

Together **we** achieve more

BOOK FAIRS remain an important fundraising tool for **Feed the Minds** and take place across the UK, from York in the North to Salisbury in the South. We are hugely grateful to our volunteers who invest time and effort in successfully managing these events. If you have any ideas as to how we can improve our fundraising or think you could hold a book fair or charity coffee morning at your local church or community group in aid of **Feed the Minds**, please do get in touch. Being a small charity that empowers local people to make a real and long lasting difference, even the smallest of donations can have a huge impact on the lives of others in a local community. We rely on the support of volunteer fundraisers and are always looking for new people to get involved.

For more information on books fairs, to get involved or to request materials to support your event contact Mo Whitehead on mwhitehead@feedtheminds.org or tel: 0207 592 3927

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

YORK SPRING FAIR

19-20 May, St Helen's Church,
St Helen's Square, York

NORWICH BOOK FAIR

08-11 July, St Andrew's Church,
St Andrew's Street, Norwich

SALISBURY SUMMER FAIR

09-11 July, United Reformed Church,
Fisherton Street

YORK SUMMER FAIR

17-24 July, The Guildhall, York

YORK TWO-DAY FAIR

25-26 August, St Helen's Church,
St Helen's Square, York

SCARBOROUGH AUTUMN LUNCH

21 October, St Mark's Church Hall

THE PURLEY BOOK STALL

Every Saturday except August, Purley United
Reformed Church, Brighton Road, Purley

By including Feed the Minds in your will, you can help to improve the lives of the poorest people around the world for years to come, helping them to help themselves. However big or small your gift is, you can be sure that it will offer lasting benefit to the communities at the heart of our work and bring joy into the lives of many.

To find out more and to receive our legacy pack contact Adam Sach email: asach@feedtheminds.org
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A Lasting Gift



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Feed the Minds is
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Rebecca Marshall, 2008

CONNECT

THE NEWSLETTER FROM FEED THE MINDS



EDUCATION MAKES A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE



ISSUE. 11

CONTENTS

PAGE 03.
FRAGILE PEACE

PAGE 04-05.
PARTNER VISITS

PAGE 06.
PROJECT UPDATES

PAGE 07.
60 SECONDS

WELCOME TO THE SUMMER 2009 ISSUE OF CONNECT.

GOD BLESS FEED THE MINDS is the message on the wall hanging in my office, made by participants in a literacy class run by our partner Craftshare in Sierra Leone.

I feel blessed since I know that behind this message are people like carpenter David Johnson. Five months after he joined our education programme he was able to keep his own records and produce written estimates on his own. He compares it to a miracle; "I suffered for so long in the darkness because I could not read and write but now I can see".

Feed the Minds has welcomed some new faces recently. President, The Revd Dr David Cornick, who is also the General Secretary for Churches Together in England, and Fundraising and Communications Director, Adam Sach.

What hasn't changed is our gratitude for the work undertaken by volunteers, who give up their time and skills so freely and the continuing generosity of our supporters.

Josephine Carlsson, Director, Feed the Minds



Peacebuilding is one of our key priorities at Feed the Minds and a good example of our work is the support we are currently giving our partner, the Peacebuilding, Healing and Reconciliation Programme (PHARP) in Kenya. The organisation works predominantly with church leaders and women in the areas of trauma healing and conflict resolution. At the same time we are also partnering with Tatua Communication, a community-based group, by supporting Amani Kwetu (Peace in our area): Peace Education for Kibera Slum Schools, aimed at equipping young people with valuable peacebuilding skills.

Fragile Peace

Riots erupted across Kenya in 2008, following the disputed presidential elections. The unrest involved ethnic violence and thousands of people were harassed, displaced and even killed, solely because they belonged to the 'wrong' ethnic group. Around 600,000 fled their homes and it's estimated that 1,500 lost their lives.

Both projects aim to encourage reconciliation and understanding following this period of vicious ethnic violence. PHARP is currently implementing a two-year programme of workshops aimed specifically at empowering women affected by the post-election violence. Around 90 women from the areas worst affected will take part and ultimately 30,000 people will benefit indirectly through the sharing of peacebuilding skills. Similarly, Tatua is running a training programme designed to provide young people with the practical peacebuilding skills to enable them to encourage their schools, families and communities to be tolerant of each other and to coexist peacefully despite

cultural and political differences.

Feed the Minds recently brought both organisations together and facilitated a workshop that enabled them to share their experiences and approaches to peacebuilding and to learn from one another.

Their combined work offers support to individuals like Mary, a pastoral leader living in Nairobi's Mathare slum. Her church once teemed with multi-ethnic members who participated in a range of communal activities. However, since the elections, congregation numbers have fallen drastically and only those from her Kikuyu tribe now attend. ■

Mary suffered personally during the violence, her home was burned to the ground and she still bears the physical scars of the fire. However, she is hoping that by participating in the workshops she will be better placed to return her once vibrant church back to normal and re-establish it as a home for those from all ethnic groups.

Photo: Rebecca Marshall, 2008

Partner Visits

Women's and Girl's Rights in Kenya

Rosie visited the Education Centre for Advancement of Women in Kenya (ECAW). The centre focuses its activities on educating women about their social and legal rights.

One of the main areas of work is campaigning against the practice of female circumcision. UNICEF estimates that 70 million women and girls in 27 countries across Africa and the Middle East have undergone the practice – which can result in severe medical complications, increased risk of contracting HIV/AIDS, infertility and even death, for both mother and baby during child birth. In addition this practice leads to early marriages and a high number of girls dropping out of school.

ECAW is currently supporting four girls' clubs in different locations within Kenya's Kuria district. The clubs have multiple objectives; to educate the community on sexual health issues, child rights, the promotion of hygiene and HIV/AIDS awareness. Other activities include a savings club and a mentorship programme.

ECAW's work is particularly important in promoting girls' education as an important human right within rural schools. There are still a much smaller number of girls than boys that get basic education.

Another Kenyan-based project with similar aims but a different methodology is the Sunkio Christian Herbalist Self Help Group. Feed the Minds is supporting an advocacy programme designed to promote women's rights in relation to HIV/AIDS and female circumcision.

"The information we received from Sunkio about harmful cultural practice has been very meaningful and helpful to us and the entire community. Since, we have made the decision not to subject our daughters to the female circumcision practice. This practice is outdated and therefore we have to join hands in the fight for its total eradication."

Margaret Obaigwa



In December 2008 Feed the Minds Programme Director Katy Newell-Jones and Programme Officer Rosie Crowther visited a number of our partners across Kenya and Malawi.

Sunkio's work is based on hosting training sessions that use a range of tactics such as drama and role play, poetry, singing and dance to communicate a message. The sessions aim to dispel some of the myths relating to HIV/AIDS and female circumcision. In addition to training girls, parents and boys have been invited to attend – recognising the need to work with whole families and communities in order to encourage behavioural change.

To date the project has had a number of positive outcomes. Girls who have been involved in the scheme leave better able to participate in the protection of their legal rights and those of their peers. The project has successfully demonstrated that change can come from within and that members of a community can successfully facilitate change.

"I didn't know what to do, my husband died and my brothers in-law compelled me to leave my matrimonial home and go back to my parents. I was invited to attend Sunkio's training on women's legal rights. After the training I went to seek legal assistance and now I have been permitted to take charge of our properties."

Helen K. Mogaka

Literacy and community development in Malawi

Katy recently visited the Circle for Integrated Community Development (CICOD) in Malawi. The organisation uses a participatory approach, whereby villagers who can't read and write and make calculations, draw maps of their homes and use these to identify their problems. They then learn to write words and sentences associated with these, whilst also using the knowledge within the group to establish solutions to their problems.

One beneficiary of the programme is 54-year-old Joyce Chibwe from Kanyenda village in the Ntchisi district. A widow, she had never before had any formal schooling and was unable to read or write or calculate figures. Since attending classes her life has been transformed. She is now Chairperson of a women's Church organisation, is able to read the Bible and sing songs from hymnbooks.

Chrissie Manda, aged 33 from Laisi village in Malenga has also benefited from the programme. From a family of farmers, she was determined to learn to read, write and count. Through regular attendance she is now able to assess how profitable her farming business is. She can also oversee her daughter's schoolwork and encourages her to work hard in school because she now recognises the benefits of education. ■

Project updates



Photo: Feed the Minds

Feed the Minds partner, Impact Counselling Care (ICC) have just reported back on the progress of our joint project to enable churches to respond to the growing HIV/AIDS pandemic in India.

The project is targeting 100 church leaders from 10 churches and aims to use the existing Church network and its central role within the community as a channel through which to encourage the prevention of HIV/AIDS. The project is run in the Nagaland district of India – a hill state located in the far north-eastern part of country; Nagaland is predominantly Christian unlike many other parts of India.

Local churches will, in the long-term, be able to respond better to HIV/AIDS and share information on how to prevent being infected. They will also continue to get support from ICC on how to deal with complicated pastoral issues related to HIV/AIDS.

Another new, innovative project is the brainchild of Radiant Publishing, based in Harare, Zimbabwe. **Feed the Minds** is

supporting a project to print "Rainbow After the Storm – Stories of Loss, Grief and Healing." The aim of the initiative is to give hope to the bereaved and grieving by publishing real life stories of loss and healing.

Barbara Mkala of Radiant comments, "there are too many deaths occurring especially because of HIV and AIDS in Zimbabwe. Many lose their beloved and feel it is the end of the world. Our stories will show that they are not alone".

The books will be distributed through churches to their members and will target all members of the community. It is hoped that further down the line workshops and seminars will be established to tackle the issues of grief and personal loss. ■



Photo: Susan Naughton

This edition features Susan Naughton, Feed the Minds Overseas Book Service Manager, Susan shares her motivations for working at Feed the Minds and gives you a glimpse into how the Overseas Book Service works.

60 SECONDS



HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED FOR FEED THE MINDS?

I joined **Feed the Minds** in 2007. I knew the person who'd previously held the position through my church and was keen to apply when the vacancy came up.

WHERE ARE YOU BASED?

I'm based in Bradford. I'm the only paid member of the staff in the office, but a great team of eight volunteers work with me. Their enthusiasm is infectious and we all share a love of books.

WHAT DOES THE JOB ENTAIL?

I manage the Overseas Books Scheme. We gather any donated Christian books and then offer them to organisations overseas.

Twice a year, we compile a catalogue of the books that have been donated and send this to our partners overseas. We deal with about 300 organisations across Africa, Asia and South America. They then send us back a list of the books they would like to receive. There is no charge to the partners and most of the books end up either in theological colleges or community libraries.

We receive books from a range of donors, individuals, churches, British theological colleges, retired clergymen, diocesan offices and sometimes even from publishers. But we are always looking for new donations to help us support even more people in developing countries.

WHAT'S THE BEST PART ABOUT THE JOB?

I'm a people person and I love the contact I have with the overseas partners. I get the chance to learn about life in so many different places. It's also wonderful to feel that through this and the work of everyone at **Feed the Minds**, we can make a huge difference to individuals across the world.

I also enjoy working with the UK volunteers. We have a great team and everyone is so enthusiastic about the work that FTM does and the contribution we make towards improving literacy and so enhancing many people's lives.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES YOU FACE?

I think the biggest challenge is making sure the service we provide is relevant and what the partners need and want. When I first joined **Feed the Minds** I undertook a survey to assess what was required and this led us to begin supplying only the more contemporary, post 1980 texts.

WHAT DO YOU DO OUTSIDE WORK?

I'm a lay minister for the Church of England. I'm also a visual artist and am particularly interested in using art in worship and prayer.

To find out more or make a donation to this programme log into www.feedtheminds.org