



November 2017

Dear BREAD supporters,

Here is the news from Berega following visits by two of the Trustees and three supporters in September and October this year; and the Trustees' meeting after their return. We begin with news of the Hospital, as we are conscious that this is very much at the hub of all that happens in the village:

THE HOSPITAL



Hospital Staff salaries

As you'll know from our previous Newsletters the Government have not been paying 30 out of the 40 trained staff salaries for the last 3½ years and the situation is now critical. All the other 109 church hospitals are in the same situation.

Until now Isaac Mgego, the Director of the hospital, has been using money from various donors and charities to pay the salaries not being paid by the Government but these sources are now all exhausted and so no salaries have been paid since July of this year. Isaac gives staff small

advances according to their needs, but these are fairly minimal. The situation is very fraught and de-motivating for staff, and the Government's plans are changing from week to week.

All 29 Diocesan Bishops are about to visit the President to discuss this very serious situation, so please pray about this meeting.

Patients at the hospital

Whilst we were there we saw the numbers of patients increasing, which is good news, as earlier in the year there was a marked decrease in the numbers, probably due to difficulties at the hospital and the poor harvest at the beginning of this year. Radical changes to how health care are taking place, with a new insurance scheme which should in the long run result in more patients accessing the hospital again.

Please pray that this new Community Health Fund can be viable and benefit the poorest people.

BREAD help to the hospital

There is a limited amount that a small charity like BREAD can do to help with salaries. However, any increase in patients will need additional money to build up the stock of drugs and lab supplies, so BREAD has sent TSh 10m for drugs, and TSh 2m for lab supplies (£1 = approx. TSh 3,000). We have also given Isaac TSh 3m of cash to help with advance payments to staff. The Trustees have agreed that we will send further money for medicines when needed.

The New Neonatal Unit

The new Neonatal Unit in the refurbished Ward 4, has been busy with 67 admissions last year and premature babies are benefitting from new equipment called a Baby CPAP machine fundraised for by staff and pupils at Nottingham High School and St Michael's Bramcote,

Nottingham. David worked closely with the staff during the two months he and Anne were in Berega recently. Here's a photo of a baby being treated using the baby CPAP machine



THE SCHOOL OF NURSING AT BEREGA SONAB continues to flourish with 100 students again this year: 50 student nurses and 50 community health students - the latter do a shorter one year course designed specifically for working in the community. Everyone we met had a high opinion of the school and it was a joy for David working in the hospital in September and October, to work with Matron Phillis, who was in the first group who qualified from SONAB five years ago. There are 6 tutors led by Wilbard Mrase the excellent Principal.



BREAD help to SONAB

The most pressing need by far is for an installation of the internet. This is needed for the students' course work and would be a bonus for the hospital which

presently has no internet access. We will pay for this very soon. They have also asked for support in the further training of tutors in 2018/19. and for refurbishing an old building to make more student accommodation.

THE ORPHANAGE



This is now run by a young couple: Kristen and Tisho. She is American and he is Tanzanian. They have an 18 month old son called Ethan. They are helped by another Tanzanian couple, Martha and Daniel, who have two little girls. The two couples make great team leaders with a great team of staff, including two graduates from SONAB's Community Health Course.

BREAD help to the orphanage

Tisho & Kristen would like BREAD to consider helping with a number of projects including renewal of the doors in the orphanage buildings which are in a bad state of repair and the building of a perimeter fence. We have agreed to pay for the work on the doors.

THE BIBLE SCHOOL



This is now led by Pasisi with Zerida and Samuel. The one year theology course enables men and women to take on the responsibility of running a church as a catechist often in very remote places. Some students move onto further training at Morogoro Bible College. This year there are 13 students on the one year course and 2 Pastor's wives doing a short course.

Pasisi and her small team are also working with two mature students in Berega who did not attend secondary school, and are now held back by the lack of a Certificate of Secondary Education. They would like to expand this in the future for many more mature students who missed out on Secondary Education.

BREAD help for the Bible School

Sponsor money towards 4 student's fees (the students are expected to raise about half of this themselves) and for the 2 Pastor's wives.

TSh 300,000 for 10 new chairs (- one of the Bible students is also a paint-sprayer and you can see the excellent result!



BISHOP CHITEMO PRIMARY SCHOOL

This is the name of the Church Primary School in Berega, managed by Ruth Mgego with an excellent team of Tanzanian teachers led by Head Teacher Noel.

The school has a good reputation as a fee-paying English Medium School. And the aim of keeping trained staff at the

hospital who have young families and want their children to have this sort of schooling seems to be working. Parents are also sending their children to the school from outside Berega as boarders, having heard of the school's good exam results.

The school has many current building projects going on, together with the infrastructure needed for drainage, water supply and toilets. A playing field outside the new classrooms has been levelled off and will eventually have football and netball goals.

The school has 174 pupils and 37 of the children in the school are from poor families and need sponsorship to pay the tuition fees (Tsh 600,000 per year, which is £200). Of these 12 do not have sponsors at the present time, and BREAD is setting up a Sponsorship scheme. Please see more details on the separate info sheet, and contact us if you'd like to explore the possibility of being a sponsor.

As you can see there's a lot happening! We have decided to have a separate newsletter in the future purely for the school, for people who have a particular interest in this.

BREAD help for Bishop Chitemo School



Following completion of the Dining area for the Boarders using BREAD money, BREAD has now sent a further TSH10m which will pay for 20 new desks, tables and chairs for the teachers' office, laying

out the football pitch, and completion of the permanent toilets for the boarders. Donor money (£3,000) linked to the recent group who visited Berega in September and October is paying for 7 temporary toilets (which will last for 2 - 3 years) and the first of very well built permanent toilets (- construction of this has just started)

So how can you get involved with the school? - consider sponsoring one of the



children, raise money for one of the permanent toilets (which cost £1,200 each - see the construction diagram)and pray! *Thank you!*

SUMMER VISIT 2018

We are planning for a work party to visit Berega in August next year. It will decorate a new classroom for the primary school and do some practical work in the orphanage. It will also run a holiday club for children in the village.

If you know someone, or a group of people who might like to come on this trip, do let Gary Mann know. (Talk to your youth leaders too!)

Contacts

The following email address goes to both Gary Mann (Chairman) & Mike Mytton (Treasurer):

contact@bread-trust.org.uk

If you want to write to David & Anne Curnock, who have written this Prayer Letter, then their address is:

39 Seven Oaks Crescent
Bramcote
Nottingham NG9 3FP
dcurnock@doctors.org.uk

Let them know if you have friends who might be interested in receiving it.

The Secretary / Treasurer's address is:

Mike Mytton
86 Merland Rise
Tadworth
KT20 5JD

Remember our web site has all sorts of interesting stuff on it, including some videos of the village. You can find it at:

<http://www.bread-trust.org.uk/>

Thank you again for helping this small charity to make a big difference to the village of Berega.