

Franciscan Aid: Newsletter Summer 2018



Welcome to the latest Franciscan Aid newsletter, keeping you informed about our work with the world's poorest communities.

Keeping in touch

Apologies for the length of time it has taken to produce this newsletter. Ideally there should be two newsletters a year but this is the first one since Summer 2017. If you did not receive that issue, and would like to, please contact Richenda (richenda@ymail.com) and let her know. She will be happy to email you a copy, along with any missing back issues.

Because there have been some problems with getting our newsletters out to all Tertiaries, we are now welcoming requests from individuals wishing to be added to a dedicated mailing list. However, we will also continue to send copies to all convenors and JPIC reps.

Treating burns in Tanzania

At our first meeting in 2018, we received a request from the Kilimatinde Hospital Trust in Tanzania for a grant to help to build and equip a specialised burns unit. This project is being overseen by a Jill Barrett, British nurse with experience in treating burn-injured patients. Jill is second from left in the photo below.



Kilimatinde Hospital already sees plenty of burn injuries, but the care it is able to provide is basic. Patients needing referral must travel for more than ten hours at present.

The Trustees were able to make a grant of £4000, and the Kilimatinde Burns Unit is scheduled to open in November this year.

Peter Cannings: an appreciation By Averil Swanton

The reason why the level of donations to Franciscan Aid has increased substantially in recent years is due to the enthusiasm and commitment of Peter Cannings (a Trustee from 2011 and Chair from 2014–2017). Peter was an indefatigable visitor to the Areas to publicise the work of Franciscan Aid and produced an attractive and informative presentation, which still provides a basis for talks given by other Trustees.

Not only did Peter chair Franciscan Aid meetings with care and efficiency, he also visited projects to which we had sent grants. With his wife, Jill, he visited the St Francis Outreach project in Masiphumelele in South Africa, which has set up two houses for children who have been abused, abandoned or affected by AIDS. The children are housed in two modern houses with a housemother to look after six or so of them and Franciscan Aid has financed the buying of materials and teaching aids, and also some extra tuition so that the children benefit from going to school.

Another project close to Peter's heart was the work in Bethlehem, which he visited on several occasions and took a keen interest in the provision of hearing aids and other much needed equipment for the children.

Peter's efficiency enabled the Board to keep a careful eye on the grants given by devising a table which listed the grants given, noting if we had given to a particular group before, how much was currently available, along with recommendations about the level of grant we could allocate. This meant that although in the latter months of his term of office he was not able to be with us, because of the treatment he was undergoing, we could still appreciate his input. He will be sorely missed, but his shining faith and commitment to Franciscan Aid will be an ongoing example to us all.

Peter died in September 2017. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Visiting projects

We are always delighted to receive reports from Tertiaries who have been able to visit specific projects. If you are likely to be travelling in any of the countries where we might be supporting schools, clinics or other initiatives, please do contact Richenda at richenda@ymail.com in the first instance. If it is possible to put you in touch with someone working on the ground, she will be happy to do so.

Giving for water

We do have many requests for funding and sadly we cannot meet them all. Recently we have been asked for larger sums – sometimes we give a portion of this secure in the knowledge that the group applying will also be approaching other bodies. Where we have particular difficulty is when we are approached by an institution which has no other relationship with a funding body, but we cannot give the full amount requested. One such is a school in Uganda which has asked for £8,000 to fund the installation of a water bore hole. Unfortunately, we were able only to make a grant of £1,500. This was used to fund a water collection and storage tank – short term solution only.

At Roland's request an engineer will be doing an assessment of the site and giving a professional estimate of the true cost of a water bore hole. We think it might actually be nearer £10,000.

Because meeting this cost in full is likely to be beyond the capacity of Franciscan Aid, we are asking whether anyone reading this belongs to a church with a history of raising funds for nominated causes – and if so whether they might be interested in talking to Roland about trying to raise the necessary funds from local church members? You can contact Roland at rer10@cam.ac.uk

Making a difference anywhere

At the Trustees' meeting in June, we looked at applications from Asia, Africa and South America – as well as a request for funding for working with refugees in Yorkshire. For example, we were able to give a grant for palliative care equipment to a hospital in Kenya, financial help towards refurbishing toilets and other facilities at a community centre in a poor suburb in Brazil, and supply the money for teaching aids for a school for children with disabilities in Sri Lanka. At every meeting we could give at least twice as much as we do if we had sufficient funds – so do keep Franciscan Aid in mind when thinking about where to donate. Our overheads are very small, every request must have a Franciscan sponsor, and every gift is carefully monitored to ensure it goes to the right place and is used for the purpose for which it is given.

Getting to know you

If you would like a representative from Franciscan Aid to come and talk to your local group or area, please contact Richenda at richenda@ymail.com. This Francistide, Richenda will be visiting Norwich and Roland will be in Lincoln. We would be delighted to travel elsewhere too.

Franciscan Aid website

The Franciscan Aid page is now part of the main TSSF website. You can access it at: <http://tssf.org.uk/about/franciscan-aid/> You will also be able to download back issues of this newsletter from the site.

Please pray

For all the projects and initiatives mentioned in this newsletter, and for the Trustees who have to decide how to respond to all requests.
