

This edition of BREAD news focuses on how your support to BREAD has helped people by developing key new facilities at the Hospital, the orphanage and the Lay Training Centre – each one a vital part of life in this rural part of Tanzania.

We hear from Noj Northway and Ute Klatt. Noj leads the hospital management team and Ute runs the orphanage. Ute has sent a report which outlines recent initiatives and challenges us with more ideas for development.

**Fact File:**

- 1. Berega's one hospital has three wards, three operating theatres and an outreach team working in the wider community. These resources serve the outlying population, estimated at 200,000 people.**
- 2. Berega Hospital, the Orphanage, Lay Training Centre and St Mary's Church are all ministries of the Anglican Church, Diocese of Morogoro, Tanzania.**
- 3. BREAD currently has no paid staff. Trustees serve on a voluntary basis so your donations are used more effectively to fulfil the aims and objectives of BREAD.**

After a few months in the UK followed by study time in Kenya, Noj and Mary Northway are set to return to Berega with their family in December. While they have been away much has gone on to continue the patterns of progress they have helped to establish.

**New Surgical Operating Theatres**

50 years ago, when the operating theatre at Berega Hospital opened it was a major step forward in the provision of healthcare for people living in the area. It was then a modern facility in a remote, "bush hospital", but that was 50 years ago. Although medicine has moved on a great deal since then, the original operating theatre hadn't! When he saw photos, a doctor who had worked at Berega in the 1950's commented, "Apart from a lick of paint, very little had changed"

Plenty of stories illustrated the priority for refurbishment.

"One night while a caesarean section was being performed, a mouse nest fell from a hole in the rotting ceiling boards into the wound" Amazingly the women (and baby!) made a complete recovery!

Doctors operating at night 'frequently did so by head torch because of poor lighting'.

And it was usual practice for a theatre nurse to be armed with a fly swat. "Her job was to prevent creatures that flew in through the inadequately screened windows from entering the patient (or annoying the surgeon).

With only one sterile theatre, there were often dangerous waits for one patient while another was being operated on. With changes and increases in theatre use, it became obvious that the design of the old building was no longer satisfactory. What was needed was a major overhaul and extension.

Now, thanks to BREAD supporters these distressing stories are a thing of the past. Considerable logistical hurdles had to be overcome as people did not stop needing operations whilst the work was being done, but building works began in 2003. Funding was granted from BREAD as well as from partners in Australia and the Tanzanian Government.

Completion of Phase 1 in 2004 provided a new operating theatre and sterilizing unit. The official opening of this brand new facility coincided with a visit by a BREAD trustee. Catriona Sanderson witnessed at first hand the obvious delight of the staff and the stark contrast between the new theatre and the old one.

Once the new theatre was available for use, Phase 2 began a few weeks later. The old theatre was gutted and completely refurbished. The final phase converted the minor theatre to the same standard of finish as the two major theatres. Each theatre now has its own changing room with an area for scrubbing-up and a sluice room for cleaning instruments before sterilising. The new facilities have better lighting and are easier to keep clean.

With the second major theatre, patients no longer have to face unnecessary waits for their surgery and emergency surgery no longer interrupts routine surgical work. As well as contributing towards the cost of construction, BREAD has provided theatre lights and a new electric autoclave. And, by sponsoring staff training, BREAD is ensuring that the best use can be made of the new buildings and equipment.

This all adds up to a big step forward in the quantity and quality of care that is available to patients, who remain, as much as ever, dependent on the facilities of this remote bush hospital.

*Our New Trustee: Giles Ripley joined the Trustees in November 2004. His keen interest in the work started in 2002 with a four month visit to Berega during which time he worked closely with Noj and the Hospital Management team to introduce improved financial controls and systems. We are delighted that Giles has agreed to be Treasurer and assist with accurate recording and forecasting of all BREAD's financial transactions.*

BREAD supporters have enabled us to pledge or fund several significant projects. All requests to BREAD are made from Berega and then we monitor progress carefully to ensure the money is used where it is needed. Since newsletter 2, among other things we have been able to agree funding for the following.

1. Emergency food supplies: £2619 paid to enable purchase of emergency supplies during the severe famine in 2004. This was distributed by lay pastors and helped the community through extremely tough times.
2. Hospital Improvements; £25,364 paid for the extension and renovations described previously – new operating tables, lighting and specialist equipment.
3. Orphanage works: £1992 paid to convert a disused outbuilding to a classroom for the training of bintis.
4. X-Ray and Ultrasound equipment: We have pledged £7500 to part fund new equipment and training for use of the equipment being offered to the hospital from other sources. This will greatly assist patient diagnoses.
5. HIV Voluntary Counselling Centre: £2400 has been paid for materials and labour to build this facility. Further amounts will be pledged for books and training resources.
6. Guest and Staff Accommodation: £2600 paid to build staff houses for midwives and accommodation for visitors bringing practical support to the village.
7. Training Courses. We have agreed to pay costs between £500-£1000 to provide professional training and develop Tanzanian people to work in Berega. This kind of commitment is fully repaid through services received in Berega.

**The Orphanage:** We reported before on the plan to start a binti scheme. This is where a young girl – usually related to the baby- comes to live at the orphanage and cares for “their” baby for the few years they are there. Whilst at the orphanage the binti learns some basic childcare skills. Ute Klatt reports...

“The scheme is progressing very well with eight bintis at the orphanage last year. There is space for around twelve. Two children at the orphanage were able to return to their families within their first year due to the extra care and attention they received from the first bintis. The bintis currently receive two lessons a week in between their other tasks. They are either taught by a Berega hospital nurse or by trained orphanage staff and include: HIV and AIDS awareness, personal hygiene, nursing of new born babies, childcare and child development, basic medical knowledge, household management and good nutrition. In African culture, play is considered to be only for very young children, so the bintis are taught this important skill and how to pass it on to their babies.

Apart from their lessons the bintis help with the cleaning, washing, cooking, and childcare of their baby, playing with the children and planting crops for harvest in the fields. These are all everyday tasks for African women so the scheme provides a great environment and learning opportunity for the young girls.

The Binti Scheme offers many advantages:

- The children have a primary carer which makes their time in the orphanage far more like normal life.
- In Africa, institutionalised children are often slower to develop – the binti scheme greatly reduces this.
- Reintegration into the extended family is much better as the child already knows the binti (probably an aunt, sister or cousin).
- The bintis build up a good basic education that they can use within the home and some of them also learn to read and write whilst at the orphanage.

The classroom conversion was funded by BREAD with Alan Flawn’s kind donation from the estate of his mother Daisy. An official opening ceremony (probably in December) will coincide with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of both the orphanage and the diocese. A plaque will be unveiled in memory of Daisy Flawn.

BREAD has also helped to pay for mattresses, mosquito nets and the conversion of part of the outbuilding into an office. Ute no longer has to use a room in her home. With Ute, we thank you for the support you have provided to the orphanage both in monetary terms and by your prayers. The orphanage continues to provide a safe environment for the orphans during the early vulnerable years of their lives.

The next big project is to rewire and install new solar panels to replace the orphanage’s 20 year old system. Quotes for this work are being obtained and if you would like to support this project, please get in touch.