



## *Sudan*

*Helping People to step out of darkness...*

**Sudan has always been a tough place**, but now with peace allowing much better access and people returning from refugee camps and hidden villages in the bush, there is hope. We are working together so that church leaders and their teams can learn to read and write and have an opportunity to develop themselves economically. Our agriculture programme helps meet the physical needs while the education activities bring hope for the future to an area with the lowest literacy rates in the region. In order to encourage spiritual well-being our programmes strengthen the Christian foundation of these communities.

*...and start enjoying the light.*

**More on  
centre pages**

# Water for Bufukhula

**A team of ten from St. Mark's Church, Gillingham, Kent** spent three weeks in Bufukhula community, Mbale District, Uganda. Gary Atkins, team leader, enthusiastically writes:

*"The plan was to help build three 10,000 litre water storage tanks for the village. The nearest water supply was from a pipe about 1km away. The need for water was great. At present the women of the community walk that far each way to fetch water for washing, cooking, washing clothes, watering crops and mixing concrete. The provision of water tanks will make their life considerably easier. We may have*



*funded the project, but it was the local expertise that made the project happen. Our role was to encourage, move materials and generally be supportive. The local community worked extremely hard. By the time we had left all the tanks were virtually finished. They will certainly be complete by the end of August.*

*"The trip was excellent. We have all come back*

*full of love for the community that we have both worked and worshipped with. We were welcomed so warmly by them all. The local FHI team were well organised and made our stay in the school classrooms very comfortable. A local Ugandan lady cooked lovely local food which kept our energy up."*

Gary was impressed by the community's vision and self determination. *"When we arrived at the end of July they were finishing three new school classrooms to add to the four that already exist. One of the classes has 186 pupils! While we were there we also saw the community leaders make plans for their next project - the provision of a head teacher's office, staff room and store room to be housed in one new block. By the time we left the walls were around 7 feet high - a community joyfully mobilised."*



*"We were also involved with the children, chatting, playing sport, teaching in classes, Sunday School and visiting their homes. We shared testimonies, led worship and preached in Church. For some, these were new and challenging experiences."*



## Focus

*"The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it." Psalm 24:1*

There is a stark contrast between an African (for example) who reverently gives thanks before drinking a cup of water, knowing that every drop has been carried perhaps several miles on his wife's or child's back, and my carefree flushing away of many cups of water every time I go to the toilet.

I can't help feeling the African is right, in the light of the above verse. The earth is not our property but our responsibility as stewards. We as Christians should be leading the way on right caring for creation.

That includes protecting our environment, to which we in FH/UK are committed. But it means much more. It includes recognising the huge resources that God has placed within each human being and in his environment, and to release them to bear much fruit.

We must also think in terms of what we can do to better equip the communities, families and children to cope with the economic and food security issues that will come from increased drought, floods, etc.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

With every blessing,

*Dawn Watkins*

# Sudan

Sudan emerged in 2005 from a 21-year civil war which is said to have cost the lives of 2 million people in the South and left the country's infrastructure in tatters. With the return of millions of displaced Southerners, there is a pressing need for spiritual and physical reconstruction.

***The spiritual hunger in this region calls for bold actions, backed up by persistent prayer support.***

## ***Bibles urgently needed***

An opportunity for you to act, by providing funds for Bibles for those who have none. Please use the enclosed response slip and mark it for Sudan.

### ***Literacy and Christian Training***

FHI is operating in Southern Sudan in the vast Eastern province of Upper Nile amongst the Nuer people. The education system has not functioned in these areas for about 18 years and literacy rates are alarmingly low. According to the New Sudan Centre for Statistics and Evaluation, 88% of adult women and 63% of men are illiterate.

FHI's Christian Development Initiative (CDI) programme aims to rapidly improve literacy and basic knowledge of the Bible among 330 men and women each year, based in 11 centres, giving them access to information, books and writing materials. This is expected to enable key members of the community, including pastors, church leaders and evangelists to participate more effectively in the physical and spiritual development of their communities.

To facilitate this, FHI provides a part time salary for the trainers, teaching materials, Bibles and elementary Christian books suitable for learners. In hiring trainers, we look for active local church members who need part-time employment.

Students will graduate from the CDI programme after one year and join self-help learning groups. This will encourage students to move forward and become self-sufficient without dependency or over-reliance on CDI. The small groups will be coordinated by each church and will be encouraged to start classes in basic mathematics.

Where possible, we will work through existing churches and other groups. The courses will be for members of all denominations, taking advantage of the harmony between denominations in Upper Nile at this time.

**Mrs. Martha Nyatut Banguot says:** *"I feel joy when we were told about this CDI program, because we as mothers, we never had chance to attend school, but these days, we come to know how school is so important not only for our children but also for ourselves... I live far away from town, a distance of 5 kilometre walking, but I promise I will continue to come to this class until the end despite other responsibilities that are keeping us busy as mothers".*

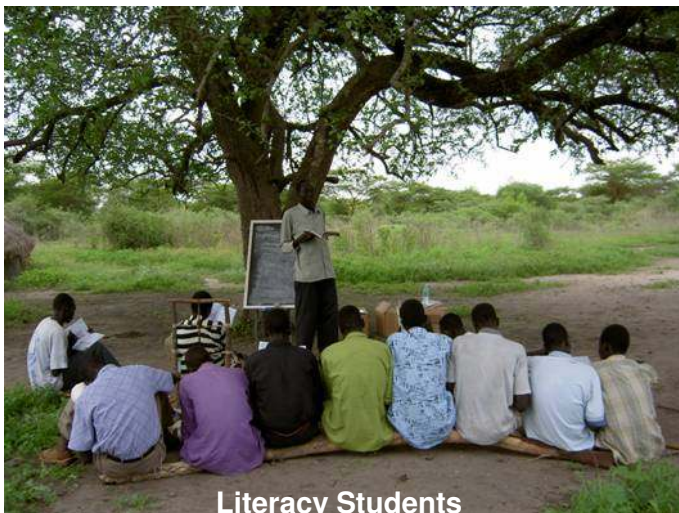
**Mr John Pull Jal adds:** *"It has been a long time since I dropped out of school about 40 years ago and it is my pleasure to have this opportunity to come back to school with this CDI programme. I promise, as long as this programme exists, I will be the last person to leave this classroom."*

### ***Addressing Physical Hunger***

The economy of the area is based mainly on livestock, agriculture and fishing. One year ago, FHI staged the first seed fairs in Upper Nile. These were the first large scale non-military events seen in over 20 years. In 2006, we are staging 8 more seed fairs, which are 5 times larger than those of 2005 due to better access and the reduction of conflict. 7 tons of seed (mainly sorghum and maize) were generated in 2005 and this is expected to rise to 30 tons in 2006.



Seed sellers bring their stocks to Old Fangak to be weighed before the start of sale.



Literacy Students

***Our Vision: God is calling and we are responding, until physical and spiritual hungers are ended worldwide.***

## Freedom from Alcoholism

A further report from Romania



APA Team



Prayer Team



Teenagers Group

Roman and Lorna will take extended leave from Summer 2007. Please pray for the Romanian team taking the managerial and financial responsibility. Pray that they would remain responsive to God at all times.

After a difficult start, **Roman and Lorna Zischka** report that the organisation set up to reach out to families affected by alcohol in Iași, North East Romania is now well established and staffed by a strong team of salaried and volunteer Romanians.

Local churches are aware that “something should be done” about alcoholism, but they need a framework and expertise in order to operate effectively. **APA – Ajudor Pentru Alcoolici** – Help for Alcoholics (and their families) seeks to provide this.

Roman and Lorna write, *“Our passion is to address poverty from a Biblical perspective. Our team members come from different church denominations in Iași city and are motivated by a desire to see people made whole - spiritually, physically, socially and mentally. 3 of our team are now in professional training.*

*“Our counselling program combines individual support with group meetings for alcoholics and their partners based partly on the strategy of Alcoholics Anonymous. With God’s help, people can flourish amid their difficulties and take a positive and responsible direction in their lives. We also have an enthusiastic group of teenagers from alcoholic families, who meet regularly.*

*“We’ve produced various materials to promote understanding of alcoholism. We hold a weekly presentation and discussion in the local TB hospital, plan a campaign in schools in collaboration with the school authorities and plan to collaborate with university students to research the effects of alcoholism in Romania. We train volunteers and stimulate churches to respond to alcoholism in a biblical manner in their own communities.”*

**Pray for changed lives!**

**Rwanda and Burundi are among the poorest countries in Africa** with 61% of the total population below the poverty line. Over 80% claim to be Christian.

Problems include weak infrastructure, high numbers of orphans, widows and child-headed households, trauma from genocide and years of civil war, HIV/AIDS and illiteracy.

FHI/Rwanda & Burundi plan to equip church leaders to support a community transformation that will accompany government-led economic initiatives. It will enhance the economic capacity of communities through Church empowerment. Clusters will be formed of 50 churches for training that will directly impact 50 pastors, 150 lay leaders and 50,000 church members in each region. It is estimated that about 250,000 will be indirectly impacted in each cluster region. The intention is that the transformation within the cluster churches can then be replicated in other churches.

**What a great project for a UK church to support!**

The training will be focused on three components: Biblical worldview and holistic ministry, literacy training and development of cooperatives that will deliver social and economic change. Partner church pastors, lay leaders and members will attend trainings and will be equipped to start forming cooperatives for income generation, problem solving, investment and outreach. Topics will include peace and reconciliation, leadership, HIV/AIDS prevention, reproductive health, sanitation, environmental protection, design and management of income generation projects, savings and loans and planning and implementation of small “seed” projects that will encourage faith in God and His Kingdom. A “seed project” example is the construction of simple houses for the support of the particularly vulnerable.

Once cooperative groups have become well established, they will be assisted to access and effectively utilise micro-finance loans for further economic growth.



**Transforming communities through local church initiatives**

## Bold Plans for Rwanda & Burundi

# Pray for our Staff

## New work, new challenges



Following 2½ years leading the FHI team in Mt Kenya region, **Naomi Hall** is now appointed Programme Director for FH/Sudan, coordinating the various relief and development activities in the country - see centre pages. Please pray for protection from sickness, especially malaria.

**Isabela Manescu**, a social worker from Romania who recently graduated in Mission Studies from Redcliffe College in Gloucester is now heading out to Kenya to supervise the HIV and AIDS work, based in Isiolo, to the North of Mt Kenya. Please pray for her to find good friends.



**Caroline Burns** from London is preparing to go to Cochabamba in Bolivia in October, to assist the Child Development Programme (CDP) in holistically supporting 2,000 sponsored children and their families in poor rural areas. Please pray for her final preparation.

**Daniel, Barbara, Joshua and Nathanael Zeidan** have just relocated from La Paz, Bolivia to Washington DC. Daniel has been appointed FHI's Director of Food Security, to manage programmes in 7 very needy countries. Please pray for the family to settle well.



Motivated by Christ's love, the international partnership of Food for the Hungry exists to meet both physical and spiritual hungers of the poor.

This purpose is met by:

- Speaking out to all people about physical and spiritual hungers.
- Sending people to share Christ's love.
- Facilitating emergency relief and sustainable development.

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