

New trustees

After four years' service bro Roger and sis Cynthia Miles have stood down. We thank them for their service to CMaD. In the last few months we have appointed bro Trevor Routledge (Knowle and Dorridge) as Compliance Director, bro Luke Whitehorn (Maidenhead) to lead on Marketing and bro Phil and sis Kate Lawrence (Nottingham Jarvis Avenue) to liaise with projects in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Gambia. We look forward to their input in this important work.

May We Eat 2015

After the success of 2014, we're delighted to inform you that we will be running May We Eat 2015! May We Eat 2014 raised just over £30,000 – so now we have a target to hit! May 2015 will be a month of special fundraising focused on our long term projects in Africa. Let us know your thoughts and ideas!



Finance 2014

Stuart Barrett

The year has been something of a rollercoaster for CMaD in terms of income and we thank our Father and you for the support to the Fund. Despite a very uncertain start over the early months of 2014 we have been truly blessed with a total income of circa £960,000. This secured our funding of long term projects for 2015 and has given us a sound start to building reserves to support those projects in 2016. We start 2015 with around £176,000 in reserve and this reflects about 3 months of our income need for next year.

In figure 1 you will see how every pound was spent and we are particularly pleased to be able to report that expenses incurred in running the Fund (i.e. meeting governance, monitoring and publicity costs) were just 3% of our total income.

We spent circa £796,000 across a variety of projects, many of which we have highlighted in the pages of recent newsletters. Every pound spent went to support really meaningful projects that helped individuals across Africa, as well as in the Middle East and in Eastern Europe. Figure 2 demonstrates the key areas that our projects supported.

The above figures are subject to audit. If final audited accounts are required or if anyone would like to know more about the finances then please contact Bro Stuart Barrett by email: stuart@meal-a-day.org

Fig. 1
How every £ received has been used in 2014

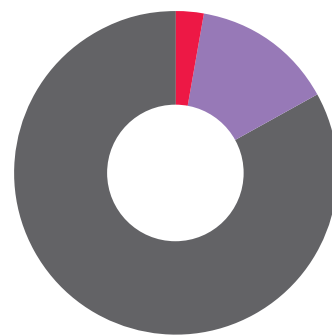
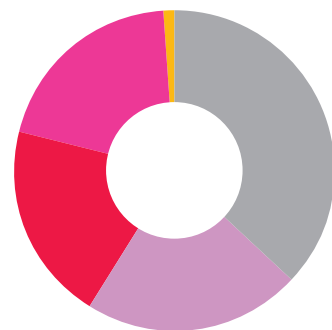


Fig. 2
How we spent the grant monies of £796,000 per £1



- £0.37 Homes & Orphanages
- £0.22 Medical & Hygiene
- £0.20 Feeding & Water
- £0.20 Education & Schools
- £0.01 Self help & Training

Ebola update: Sierra Leone and Liberia

Gordon Dawes

We can say with confidence that God has wrought a miracle in West Africa. While there has been great suffering under the ebola threat, and many have died, all the children in our projects, all the staff, and all our church members have been safe.

CMaD encouraged and funded actions to minimise the threat to health, and has shouldered the cost to the projects of the +20% increase in food prices that resulted.

We thank our Lord for this answer to many prayers and continue to pray for all the communities and families that have been affected.



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MEAL A DAY

Spring
2015

www.meal-a-day.org

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Welcome to our Spring 2015 newsletter.

Spring cleaning, Uganda

Melanie Ford

We take water for granted. We turn on the tap and out comes clean, safe water that we use to clean our cars and water our gardens. In much of the world millions of people still drink polluted, disease-ridden water that they may have walked several miles to collect.

In the Kapwatai area of Uganda villagers were collecting water from contaminated springs - see the picture - where rats and toads swam. The water had to be scooped into a jerry can. John Mathias (CBM Uganda Linkman) asked CMaD to fund the refurbishment of 2 springs.

A concrete base and 3 walls were constructed and the spring was piped into this structure

to prevent contamination as it surfaced. The work was completed amazingly quickly, mainly due to the enthusiasm of the villagers. Now 400 people visit each spring twice a day and collect 4 jerry cans each visit.

John reports:

"It was wonderful to witness the joy of the community as they, for the first time, were able to use a clean water supply. The amount of water that

Proverbs 3 v 27 (NIV)

"Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act. Do not say to your neighbour, 'Come back later; I'll give it tomorrow' – when you now have it with you"

flows is incredible in such a dry land, and everyone was so enthusiastic that this was exactly what the community needed – no parts to wear out, no damage could be done, just pure water from a spring! The community had collected some of the funds themselves, to demonstrate their desire to have safe water".



Water source before and after improvements

I am no longer a nobody...

Mbengwi, Cameroon

Annabel East

An interview with Peter about his experiences at the Mbengwi Centre for the Blind and Disabled.

Peter, what was life like for you before you came to the Centre?

Life was difficult. I was born with my feet turned upside down and backwards. I could move around but not the same as other people. I couldn't stand among other people. They didn't look at me as somebody. They looked at me as being less worthy.

In the family home I was treated differently to the others. I would be sent out of the house and sit alone in the yard. I didn't go to school. My parents used what little money they had on schooling for my brothers and sisters. I often asked to go too, but there was no money.

I was told that God doesn't create people like me unless they were to be bad. I grew up believing that God knew I was a bad child. I know very differently now. My mother sent me to live with my Grandmother. It was she who

heard of the Centre and took me to Mbengwi when I was 15 years old.

What were the best bits of being at the Centre?

Coming to Mbengwi changed my life. I can now walk properly. I can now be looked upon the same as everybody else. I no longer have a deformity. I am no longer a nobody. I was looked after well. I was fed good food and I had a bed all to myself. I went to the primary school at Mbengwi with the children from the area. I also gained vocational skills. My best part was to learn some building skills. I really enjoyed working with the Manager to make the walls for the flower beds around the Centre. I became a somebody.

What is life like for you since you left the Centre?

When I returned to my village, people were happy to see me and they appreciated what had been done for me. I can now stand among other people. I can trek from the village to places I need to get to. I could not do that before. I am now seen to be somebody by

my uncle and he gave me a room to sleep and food. We talk together and I have worked with him and learnt skills like plumbing, wiring, building and plastering. I can work hard now I'm fully fit. He gives me some small money too. I have a small job. I have a future.

What would you be doing if you had not come to the Centre?

I would be in the village helping to produce palm oil from my father's palm trees. There might have been some small money but it would have been very hard. My father and my grandmother have died now, and my family have since sold the land with the palm trees.

What are your plans for the future?

I will need to work hard, it may still even be difficult, but I can see a way for me now. I hope to be married one day, but not yet.

Peter



Mbengwi centre

Mbengwi Key Facts:

The Mbengwi Centre is one of CMA's longest running projects. It was started by the CBM in the late 1980's, with CMA's support. Since 2009 CMA has provided 100% of the funding.

The centre is overseen by a Board of Governors made up of local Christadelphians and community members with skills to support the children's welfare. Mbengwi is a beacon of hope to children who have crippling disabilities and cares for them through life-changing operations and rehabilitation.

Children attending: 60

Annual cost: £53,365

Cost per child: £889 per year

Limb correction operations:
15 – 18 per year

Days open: 300 per year

Meals provided: 54,000 per year



Mbengwi children