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## EDITOR'S LETTER - PUTTING THE WORK IN CONTEXT

The news has been full of the famine in East Africa of late, jostling for position with the misdemeanours of certain newspaper groups and the struggling uprisings in the Arab world. Nations and individuals have been exhorted to play their part by giving to the starving and the dispossessed, arguments about the level and effectiveness of aid and of voluntary giving have been aired, and our television screens have once more brought uncomfortable images of death, disease and despair into our homes.'



*Parched earth, searing heat and wind in Turkana in August 2011*

Amidst all this noise and confusion, two things seemed to stand out. First the imperative to do something, give something, however little, to alleviate the suffering and second the feeling that we'd been here before, that previous disaster emergency appeals had made no long term difference. The images we've been seeing on our televisions are remarkably similar to those which stirred Bob Geldof and Midge Ure into action 20 years ago - so what has changed?

Disappointingly little has changed. The political situation remains bad, there is a lack of any effective government in Somalia, other governments in the region have been tarred with corruption and people on the ground continue to struggle and fight for survival. Were it not for the immediate and compelling need of the people on the ground it would be tempting to wash our hands of any involvement.

But there are signs of hope, there are long term sustainable projects and these do make a difference. Wells and pumps make a significant difference to the future of these people as well as helping today. Mother and child centres, nutritional nursery schools, mobile clinics all help to improve the ability of the people to fend for themselves and build an infrastructure that will enable them to survive the next disaster. All these are projects with which New Ways is involved. All make something of an impact in helping people build a future. What is

particularly important is that this work continues – that our natural and positive desire to respond to this crisis does not help create the next one by reducing the flow of funds to the long term work. So my hope and entreaty this summer is for continued and increased support for the work of New Ways – in terms of fundraising, giving and spreading the word.



### Emergency Appeal

*Alexi & Dianne from MCSPA with malnourished children in Turkana*

In the current emergency we also need to look at how best to meet the immediate challenge so our partners in the MCSPA have been very involved in working with the Diocese of Lodwar to draw up an emergency plan for the next few months. This builds on existing knowledge and contacts and addresses the needs of the people of Turkana. Specifically, this emergency plan seeks to fill the gaps in the major relief efforts by targeted distribution of food. There is a significant increase in the number of children attending nursery so that they get 2 meals a day, pregnant and breast feeding mothers need food so they can feed their babies while the elderly who have little food need our support. Please read more on the web page we have set up.

To help with this important emergency work please click and donate <http://www.justgiving.com/newways1> or send your cheque to the New Ways office at 47 Cumberland Street London SW1V 4 LY marked 'Emergency Appeal.'

## CROSS BORDER TRIBAL CONFLICTS CONTINUE TO STIR PASSIONS



*Kenya/Ethiopia Border near Todonyang*

The fighting between pastoralists in Turkana and neighbouring regions continues to stir passions in Kenya with many voices calling for military intervention. The Daily Nation (18th June) commented as follows:

“Along the Ethiopia border, Merille nomads have forcefully settled in Turkana territory. Before we raise war cries, we must remember that the history and practice of nomadic pastoralism has always entailed large groups of herdsmen moving across national borders according to the pastoral resource map of the different seasons.

Drought has often seen sections of Turkana and Pokot move to neighbouring countries. They have on occasion used arms against their hosts. Local politicians will raise war cries about foreign invasion into their territory. But they know that their own people are often the invaders when resources are better across the border.

What is required is a combination of disarming the scarcity-induced visiting tribesmen and reinforcing more peaceful sharing of cross-border pasture and water resources than crying wolf as if the Merille cousins of the Turkana have been sent by Menes Zenawi to start war with Kenya.

Violence in Turkana is a product of resource competition between communities that have traditionally shared the joy and pain of pastoralism.

The increasing pain is associated with declining ecological conditions and rising human populations. Such challenges will not be resolved by states flexing military might.

Our history of keeping the army in the barracks and using police for law and order has broadly served us well. Only failed states blur the boundary between defence and police forces.”

## FURROWS IN THE DESERT

Israel's Negev desert has been the scene of some extraordinary developments in irrigation and agriculture. Now some of the expertise amassed by Israeli specialists is to be applied in Turkana. In an exciting new partnership with the Arava Centre for Sustainable Development and Brit Olam, an Israeli volunteer group, experimental farms will be established in Turkana with a view to establishing a sustainable and viable agricultural base.

The stated overall goal is 'to improve the living conditions of local communities through community participatory development projects focusing on establishing the foundations for sustainable agriculture'.



The program will combine expert assessment and consultation done through short-term visits to Turkana, with volunteer work based on teams of Israeli volunteers, who will be sent to Turkana, each staying for at least two months, and then replaced by another group so as to assure continuity. In the first year these delegations will include 2-4 volunteers at a time, focusing on the field of agriculture, selected accordingly and trained in advance by Israeli experts in relevant fields of agriculture. The volunteers will work in MCSPA experimental farms within the compounds around the MCSPA nurseries, and/or help starting up new such farms with local individuals identified by the MCSPA, who are interested in agricultural development.

*Earth pan dam planted immediately following rains at Lobur*

This is linked to the work we started in our nurseries to encourage growing their own food, an initiative which has been very successful in many areas. After this phase, volunteer activities in additional fields of community development will be considered.

The program will include 3 phases, firstly and importantly, the assessment phase - a comprehensive study that will be the basis for the identification of relevant needs, for the development of appropriate solutions and for the generation of follow up projects in the long-term. Based on this study, an initial work programme will be consolidated. This will be followed by a one year initial implementation phase. Development and expansion of the initial programme will be based on an assessment of the second phase.

Expect to hear much more about this new development in the coming months. The key is that this will empower the Turkana to provide their own food beyond their animals but critically we need to build the water infrastructure to make all this possible. Our overall aim is to make Turkana more green and offset the negative climate change effects.



*Victor from MCSPA explaining some of the ingenious agricultural techniques they are using in Lobur.*

## NARIOKOTOME MOTHER AND CHILD UNITS – AN UPDATE

We have reported before on this key project which consists on the running of Mother and Child Units which aim to help the parents to take better care of their children under 6 years old and prevent diseases caused by lack of hygiene and proper feeding. In the latest development a further three units are being opened, with three underlying elements.



*Children at Nariokotome Nursery where they receive two meals each day.*

The first of these is establishing 3 committees, one for each unit, of 5 members each, both men and women. The parents will be the members of these committees, and they will be in charge of the daily running of the unit. They will be given constant training to enable them to care for the children daily and run the resources and materials available in a communal manner.

The second is to ensure proper nutrition for all the children, some 200 in all, by the preparation of two meals a day, breakfast and lunch. This will give a balanced diet regardless of the food available at home, which most of the time is uncertain and very poor. The food will be distributed once a month to each unit, with the committee taking responsibility for both its daily use and the safety of the store. Transport is a difficult task because the units are far away from each other throughout the area of the Nariokotome Mission, and the roads are practically nonexistent.

The third addresses the need of health care for the nomadic families. Medical facilities are very far away, making it impossible for these families to have access to them. The mobile clinic of Nariokotome Integrated Health Program will regularly visit the units to ensure the proper health care of the children and their families. Health education and immunization are the main objectives a part of following up chronic patients and children with disabilities.

The project is focused on preventing malnutrition and improving mother and child integral health. Since 1990 the MCSPA has implemented several initiatives to fight child malnutrition and reduce child morbidity and mortality rates in the area. There has been great improvement, severe cases of malnutrition are rare and occur only during the drought, most of the children are vaccinated and can be attended by the mobile clinic. But there is still much to be done in new areas, where nomadic families are scattered and have no access to any health service at all. The results of a recent survey carried out in response to the drought indicated that where we have nutritional nurseries 21% of children are malnourished and where we don't 37% of children are malnourished, many severely.



*Lunch is prepared in the nursery kitchen.*



*Even during these times of famine, checks continue as usual on the children's nourishment.*



*Breakfast dishes drying in the sun, ready for lunch.*

## BANKSIDE GALLERY WINE TASTING



*Bishop Dominic Kimengich with Master of Wine, Margaret Harvey and New Ways Director, Fr. Albert Salvans.*

On 9th June, some 60 New Ways supporters made their way to Bankside Gallery, near London's Tate Modern for a New Ways wine tasting. The evening was lead by Master of Wine, Margaret Harvey MBE (one of very few women Masters of Wine in the world) and wines tasted ranged from Burgundy (a Domaine Vocoret Chablis) to a Cabernet-Merlot from the Vasse Felix winery in Margaret River, Western Australia, by way of Spain, South Africa and New Zealand.

This was an event mainly organised by Angela Docherty who was unable to attend but made up for it by a stream of telephone instructions from her sick bed. An enjoyable evening was had by all despite her absence and a total of £1500 was raised.

Special guests included Fr Albert Salvans and Bishop Dominic Kimengich, recently-appointed Bishop in the Diocese of Lodwar in north eastern Kenya. Bishop Dominic was full of praise for the work of New Ways and reminded everyone that Turkana was one of the most remote, undeveloped and arid desert areas in Africa and spoke of the consequences of the current drought in terms of famine, violence and displacement of peoples all of which makes the work of New Ways more important than ever. The money raised at the wine tasting will go to a micro finance initiative with which the Bishop is involved – supporting entrepreneurship, small business development by providing basic training in finance and business as well as providing small loans to get people started on their business initiatives you can see from the list. And it can make use of artistic, musical and dramatic talents as well as physical fitness.



*Bishop Dominic Kimingech says a few words*



**It would be good to report on some different activities and to continue with the old favourites, so here's the challenge – what can you come up with? We look forward to hearing from you. Mail your ideas to [info@newways.org.uk](mailto:info@newways.org.uk)**

*For 2011 Events, please see the separate events calendar and let us know what you'd like to take part in.*

## FOUR COUNTRIES IN THREE DAYS – SUPPORT OUR CYCLISTS

This year's cycling challenge is London to Amsterdam, with a twist – a choice of a 4 day or a 6 day ride through England, France, Belgium and the Netherlands, a total of 386 miles for the full ride.

The ride is the latest in a series of challenges which started with the Kenya Bike Ride in 2004, followed by Off Road in Kenya 2006, and the Tour de Normandie in 2009 and 2010. All of these rides raised substantial sums, provided a good challenge for participants and fostered ongoing friendships. Sharing the physical challenge and the reward of a cold beer in the evening is a good ice breaker!

This year's ride is to raise money for the Nariokotome Health Programme, with a target of £40,000 and individual targets of £2050. The ride starts on 15th October and there is still time to support the team. Our intrepid CEO Angela is on her bike again and you can sponsor her by going to her website <http://www.justgiving.com/Angela-Docherty1>



*Last year's team, many of whom will be once more riding the highways and byways in support of New Ways in October 2011*

## NEW WAYS ADVENT BALL



*Angela addresses the 2011 Advent Ball*

New Ways Chief Executive Angela Docherty is hoping that as many supporters as possible will be able to join us on Friday 18th November for the annual New Ways Advent Ball. We had a fantastic time at this exciting venue last year and she feels sure we will this year too.

The Ball will be held at the Grange St. Paul's Hotel [www.grangehotels.com](http://www.grangehotels.com) and the evening will include a Sparkling Reception, Dinner, Charity Auction and Boogying until the early hours!

The Advent Ball remains one of the key fund raising events for New Ways and is certainly one of the most enjoyable. At last year's Ball we raised close to £49,000, which was an amazing achievement and made a major difference to New Ways being able to support its key projects in Africa. The annual project budget of the charity is £500,000 per year.

This is a very difficult time in Turkana where we work as there has been little or no rain for some considerable time and therefore there is a lack of food and water for the nomadic tribe that we are supporting so let's make this year's event a huge success. So despite the financial challenges we are all facing in the UK this year, we hope with your help that we will still be able to raise in excess of 10% of the charities annual budget.

For the 4th year running tickets are priced at £160 each: but for those purchasing a table of 10, we are offering a special price of £1500. While we have had a great response there are still tickets left!! So do come and join us....