



The Church in Wales Jubilee Fund

Autumn 2008 Newsletter

“Hope and joy for the poor”

10 years on—the story of the Church in Wales Jubilee Fund

The suggestion of a special Church in Wales fund to support overseas development projects was first brought to the attention of the Governing Body of the Church in Wales by Archbishop Alwyn at the September 1998 meeting. He quoted in his Presidential Address from a letter written to him by Canon Philip Morris (now Archdeacon of Margam), suggesting the Church in Wales supported a special Millennium Overseas Development Project, and set up an on-going Fund in response to a resolution of the 1998 Lambeth Conference.

We call on all Primates to challenge their dioceses to fund international development programmes, recognised by provinces, at a level of at least 0.7% of annual total diocesan income.

- Resolution 1.15(k)

Bishop Rowan (now Archbishop of Canterbury) suggested to the Bench of Bishops in October 1998 the establishment of a Provincial Jubilee Fund to co-ordinate grants to international development projects. The Bishops agreed the purpose of the Fund as:

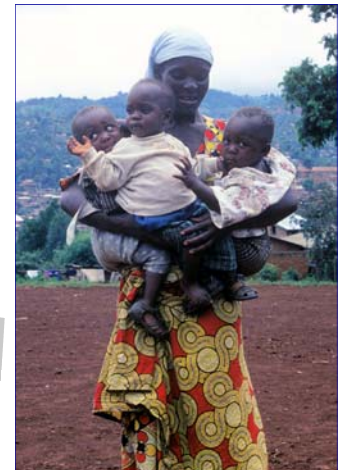
- marking the Millennium through the Fund attracting new money for funding overseas development projects;

- responding to the Lambeth Conference resolutions concerning economic justice and the funding of inter-national development projects;
- pooling resources so that the Church in Wales could make significant gifts to selected projects, and also avoid duplication at diocesan level in analysing requests for financial assistance.

Gaza Mobile Dental Unit

Bishop Rowan also suggested to the Bishops that at first monies from the Fund should be given to projects in Palestine, the land of Jesus' birth 2000 years ago, and then, as the Fund accumulated monies over the years, other international development projects would be considered.

Canon Philip Morris was asked by the Bench to take a small group of experts to Israel and Palestine to identify suitable projects in consultation with the Diocese of Jerusalem. An obvious project presented itself—a Mobile Dental



Clinic, run by the Near East Council of Churches (NECC) in two of the poorest districts of Gaza. The small group saw the Mercedes van, donated by the Danish Churches for the Clinic, but moth-balled as there was no money available to fund the salaries of a dentist and nurse/driver and to pay for equipment, dental supplies etc. Canon Philip was able to tell the NECC that the Church in Wales would fund the running of the Mobile Dental Clinic for

as long as necessary (at that time it seemed that 5 years would be long enough) - and it was on 3rd February 2000 that the Clinic went into operation. Within six weeks, 352 people had received their first ever dental examination. The clinic provided preventative dental care for children, the first ever programme in Gaza. Constantine Dabbagh, the Executive Secretary of the NECC wrote to the Church in Wales: “Both communities in Shija’ia and Darraj districts are very happy for the introduction of such a service and are very appreciative and thankful to you for making it available.”

Millennium without Jubilee is blasphemy
- Archbishop Rowan



Launch of the Jubilee Fund

The Fund was officially launched at the April 2000 GB, but already by that time £7000 had been donated to the Fund, making it possible to make a first payment to the Gaza Dental Clinic. Leaflets and donation slips were widely distributed. A Jubilee Fund Committee was set up, with Bishop David Thomas as chair, Philip Morris as co-ordinator/secretary and Louise Davies as treasurer.



In July 2000, 100 pilgrims from the Church in Wales, including Archbishop Rowan and Bishops Barry and David, visited the Holy Land, including the Gaza Dental Clinic.

Jubilee Fund Projects

The Gaza Mobile Dental Clinic has been the major project supported by the Fund, with donations totalling £171,109 to date. This has enabled the Clinic not only to employ its staff, maintain its equipment and run the vehicle, but also not to have to charge patients for treatment.

Ten other projects have been supported, for periods of one to four years, and on three continents. Donations have been made either direct to the project, or through other agencies such as Christian Aid, USPG, CMS and SAMS. In the ten years since the Lambeth Conference of 1998, £240,000 has been donated by parishes and individuals, with over £4000 recovered through Gift Aid Income Tax refunds. Regular newsletters have been produced, with up-to-date information from the projects on how the money has been spent. Administrative expenses have been kept to a minimum (less than 1%) to ensure that all money donated is used for the benefit of the projects.

Rawdat El-Zuhur School, Jerusalem

£3150 was donated by the Jubilee Fund to this Christian-run primary school that provides education for 250 needy



children in East Jerusalem. It was used to provide school dinners for those children whose parents otherwise would not have been able to afford them.

The Israel Office of the Permanent Committee for the Implementation of the Alexandria Declaration

The Centre was the driving force behind efforts in January 2002 to bring three of the world's religions together to work for peace in the Middle East. The Jubilee Fund donated £4000 to help in its administration.

The Amity Foundation



The Christian-based Amity Foundation promotes education, social services, health, and rural development in the minority areas of the west of China.

£8000 was provided by the Jubilee Fund to supply teachers of English.

Providing water, Northern Argentina.

The Jubilee Fund paid the stipend (£5143) in 2001 of the Revd Jose Cicka, working among the Wichí people to drill wells for drinking water in the Chaco area, where there is drought for most of the year.

Rural Development, Burkina Faso

This is one of the poorest countries in the world; the Jubilee Fund assisted projects to manage water and protect the environment with a donation of £10,000.



Home Care Programme, Rwanda

A £10,000 grant enabled a home care programme to start, helping 180 families in Rwanda affected by AIDS.

Traumatised Girls in the Congo

A counselling programme for rape victims was supported by a grant of £5000.

St David's Hospital, Bonda, Zimbabwe

£4300 helped in the purchase of much needed medical supplies in this rural hospital.



Tanzanian Tile-making

£2800 from the Fund enabled a tile making co-operative to be established in Njombe, providing much-needed employment.

Clinical Pastoral Care, Lesotho

18 local pastoral care givers were trained through a grant of £3000 from the Jubilee Fund to work with HIV/AIDS infected and affected.

The Church in Wales



After raising £240,000 and supporting 11 projects world-wide, the Jubilee Fund has now been wound up, to be replaced by the Gaza Dental Project.

Bishop **David Thomas** explains the reason why the Bench of Bishops decided to continue to support the Dental Clinic:

"When it was announced that the Jubilee Fund would be closing at the end of 2006, a lot of people expressed the hope that our commitment to supporting the mobile dental clinic in Gaza would never-



theless continue. This project had clearly caught the imagination of people here in Wales, and with good reason. The mobile dental clinic is one little ray of hope in the situation in that area, a sign that there are other human beings – you and I – who really do care, who really do want to help. Though its purpose is to make healthcare available to as many people as possible, that Mercedes van driving round the camps and other refugee settlements speaks silently, and therefore with eloquence and integrity, of care and compassion being shown in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ."

Gaza Dental Project

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Cheques should be made payable to **Gaza Dental Project** and sent to the Treasurer.

Donations from individuals should if possible be gift-aided—gift aid envelopes are available from the Treasurer.