

Mission and Giving at Cambourne Church

Update, No 6 – January 2018

Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo

The money received recently from Cambourne has contributed towards improving the orphanage school by cementing the floors, repairing doors and windows, making benches for the pupils and providing cereal porridge. In addition, medicines have been purchased for the treatment of children and women, while Claudaline continues to train women and girls in sewing skills, as well as helping rural women in microcredit and agropastoral schemes.



Visit www.asdigcharity.com for more information about our mission partners in Goma.



Bishop Desire has also just sent a very positive report on a recent crusade, preaching a message of peace, reconciliation, love and forgiveness. There was a football match for peace and reconciliation between people living at loggerheads (including rebels and soldiers); conferences for people from different tribes and church backgrounds; outreach to prisoners; and a confirmation service in the rural area of Rutshuru, 70km from Goma. Including the use of radio broadcasts, Desire estimates that over 100,000 people were reached by the gospel message. Good feedback and testimonies have been received from pastors and others, with individuals returning to churches as a sign of renewal. Please keep praying for Desire in this vital mission work in a very needy country.

Uzimatele Foundation, Nairobi, Kenya

We continue to support Pastor George and Jackline as they celebrate 10 years of ministry at Uzimatele. The children from the Home are in good health, growing spiritually and doing well at school. The eldest girl, Lovin, is on attachment at a Nairobi law firm as part of her law degree. Faith is doing work experience at the Gituamba slum community school for a year, prior to a teaching course next year. Counselling has been introduced at the school, as children are exposed to drug abuse and alcoholism.



Visit www.uzimatelekenya.org for more information and download their newsletter

This creates a challenging environment for the nine volunteer teachers working with 200 children in total. As it is not always possible to pay salaries to the teachers, their commitment is limited and there are regular staff changes when they find salaried jobs in other schools.

The Community Church continues to demonstrate God's love in the local area and the congregation is made up of 30% adults, 40% youths and 30% children.

Specific financial needs include funds for the following: completion of a new Year 7 classroom at the Educational Centre in Gituamba slums (*project started – see picture above*); building the second floor of the Home in order to expand the accommodation for orphan children; constructing a more secure community church building with a perimeter wall; purchasing a sound system and some music equipment. George and Jackline remain very grateful for our partnership in their ministry, using our recent donation to meet needs in the Home (*utility bills and food*) and the school (*teachers' salaries and materials*).

Eastern Synod URC mission link with Zimbabwe



In December 2017 a group from the URC Eastern Synod, including the Moderator Paul Whittle (also chair of the Cambourne Church local advisory group) spent 10 days in Zimbabwe visiting twinned church groups and congregations. One of the projects being supported is the Lekkerwater Secondary School (above), run under the Presbytery of Zimbabwe Education Trust and situated 110 km south east of the capital Harare. The construction of this school means that children will no longer need to walk 15 miles to a secondary school, decreasing the percentage of children dropping out (especially girls, who might otherwise enter early marriages after primary school). There are currently about 100 students in two classroom blocks. Our gift of £300 can be added to the £2000 already raised by Eastern Synod churches towards further expansion. Our support is particularly valuable in a country facing political change after President Robert Mugabe stepped down from office at the end of 2017. (www.urc-eastern.org.uk “mission & pioneering” tab > “synod global partnerships”)



In December 2017, Cambourne Church “twinned” our church centre toilets with toilets in a displacement camp in the Central African Republic through the charity Toilet Twinning (part of Tearfund) (www.tearfund.org)

A military coup in 2012 sparked a brutal conflict in CAR. Despite the election of President Faustin-Archange Touadera in 2016, areas of the country are still controlled by various armed groups, leading to 25% of the population being displaced either internally in camps (592,300 at a recent count) or as refugees in neighbouring countries such as Chad, Cameroon and Democratic Republic of Congo.

Tearfund is working to improve water supplies and sanitation in these camps and is very grateful for our gift, which will enable them to set up a block of toilets in one of the camps.

Mission links at Cambourne Church.

As a church, we have committed to donating 10% of our regular giving to charity. In 2017, the Church Council agreed to support the following charities and mission activities locally and abroad (** indicates further details in this update leaflet).

Pastor George & Jackline at **Uzimatele, Nairobi, Kenya (£1665)****

Rev Desire Mukanirwa & Claudaline in **Goma, DR Congo (£1665)****

West Cambridge Christian Youth Ministries (£750) www.wccym.org

A Rocha: Christian charity caring for God's earth (£250) www.arocha.org

Salvation Army – whose band supports Carols on the Green (£500)

URC Mission link in Zimbabwe (£300)**

Toilet Twinning with a displacement camp in CAR (£240)**

Christian Aid (£388) raised separately in Christian Aid Week 2017

Children's Society (£87.24) collected at Christingle service 2017

Dates for your diary ...

Sunday 25th February 2018: Bishop Desire and Claudaline from Goma will be speaking at Cambourne Church at the morning services.

What is the Mission and Giving Group?

The Mission & Giving group coordinates and promote our mission links by providing information and encouraging prayer, practical involvement and financial provision. Current group members are Nigel Taylor, Jeanine Kennedy, Lee Packham-Brown & Tony Williams. We would be happy to welcome extra members committed to this area of the church's ministry. We use the **five 'marks of mission'** to plan our giving and to offer advice to the Church Council about priorities and to ensure a balance in our commitment to various aspects of mission:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom (**tell**)
2. To teach, baptize and nurture new believers (**teach/train**)
3. To respond to human need by loving service (**tend**)
4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society (**transform**)
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the earth (**treasure**)

Please take this leaflet away as a reminder of Cambourne Church's involvement in mission at home and abroad and also read previous Mission & Giving updates on the church website (*under the "Church Life" tab*), as well as visiting the websites of our mission partners. You can use it as a basis for prayer, and you may even like to explore further personal involvement in some of the projects. Thank you for your support.

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