka



Roshan Mendis - LEADS

Tanzania



Heavenlight Luoga - FPI

Nepal



Dipak Raj Rai - Nawalparasi & Morang

Map from WorldVue ©2002 Global Mapping International www.gmi.org
Used by permission.

Support Justice for the Disadvantaged

By **John Durrant** – OA Treasurer

What a privilege!

I am in a privileged position to report on the financial aspects of OA's activities. On receipt of OA's grant letter, or the grant itself, our overseas partners express their joy and gratitude for the support that OA provides. However, it is at times when preparing reports that we can remind ourselves that such support is dependent on the donations of individuals and churches.

Regrettably improvements in the UK economy are not being reflected in our income and we are working hard to resolve this situation. We have been prudent during the financial year just ended to ensure that not only will we be able to support a core number of projects but also that this support can be continued during the life of each project.

Information in the pie charts shows:

Income

In comparison with last year:

a) Costs were down for:

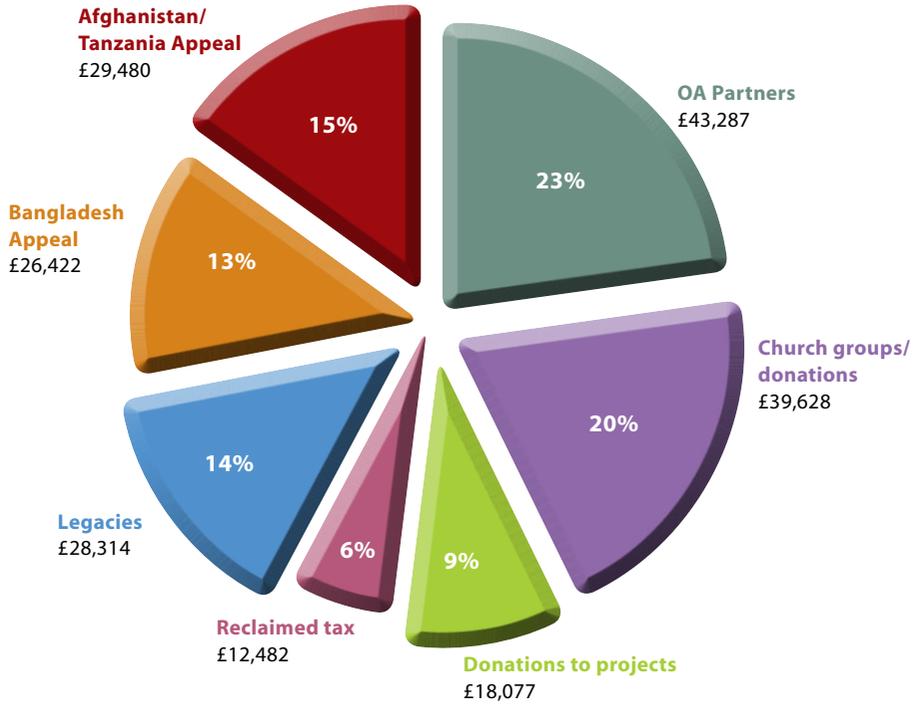
- Grants to projects by £42,834 (this was in line with our budget); however, our expenditure on grants as a percentage of our total expenditure was 74%, up by 3%
- Printing and stationery by £3,000 – partly accounted for by reductions in the production of Outreach Abroad and our use of emails



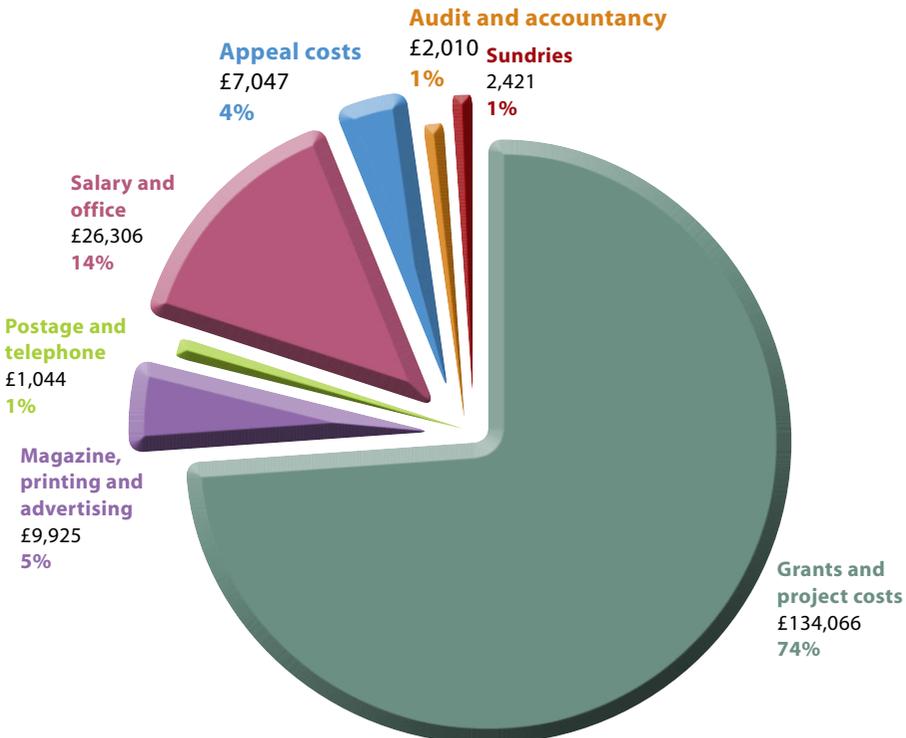
- Support costs – we continue to look for efficient ways of carrying out our functions e.g. audio conferencing resulting in a saving of £1,500 in travel costs, and using volunteers wherever possible
 - Producing our materials for appeals by £10,800; however, most of the costs for the 2016 appeal will fall in the 2016 year
- b) There were no significant increases in expenditure.

We continue to be committed to being as efficient as we can in the way in which we make information about projects available to partners as well as seeking to keep our expenditure down. However, we are not only called upon to be effective stewards of the resources made available to us, we are also called to show solidarity with our compassionate God for justice and to lament before God on behalf of the poor and vulnerable.

Income 2014-15



Expenditure 2014-15



The **BIG** mission question: **JusticeMission** what's that?



By **Steve Sanderson**, BMS Manager for Mission.



World mission is asking itself some probing questions. Mission agencies send people from the west to the rest. That is mission; right? Re-examining the question of what is mission through the lens of justice opens up a new way of living and engaging in God's world;

being a blessing to others and being blessed ourselves.

In the last Outreach Abroad we considered the first two vital truths; here are the remaining two ...

3. MISSION: RESTORING RELATIONSHIPS

God created relationships but they are broken and brutal! Relationships are frequently marked by power imbalances and the rule of 'might' rather than the prominence of 'right'. The Upside-down Kingdom which Jesus describes in Matthew 5 and 6 seeks a fresh paradigm in considering the role of power. How often do followers of Jesus fall silent in the face of systemic injustice? Increasingly BMS recognises that it can serve the most



Launch of the Central African Republic sexual violence report

marginalised and least evangelised by asking systemic questions designed to arrest the abuse of power.

Perhaps the greatest historical injustice has been that of gender relations. Most readers will recognise the Dignity Campaign (<https://www.bmsworldmission.org/dignity>). In 2014-15 BMS challenged the UK church to address the injustice of gender based violence (GBV) in their own congregations. However the systemic advocacy of Dignity went much further. BMS worked closely with the President of the Law Society to seek access to justice for survivors of gender based violence in an era of legal aid cuts in the UK.

Alongside other leading UK Christian agencies, BMS is an advocate within the global movement to end sexual violence in conflict. Gathering the voices of survivors of rape as a weapon of war in countries such as the Central African Republic is critical. They all serve as examples of the Dignity Campaign's commitment to systemic advocacy. Justice mission is both incarnation and proclamation. In serving the lost, we should be found with boots deep in the reeking muck of an African slum but also with boots polished in the corridors of institutional power.

4.MISSION: CLIMATE CHANGE

God declared His creation 'good', but el Nino related rains have washed away my house and my crops! Justice mission cannot ignore the environment in which people live. Man-made Climate Change (and its effects on extreme weather) is a profound injustice precisely because it impacts the most vulnerable disproportionately. Undoubtedly vulnerable Americans suffered badly during Hurricane Sandy in the Atlantic north east of the USA. As the recovery began, real estate tycoons built beachside houses with storm proof materials and even inserted (so called) 'submarine rooms'. Stephen Kliegerman of Halstead Properties told the New York Times, "I think that buyers would happily pay to be relatively reassured that they wouldn't



be terribly inconvenienced in the case of a natural disaster."

A few days later, unpredictably heavy monsoons flooded Burma. Several thousands of people lost their homes and livelihoods, and many hundreds died. Strict urban planning laws meant that they were forced to live on crowded flood plains, marginal city swamp areas or coastal estuaries in low grade bamboo housing. As the global poor, they were, by contrast, 'terribly inconvenienced by a natural disaster'.

Better disaster relief and resilience is one answer. However, justice mission may start much closer to home than we think. For example, can Christians be bold financial investors in low carbon energy production? How can we engage the global Church in reproductive health rights as growing global population figures create greater carbon consumption? How will we hold governments to account on the targets they set at the COP21 (21st Session of the Conference of the Parties)? Write to your MP, write to the Prime Minister, engage in media debates, ask awkward questions and translate convictions into votes!

The list could go on. So much challenge still lies ahead in this brave new (polluted) world of justice mission.

Steve Sanderson is a follower of Jesus, husband to Caroline, father of three young children and convenor of the OA/ BMS Development Committee.

The aftermath of the earthquake

By **Marisa Rawlins** – OA Trustee

DEATH AND DESTRUCTION

In the aftermath of the 2015 earthquake in Nepal the devastation and destruction was beyond what any similar country could sustain. As the images emerged on television and social media, the impact in terms of loss of lives, livelihoods, destruction of heritage sites, and centuries old buildings was indescribable. Reports state that over 8,500 Nepalese died and an estimated 2.5 million people have been displaced.

Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the world and the damage caused by the earthquake is estimated to cost over \$10billion. At Operation Agri we had planned to feature Nepal in the 2016 appeal and when the earthquake struck this became a more critical objective.

As the country began rebuilding, a long overdue new constitution was being adopted by traditional parties and the Maoists in September 2015. The country is now a secular federation of seven states. Unhappy with their status, ethnic and religious groups say their concerns over how state borders were defined were ignored. They want more states, including ethnically based ones, bigger territory for larger groups and more seats for ethnic minorities in parliament and government. Discord was especially intense in the Terai - Nepal's southern lowland strip bordering India, with indigenous groups objecting to being split in two and sharing their province with hill districts that may dominate them.

A NEW HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

It was unimaginable to think of a worse situation but a new humanitarian crisis was

brewing in the form of a fuel blockade. Groups including the Madhesis began protests against Kathmandu. Day to day life, shops and businesses were being crippled, people cut down firewood for cooking, with the effects of the blockade becoming worse than those of the earthquake.

People queued for miles for petrol. Buses were overloaded. Rising prices added to the despair. BMS Partners in Nepal said, "running out of cooking gas is an issue with some households and some restaurants closed. People are using firewood and electric cookers; any way they can to cook daily". Locals were hoping that tourism would pick up as this was peak season but travellers were, once again, put off from going to Nepal.

FILMING FOR THE 2016 APPEAL HAD TO BE CANCELLED

Operation Agri trustees monitored the situation closely with our partners. The camera crew had no fuel, but Dipak, Executive Director at MCDS, advised they were conserving fuel for the trip. After much prayer and thought - the visit would be an unacceptable additional burden to our partners who were already unable to carry out their work with vulnerable projects. Finally, because of safety issues in the Nawalparasi area where CHEST works, we postponed the trip; with heavy hearts.

Thankfully the four month blockade was lifted in February allowing trucks to enter Nepal carrying fuel and essential supplies.

Though Nepal is not now the single focus of the 2016 appeal, 'Help for Health and Harvest', we will be crossing continents with projects from Nepal, Nicaragua and Uganda.

i nformation



READY, WILLING AND ABLE?

Your skills and time needed

Theo makes pens and pencils from recycled wood.

What hobby do you have which could help to provide schooling, medicine or life skills?

Gardening, photography, picture framing, **SEWING**, **KNITTING**, **GREETINGS CARDS**, afternoon tea, event organising, second-hand books or painting



Please contact the editor with your ideas:
editor@operationagri.org.uk

THE HOME FRONT

This year's appeal will be launched at the Baptist Assembly in May. Pray that all the materials will come together smoothly and that many churches will make use of them.

Give thanks that last year's accounts were rapidly given the OK by the independent examiners, and thanks for all the work of our treasurer, John Durrant, looking after our finances, assisted by Malcolm Drummond, administrator.

Many of our meetings are now internet conference calls so our annual travel costs have been slashed, and it's now feasible to hold more frequent shorter meetings. Give thanks for God's provision of this technology, may we make best use of it in his service.

ILID PUTNAM

We're sorry to record that Ilid Putnam, wife of Michael, died in January shortly after they had celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary. One of the founders of Operation Agri BMM, Michael was treasurer for many years and is still a Trustee. Our prayers and best wishes are with Michael.

OA – AGM

This year's AGM will be held at Baptist House, 129 Broadway, Didcot OX11 8XD on Thursday 16th June. The AGM will commence at 3.30pm. All supporters of OA will be welcome to attend.

GRANTS

Oasis Beersheba: We anticipate supporting a new proposal with £8,000 this year.

AMOS Nicaragua: A grant of £6,500 has been provided for AMOS health work in Nicaragua.

MCDS Nepal: We are supporting two large projects in Nepal this year with around £18,000 each. A further £5,000 is being provided to re-build toilets damaged during the 2015 earthquake.

Need a really great anniversary present?

Contact Theo Lambourne –
OA Trustee:
Theo.Lambourne@btinternet.com



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

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)

giftaid it

Signature Date

Email address

Please let us know if your address or circumstances change.

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.'

Operation Agri BMM is registered in England and Wales as a charity, no. 1069349. Tel. 020 8803 0113.