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Nairobi, Kenya



CMSI Link Letter

July 2020

Isabelle is a CMSI Mission Associate who, over many years, has supported the work of the Urban Development Programme of All Saints' Cathedral, Nairobi. Isabelle wrote the following update on 6th July.

Dear Friends,

On 2nd July, CMSI organised the most exciting Zoom conference that I have yet attended. We were 25 people from ten countries (eight in Africa, plus Nepal and Ireland). Even the technical feat of combining participants from all these countries in one internet call at the same time was extraordinary. There were five of us representing CMSI's partners in two different locations of Kenya, and I was well aware of the efforts made by everyone to join in the conversation. Even just seeing them on my computer screen gave me a bounce of delight.

It is not often that CMSI's Global Partners have a chance to get together in person and exchange the issues and challenges facing them. On this occasion, we were meeting to discuss the Covid-19 crisis as experienced in our various settings. This is quite serious enough, but as we listened, we became aware that it was just *one* of the issues confronting the Global Partners...

There is a brand-new Province of Alexandria in the Anglican Communion, covering eight countries in the North and North-East of Africa. There is fighting in the Democratic Republic of Congo, there is hope for peace in South Sudan, there are locust invasions in East Africa and there is flooding with landslides in Kenya. Our partners in Nepal are concerned with the impact of the virus on physically disabled people.

The Urban Development Programme of All Saints' Cathedral Nairobi was represented by four of us: Louise Githire (the Social Outreach Co-ordinator of All Saints' Cathedral), Lucy Irungu (the leader of the Tujisaidie Self-Help Group), Antony Njoroge (the leader of Tumaini African Foundation) and myself (the Funding Co-ordinator of the UDP and Associate Mission Partner of CMSI). After we had introduced ourselves, I briefly presented our most recent stories, illustrated with photographs by Lucy and Antony.

Very soon after Covid struck Kenya, CMSI asked us to prepare an application for funding that would help us with the most urgent needs of the UDP community, comprising 350 families and their neighbours, living in a low income

area on the outskirts of Nairobi. We had agreed that the most urgent needs were food and water for the elderly members of the community, the children, and any others known to the community leaders. The picture shows Lucy with some of the food supplies which we were able to buy thanks to the donation from CMSI. We expressed our appreciation for the donation, which had been processed and transferred to us with all possible speed.



The next photos show the food distribution to some community members, as they patiently wait in line, wearing their face masks and keeping social distance from each other. The food they receive includes maize meal, rice and beans, as well as cooking oil and soap. As the photo shows, this is quite a substantial load.



For those who are not able to carry the food parcels home and have no one to collect them on their behalf, the community's motorbike, bought with an earlier CMSI donation, has been running deliveries of both food and water (seen here in a yellow jerrican).



As for the teenage members of Tumaini African Foundation, their schools are closed, and they have great difficulties obtaining the internet teaching materials, since they can only reach the internet by mobile phone at best. But they have been spending their time well, distributing food packages to the elderly people and the neediest community members and also reaching outwards to needy people in the surroundings.



The Tujiiue Young Mothers also received food supplies for themselves and their young children. These Young Mothers have been sewing sanitary kits for the girls and female teachers of two large schools, all of which they managed to distribute just before the schools closed down because of the virus. They then decided to sew 100 face masks, which they are

donating free of charge to those community members who need them most. It is a joy to support them with food supplies.

The next photos show the Young Mothers sewing face masks in their workshop. They have been so busy that two of their four sewing machines have broken down and are difficult to repair at this time, as most small businesses are closed. The Young Mothers themselves normally run small businesses such as kiosks, which they have had to close and which we shall help them to restart.



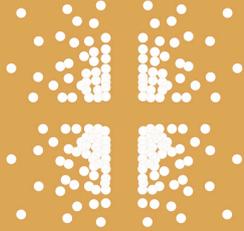
The CMSI motorbike has given them great service, as also has a hand cart, which they have been using to bring water in 20L jerricans to those community members who cannot easily obtain water (the flooding and landslides have damaged many of the water pipes into Nairobi). And in addition, they have started a little vertical farm, growing vegetables as an income generating project!

But the most important aspect for the Tumaini members, also facilitated by the donation from CMSI, is the acquisition of a printer for the one and only computer owned by Tumaini, so that the internet teaching materials can be downloaded and made available to the students, giving them a chance to keep up with lessons during this period of school closures.



Thank you for your interest in and support for the work of the Urban Development Programme and our friends at Tumaini. Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

Isabelle



CMSI Covid-19 Response Appeal

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respond to the crisis

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