

The Gambia Partnership

Supporting Gospel work in the Gambia

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2021

BAFO'S FARM PROJECT - one of the charity's micro enterprise projects

Progress to Date:

- Farm land purchased in the charity's name to be rented to Bafo
- Land has been cleared, ready for planting
- Local experts have volunteered to lend advice
- Appropriate materials to fence the land have been identified

Next Steps:

- Purchase the material for fencing when restrictions allow
- Erect the fence, and
- Plant a varied crop of complementary fruit and veg



Bafo is a long term friend of the charity, one of the first people we met in 2004. He is a fisherman who sleeps on the beach, it is hoped this project will allow him to build a life, get married and have a family whilst making a living working hard and repaying the loan in order that others may benefit.

We want to thank all those first and foremost who have prayed and supported The Gambia Partnership through the last year, the work which we do is a service but it wouldn't be possible without the spiritual and physical support from every individual who has done so.

Thank you!

2020 has been a difficult year for everyone worldwide. We were unable to travel to The Gambia and although this has been a source of frustration it has also reminded us what the word says in Isaiah 55: 9;

“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts”

We have had to rely more on our contacts in The Gambia who work with us in seeking to advance the gospel, perhaps there's greater purpose in us being 'hands off', time will tell.

The work has been curtailed due to COVID, The Gambia has also been hit although thankfully it has not suffered greatly with only 123 recorded deaths to date. At times like these we are reminded how fragile the country is, earlier in the year there were concerns when the rain was late and the crops were failing, there really is a fine survival line there. In the rural areas many people have their own gardens where they grow fruit and vegetables, some for themselves and others to sell at market to purchase other necessities. Whilst these gardens are a lifeline, if ever the crops failed this would be catastrophic for the masses.

Whilst we do what we can to support and encourage individuals in their gardens and other practical projects, we are always reminded to avoid creating dependence which is an easy trap to fall into.

KWATTSWAP PROVIDE CLEAN, GREEN ENERGY IN THE FORM OF SOLAR KITS TO COMMUNITIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITHIN AFRICA.



WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?



- LONGER LIFE EXPECTANCY
(DUE TO NO LONGER BREATHING HARMFUL CHEMICALS FROM KEROSENE LAMPS)



- INCREASE IN JOB OPPORTUNITIES



- EDUCATION
(CHILDREN ARE ABLE TO DO HOMEWORK AT NIGHT)

- POWER FOR HOSPITALS & MEDICAL OUTREACH CLINICS WITH MOBILE POWER UNITS

With a donation towards 'The Watt Drive', you'll be helping KwattSwap in their mission to provide these schools with their new renewable power source as they will use the funds raised through donations to send a battery pack system to both schools in Africa. KwattSwap strive to 'swap' dirty energy for clean energy globally.

The Gambia Partnership will be one of the beneficiaries of the funds raised, visit the website at :

<https://kwattswap.org/the-watt-drive/>

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

In our absence from The Gambia physically, we are always keen to ensure there is a ongoing ministry. Very often there is an attitude that 'The Scottish will do it'. We are trying to get away from this attitude and one of the means for this is in employing an evangelist.

Our current evangelist is Alex Manga, a Gambian national who has been working with us now for around 6 months. Alex is employed full time and spends 2-3 days a week in Kabakel village as well as a day ministering in his local village with one day for studying.

Through door to door visitation and a weekly bible study he opens the scriptures with everyone where the opportunity presents itself.

We are going to focus on building up the body of believers in the village in the hope that an organic church will grow with leadership from within. The difficulty we have found is the mixing of faith with local or traditional religion such as Ju Ju or what we would call the dark arts. There is a clear power there and has a strong hold throughout the Gambia with charms and bracelets worn to ward off evil spirits.

The message is to trust solely in Christ. Whilst we hope for radical transformation and sometimes wonder why we don't see more light as a result of the word going out, we recognise the need to be faithful and to have faith. As the word says in Matthew 21:22; And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith."

We are looking for further opportunities to share the gospel and have made tentative links with a bible training school known as **Servants of the Word** which is a Christian College dedicated to serving the church by training gospel workers in disciple-making and expository preaching.



Please pray for Alex, his co-workers and his family that they would be blessed, encouraged and obedient to the Holy Spirit. Pray for the word to

impact lives and for us to be guided by the spirit as we seek to be obedient in the work.

The school was closed for a large part of the last academic year due to the pandemic. Please pray for the management and staff that they would manage to bring the pupils up to the necessary levels.

As the new term started in October 2020 the grade 5 pupils moved up to grade 6 which meant that we had to employ a new teacher. Due to the pandemic however and operating under the government guidelines, we have had to employ 3 new teachers in total due to the fact that the school is having to operate in a morning and afternoon shift to ensure social distancing is possible. This brings us to a total of 18 salaries which the charity has to pay each month, please pray that provision continues in order that we can maintain the payments and also work towards self-sufficiency.



This is a picture of the new kitchen which was built by the local community without any external support or assistance for the school. This is a great encouragement and a great step forward in the Gambians beginning to invest in their children's education and an indication of a change in mindset that they can achieve things themselves.



A further exciting development has been the donation to the school of a state of the art plug and play solar power system from www.zhyphen.com which will allow us to run evening classes for adults, install an IT suite and open up further development opportunities within the village. The system has been sent by freight and should now be in the country, please pray for wisdom in making the most of this opportunity.

The Shop



The Gospel, it is our mission, all of us as Christians, to share the Gospel and point people to Jesus.

We cannot achieve this through the work which we have been called to do without financial support.

Due to the pandemic fundraising options have been very limited but we are thankful that the shop is once again open and has been a huge blessing in providing the core funds for the ongoing work.

Please remember us if you have any old items you no longer require, there is an incredible turnover in stock with the shop on a weekly basis and we need to keep the stock fresh to ensure the customers keep coming!

The child sponsorship programme also supports the wider work of the school with a percentage of costs from each funded place assisting others for whom there is no funding. We allocate any spare funds from each sponsored child to the core costs of the school meaning the children will receive a meal at lunchtime, perhaps their only meal of the day. These funds also assist with towards the general running costs of the school and allow us to plan ahead and develop the school resources.

We are truly grateful for all of you who support a child, please continue to pray for them and their families for salvation. The addition of the school kitchen means that we will be able to provide for the children one good meal each day, some of those who attend are not guaranteed to receive this from home.

Please join us in prayer for the following:

- **God's hand to be on the work, leading and directing us**
- **Understanding on how to support those in the village who call themselves Christians but who are not solely looking to Christ**
- **The evangelistic outreach and the Evangelist's work**
- **Wisdom and guidance on how to utilise funds**
- **The sustainability of the school**
- **Effective training of teachers to use the new curriculum**
- **Guidance for new opportunities**
- **For more Christian teachers to be provided for the school**
- **Pray for Bafo, that he would be saved**
- **For Lamin (the village chief's son) to come to faith**
- **For effective discipleship within the village**



Get Involved

For more information, please check out the website:



SHOP / DONATE / VOLUNTEER

7-9 CHURCH STREET, STORNOWAY

You can also sponsor a child through school at our school in Kaba-
kel. The cost is £10 per month and you will receive termly reports,
pictures and letters as well as the occasional video where possible, a
tangible link to help you know you are making a difference.

Contact us:

Jonathan 07415847869

Scott 07900302041

Email: info@thegambiapartnership.co.uk