



S · M · O · A · T

ST MARK'S OVERSEAS AID TRUST

23 November 2010

Christmas Appeal 2010

Dear SMOAT Supporter,

This year the results of the SMOAT Christmas Appeal will be divided between two quite small but very effective charities.

East Africa Children's Project

This recently formed, small, trust is based in the Brighton area. It has a trustee who visits Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania regularly, so making personal contacts. At other times, contact is maintained by e-mail with the very small organisations which the trust supports. It is slowly building up its financial resources and it has minimal expenses for stationery, postage, money transfer charges and the trustee's fares. This trust deals with the very poorest in East Africa. The field for support covers children's care and education and income generation for families. SMOAT will use £1500 to support three small projects as follows:

Brick Making: the purchase of a machine which will create an income for ten families: cost about £600;

Sewing machines: the purchase of ten sewing machines to enable ten women recently trained in their use to form a co-operative to make and sell garments: cost about £300;

Joy Children's Home: the purchase of 270 mosquito nets at \$4 each for use by the children.

Faith in Action

For our second Christmas project, SMOAT will provide funds to support the building of a windmill irrigation system in the very dry "Lower Shire" region in Southern Malawi. Faith in Action has already set up five similar projects there and one in Mozambique. Although the last three were set up too recently to pronounce upon, the first two are proven successes.

Faith in Action (no connection with the large American organisation of the same name) has been operating mainly in Malawi but also in Mozambique and Zimbabwe for over twenty years. Its UK centre for projects is in Ifield and we have met the moving spirits, Martin and Sally Jeffree and discussed their operations with them. Over its life it has supported a very wide range of practical projects for this region. I think you will agree their latest venture is a giant step forward in raising rural people from severe poverty and in developing local communities.

The lower shire region of Malawi is in a basin which is very dry for much of the year and prone to flooding in the wet season. The people are very poor and live at a subsistence level. Food shortages are common and sanitation is primitive, giving rise to debilitating diseases. There are many children orphaned through AIDS.

These windmill irrigation schemes are set up as a loan, and communities apply for a loan by completing a 25-page Application Form and Business Plan. This seeks not only to commit but to persuade the applicants of the practicability of their scheme. Typically 50 small



subsistence farmers, each having an acre of land, (about fifty acres are required) form a co-operative and sign up to the scheme. The loan includes funds to provide a substantial windmill, pump, reservoir and water distribution system together with accountancy training, seeds for new as well as old crops, fertiliser, sacks and transport. The pumps operate through a well, so they do not need to be installed near a river. This has the advantage that they circulate ground water rather than extracting water from local rivers.

The result is that, instead of hoping for only one uncertain harvest a year, the community can now plan for two or three sound harvests which will include new crops. Subsistence farming is thereby transformed into profitable market gardening.

The terms of the agreement provide for the loan to be repaid within eighteen months and for half of the harvest to be sold and the proceeds passed to the community to finance social projects, such as day care centres for orphans who live with grandparents or other guardians, a clinic or alternatively a community centre.

A grinding mill and shops can be financed in this way. The fund repayments are made from the first few harvests and go to finance further windmill schemes.



From its Christmas Appeal SMOAT seeks to provide funds to be added to existing loan repayments to fund another windmill pump irrigation scheme.

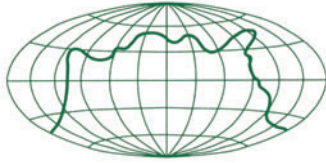


This is the first scheme we have seen where not only is the loan finance repaid and incomes significantly raised but substantial social benefits are also financed. It demonstrates the way forward to provide higher incomes, social improvements and stability in the countryside and counter the drift to urban slums.

The photos show two wind pumps previously installed by the scheme, in Nsaliva and Saopa villages, and a field of irrigated crops in the latter village.

With best wishes from the SMOAT committee for a very Happy Christmas and New Year,

Harry Ingram (Chairman)



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REGISTERED CHARITY No. 280091

To the Treasurer, c/o SMOAT, 49 Redstone Hill, Redhill RH1 4BG

Name: (Mr/Mrs/Ms/)

Address:

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..... Postcode:

(Block capitals please)

SMOAT Christmas Appeal 2010

I wish to contribute to SMOAT's appeal for EACP and Faith in Action

I enclose £ Date: .. / .. /

Signed:

(Cheques payable to SMOAT. Please post to the Treasurer, or hand to one of the committee.)

If you wish to receive occasional information from SMOAT by e-mail please provide your address:

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If you are a UK tax-payer (paying either Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax), and would like us to recover basic rate tax on this and subsequent donations to SMOAT through **Gift Aid** please tick this box.

You must inform us if your tax situation changes such that you are not paying sufficient tax to cover the tax reclaim on your donations to SMOAT.