

Issue 40 Spring 2008

# WORKAID<sup>®</sup> WORLD

## We need your help!

**Following another record year in 2007, we are launching an urgent appeal to ensure Workaid can continue sending life-changing tools and equipment to Africa.**

**B**etween January and December last year, almost 66 tonnes of refurbished tools and equipment were despatched from the charity's workshop in Amersham, compared with just over 60 tonnes in 2006. These items are now bringing new hope to around 7,300 people working their way out of poverty.

However, Workaid now faces the huge challenge of funding new premises – something we can only do with the help of our supporters around the UK. For the last 12 years, Workaid has been

generously sponsored by GE Healthcare – one of the world's biggest biosciences companies – which has provided our current premises free of charge. Unfortunately the lease held by the company expires at the end of 2008 and GE has decided not to renew it.

Workaid's trustees have explored all the options for ensuring the charity's vital practical aid operation can continue and they have decided that the best choice is to buy our own premises – giving Workaid the security of a permanent base and an asset that will

be an investment for the future. **We are now appealing to all our supporters to help us raise £250,000 over the next two years.**

Workaid's chairperson Sylvia Parrott, MBE, said: "We are extremely grateful to GE Healthcare and its predecessor, Amersham International, for providing our workshop free of charge for so long. The unit has allowed us to expand our operations and increase the numbers of volunteers and therefore provide much more equipment to disadvantaged people in East Africa."

"We are also very appreciative of all the support we are given by companies, grant-making trusts, churches and individuals, without which Workaid simply would not exist. We are now looking to our friends and supporters to help us raise these funds – together with donations of tools and equipment – that will allow Workaid to continue giving people in need the means of building a better life for themselves."

To help secure Workaid's future by donating to our Premises Appeal, please send cheques payable to 'Workaid' to: Premises Appeal, Workaid, Unit 2b, St George's Industrial Estate, White Lion Road, Amersham, Bucks HP7 9JQ.

*Students at the Kavule Parents School for the Deaf in Uganda – see inside for a report on this inspirational project*



# Latima Bupe

Everyone at Workaid has been shocked and saddened by the sudden death of our **Zambian partner, Reverend Latima Bupe**. Latima, who had been our representative in Zambia for two and a half years, died of cerebral malaria on February 17. Our hearts go out to his wife Vera, their eight children and the large extended family which Latima was supporting.

Latima was a vivacious character and a charismatic speaker who captivated audiences when he spoke at Workaid's 20th anniversary celebrations in April 2006. He was director of the Community Institute for Youth Development (CIYD) in Ndola, a large town in the Copperbelt Region of Zambia, and became Workaid's partner after we supplied the institute with tools and equipment in 2003.

His project was typical of the minister's practical vision and commitment to helping disadvantaged people in his country. It was started in 1999 in a single room in his own home with the aim of tackling youth crime locally and reducing the number of street children by offering basic work skills. As the need grew, Latima raised enough money from supporters in Zambia and the UK to buy a plot of land, and students and community volunteers then built two workshops and three classrooms on the site.

With the help of an annual consignments of refurbished tools and equipment from Workaid, the institute has grown tremendously and is now a thriving vocational training centre and registered NGO, with over 300 students including adults as well as young people. Latima's work with CIYD was featured in Workaid World in January 2004 and September 2005. Brian Mwila, who had worked alongside Latima for six years, has taken over as acting director of CIYD and Latima's daughter, Chola Bupe, remains as programme co-ordinator.

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***"Latima was a friend as well as our partner so we are really feeling his loss" – Sylvia Parrott, Workaid chairman***

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Workaid's chairman Sylvia Parrott stayed with Latima during a monitoring visit to Zambia in October 2005. She said: "Latima was a friend as well as our partner so we are really feeling his loss.

He had been to the UK several times and everyone who knew him here is shocked by his tragic death. Our thoughts are with his wife Vera and all the members of his family who depended on him and we are doing our best to help them through this difficult time."

The current Workaid container destined for Zambia, packed with equipment for 24 projects, was due to be shipped in April. Despatch may now have to be delayed but we are hoping to go ahead with delivery to the Community Institute as soon as practical.

In the meantime, all further work in Zambia is on hold while our trustees review our partnership with CIYD. However, we will do our best to live up to Latima's inspiring words at our 20th Anniversary celebrations, when he said: "When you labour to repair equipment or pack it, you should know that you are making a wonderful contribution which is giving hope to someone in Zambia. I say to you – soldier on and don't give up because you are achieving so much."

***below: Latima (far left) with the rest of the Workaid partners at our 20th anniversary celebrations in April 2006***



***right: Latima (right in white shirt) visiting Choan Skills Training Centre in Mufulira, Zambia***



# Inspiring visit to Uganda

**Amazing', 'inspirational' and 'humbling' are just a few of the words used by Workaid chairman Sylvia Parrott and administrator Bill Duperouzel to describe their recent trip to Uganda.**

The pair travelled over 1,100 miles in 12 days to visit 19 projects and returned with some wonderful stories and photographs to illustrate how the refurbished tools and equipment supplied by Workaid are really changing and improving lives.

They visited groups in three areas: in the eastern region of Mbale, up to the border with Kenya; in the western region of Kasese to within a few miles of the Democratic Republic of Congo; and in the district of Kampala, within 30 miles of the capital city. Our partners Fr Pontian Wasswa and Fr Tony Rweza of Interservice, Kampala took it in turns to accompany Bill and Sylvia to the projects. Their experience was essential in negotiating the chaotic traffic in Kampala and the bumpy dirt roads to many of the projects.

Everywhere they went they were welcomed by singing and dancing – and by the heartfelt thanks of people for whom a sewing machine or set of carpentry tools means the chance to earn self respect as well as an income.



**above:** Two young tailoring students using a Workaid sewing machine at St Mary's Vocational School

At St Mary's Vocational Secondary School in Kakiri, 30 miles west of Kampala, members of the community have set up their own training centre for the many teenagers whose parents cannot afford further education fees. It offers courses in dressmaking and typing and a new classroom is currently being built to teach carpentry and construction with the Workaid tools they received at the end of 2007.

Bill said: "The school is run by a very dedicated headteacher, Lawrence Tamale, who understands that the youngsters need practical skills as well as an education to stop them falling back into petty crime and drug-taking. More and more students are now coming in off the streets and the school offers courses in the holidays to keep them out of trouble. They've also set up classes for housewives at the weekend who are determined to improve their families' fortunes by learning tailoring skills."

During their visit to St Mary's School, Bill and Sylvia were presented with a report on the school's progress and plans which concluded: "We are proud that you have visited us to get a first hand impression of how we are using the tools you donated to us... Without tools and with no resources to buy them, the teaching of vocational subjects remained a distant dream until we wrote to Workaid for help. Thanks to Workaid, we are now putting our ideas into practice."

A few days later, they received a further letter from Mr Tamale which read: "Allow me to pass on the heartfelt appreciation of our students for your inspiring words during the visit. Truly, there is now increased commitment amongst them towards acquiring skills. Please pass on our heartfelt appreciation to the entire staff of Workaid UK upon your return."

Sylvia said: "It was humbling to have Lawrence say that our words had inspired his students, because we came away feeling that their achievements had inspired us – seeing how much good could come from the tools and equipment we gave them and how many people it was helping."

Another inspiring project was Kavule Parents' School for the Deaf, about 16kms from Mbale. Set up in 1999, it is the only school for hearing impaired children in the whole eastern region. It is able to cater for 40 children with basic boarding facilities, but there are many more who need the specialised teaching the staff there can offer.



**Bill with children at Kavule Parents' School for the Deaf**

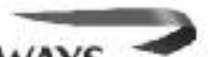
Bill said: "The director there, Sam Kateu, is an amazing man. He's on crutches after losing part of his leg in a motorbike accident but he's a really dynamic person. When I asked him how many deaf children there were in the region, he said 'We have another 200 on our waiting list' – so there are many more children who could benefit if the school was larger. The school is run by the community and they get no funds from the government. What they are doing with very limited resources, and their dedication and perseverance, is truly impressive."

The school was built with the help of a scout group in Surrey, and equipped by Workaid in 2005 with a duplicator, typewriters, sewing machines, carpentry tools and cobbling materials. In a welcoming letter presented to Bill and Sylvia, Mr Kateu wrote: "I wish to convey to you the heartfelt thanks and appreciation from the parents and the children for providing tools for life skills, because most of them are too poor for further education and this is the only alternative for the children. Let me assure you that your presence here touches us a lot."

Of all the projects on Bill and Sylvia's itinerary, there were only a few which were disappointing. Sylvia said: "There was one potential project that just wasn't there when we turned up at the address, and a couple which turned out not to be offering the courses they said they were running, or which couldn't justify the amount of equipment they had asked for. But that was the point of our trip – to verify that all the projects we've given equipment to and the new ones asking for help are genuine, and to weed out those that aren't."

"Overall, it was a very successful trip and we're grateful for the wonderful support of British Airways who provided us with free flights once again."

**BRITISH AIRWAYS**



# First container to Tanzania

## MARATHON MAN

**IF you watched the London Marathon on April 13th, you may just have seen Workaid's first competitor in this international event.**

**S**tephen Brand, a chef from Norwich, took part proudly wearing a Workaid 20th anniversary T-shirt (yes, we still have a few left!).

Aged 41, Stephen is the son-in-law of our Norwich area organisers, David and Janet Evans-Jones. He is married to their daughter Annette and the couple have a six-year-old daughter Hannah-Mae.

Stephen completed the London Marathon in 2005 and was accepted again for this year's race. Speaking before the event, he said: "As I had not decided upon a charity to run for this time, it took little arm twisting from David to persuade me to run for Workaid. I was pleased and surprised to discover that I am a 'first' in that respect and feel it such a worthy cause to raise money for."

We can't tell you how well Stephen did in the event, as this edition of Workaid World went to press before the race, but you can find out by logging on to [www.justgiving.com/stephenbrand](http://www.justgiving.com/stephenbrand). And, of course, you can still sponsor Stephen online at that address and help Workaid's first London Marathon runner to raise as much money as possible for our work helping people in Africa out of poverty this year.

Our grateful thanks go to Stephen for all his efforts. If you are a keen runner looking for a charity to support, please call 01494 765506 and talk to our fundraiser Chrissie Russell-Flint about how you can raise much-needed funds by competing in events for Workaid.

We would also like to say a big 'thank you' to Clare Forknell, events manager for Diabetes UK, who kindly arranged for Stephen to join the charity's post-race reception and enjoy some much-needed food, drink and pampering.



*London Marathon runner Stephen Brand with his daughter Hannah-Mae*

Spring 2008 will see Workaid's first container shipped to Tanzania, packed with refurbished tools and equipment for 17 projects.

Tanzania is one of the world's poorest countries, ranked in the bottom 20 out of 177 countries assessed by the United Nations Development Programme. Life expectancy is 51 years for men, 54 for women, and the average annual income per head was just \$340 in 2006 – meaning that most of the population is surviving on less than \$1 a day.

**A**s is so often the case, this poverty has a disproportionate affect on the life chances of the most vulnerable - women, children and the disabled. So it is these groups of people that Workaid's next container – called Zebedee – will be helping.

Among the projects due to receive equipment is the Women Solidarity Group in Mbeya which will be setting up carpentry and tailoring courses for unemployed youths, widows, and younger girls and women at risk of contracting HIV through prostitution.

This innovative self-help group, which has 20 members, is already running training courses in soap-making and mushroom cultivation with minimal resources. The limited funds raised in this way are helping ten members of the group to look after three orphans each, who they have taken into their own homes.

Another organisation, Tanzania Action on Development, was set up to improve the education, training and quality of life of disabled people in the country and to reduce discrimination

against them. Workaid is sending a wide range of tools and equipment to one of its projects in Goba village, 25km outside the capital Dar es Salaam, which is working with young disabled people who had resorted to begging to survive. The project has 78 trainees aged 14-25 who are now following courses in car maintenance, dress-making, welding, construction and vegetable gardening.

The project director Constancia Kasunga, wrote to Workaid to express her delight on hearing that they had been allocated equipment on Zebedee. She said: "Once again we would like to insist that we really need these tools to enable us to run our project activities. If we acquire these tools, it means we increase the number of beneficiaries and so achieve our intended objectives." The expected costs of shipping Zebedee - £5,600 – will be covered by a generous grant from a UK trust.

The container will be received and distributed by Sister Gertrude Swai at the Kwiroti St Francis Vocational Training Centre, run by the Catholic Diocese of Mahenge, where the empty container will be put to good use.

## Thanks for the Christmas gifts!

Christmas may be long past but we would still like to thank everyone who donated to our Christmas 2007 Gift Appeal, raising £5,360. Our gift leaflets are still available if you would like to buy an 'alternative' present for a friend or relative's birthday. Or maybe you could request a Workaid gift of a tool kit or a sewing machine (or several!) in place of your own birthday or anniversary presents. For copies of the leaflet, call the Workaid office on 01494 765506 or email [admin@workaid.org](mailto:admin@workaid.org) with 'gift leaflet' in the subject line.

# KENYA CRISIS update

The recent political unrest in Kenya, which exploded into violence after the contested elections at the end of 2007, has had a severe affect on Workaid's operation in the country.

Our work is concentrated in the Rift Valley area which was hardest hit: many of the projects we support are in or around the towns of Nakuru, Kisumu and Eldoret, which sadly made headline news for the tribal killings, looting and arson which took place in January and February this year.

Five projects reported that they had lost everything, two have re-located over the border into Uganda and a number of others have been badly disrupted. Communication during the crisis was difficult and we are still anxiously waiting to hear from many projects. However, following the peace accord agreed between president Mwai Kibaki and opposition leader Raila Odinga, some more positive news is starting to emerge.

George Okanga, director of the Bidii Self-Help Group in Kisumu, sent us a distressing email in January, which read: "Kibuye market where our project is based was burnt and life is completely unbearable for the small-scale technicians here. The most affected are in tailoring, dressmaking and carpentry – hundreds of stalls were reduced to ashes." Six weeks later, he contacted us again to say that the peace accord had been welcomed by all Kenyans and that "there is a full indication of a return to peace, normalcy and democracy and I hope that Workaid projects in Kenya can move on as they were moving before."

More news came from Meco Community-Based Organisation in Nairobi, where the secretary Crispo Odhiambo Oyongo wrote: "On the eve of the new year, rowdy youths engaged in inter-ethnic battles burnt down two of our classrooms. Everything went up in flames including furniture, 13 sewing machines, assorted materials and teaching aids.

Detractors should not, however, be allowed to succeed in bringing down institutions that haven taken years and a concerted effort to establish. We are making every effort not to discontinue our services to the people of Mathare. Our resolve is stronger than ever, our wish is for a caring and peaceful society and our will is to act."

This remarkable spirit of resilience gives hope to Workaid's staff and volunteers in the UK that our operation in Kenya will recover as soon as possible and that we can help to rebuild the communities shattered by the ethnic violence. Realistically, however, the lives of thousands of displaced people will take many years to return to normal, and the country now needs Workaid's help more than ever.

Our most recent container of refurbished tools and equipment for Kenya arrived in January and was held up in Nairobi for two months while the road to our partners in Kisii was unsafe to travel. However, the freight operators were able to store it without charging us and it was delivered to the Catholic Diocese of Kisii (CDK) over the Easter weekend. Our representative at CDK, Christopher Otsinde, was unable to move around to check on projects while the threat of violence continued, but he will receive some news from projects when they come to collect their equipment and will hopefully be able to visit others safely soon.

Another Workaid container destined for Uganda was stranded in Mombasa by the backlog caused at the port, but this too was expected to be able to continue its overland journey to Kampala at the end of March.

## Another record year!

Thanks to the tremendous efforts of our workshop volunteers, Workaid achieved another record year in 2007 – shipping more tools and equipment than ever before to transform the lives of disadvantaged people in Africa.

### Tools & equipment supplied in 2007

1,102	Sewing machines
418	Knitting machines
406	Typewriters
199	Boxes of wool
314	Carpentry kits
96	Construction kits
72	Horticultural kits
59	Mechanical kits
38	Metalwork kits
34	Leatherwork kits
25	Electrical kits

Other (inc. duplicators & welding equipment)

Between January and December last year, 65,880kg of refurbished items were packed and despatched from Workaid's workshop in Amersham, compared with 61,640kg in 2006. That's almost 66 metric tonnes of sewing machines, knitting machines, typewriters and trade tools that have been donated by supporters in the UK, refurbished by volunteers and are now enabling disadvantaged people to learn new skills and build better lives for themselves.

Most of the tools and equipment were shipped in six 20ft containers - two each to Kenya, Uganda and Zambia – delivering life-changing tools and equipment to 122 vocational training projects.

Individual consignments were shipped to a further 24 projects in Albania, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and the UK, bringing the total number of projects assisted in 2007 to 146.

This compares with 161 projects supported in 2006, when Workaid assisted more projects but supplied less tools and equipment.

## Appeal for tools

We are currently running short of hand tools of all types - especially for carpentry - and power tools, which are in demand from projects with a regular electricity supply. All UK power tools are suitable for use in east Africa. To donate tools or equipment, call our office on 01494 765506. We will put you in touch with our nearest area organiser, most of whom are able to collect the items from you.

## WORKAID ON THE NET [www.workaid.org](http://www.workaid.org)

Don't forget you can find the latest news from Workaid on our website [www.workaid.org](http://www.workaid.org), where you can also download this newsletter and previous editions to forward to friends and family.

If you would like to receive your copy of Workaid World by email from now on, please send an email to [admin@workaid.org](mailto:admin@workaid.org) with 'newsletter delivery' as the subject. This would help save paper, cut our printing and postage costs, and get the newsletter to you faster. Send us your email address, subject newsletter delivery. Our email address is:

[admin@workaid.org](mailto:admin@workaid.org)

# Feedback from projects

We members of the executive would like to send our sincerest thanks for the recent donation of tools to our group which empowers the needy children in our community. All the tools reached us in good condition and are now being used by our trainees. We are particularly happy with the knitting machine which we wished to acquire for a long time and right away we have started a knitting unit.

We wish once again to thank you for your generosity and may God bless you.

**Mr Michael Kalungi, Chairman  
People's Mercy Foundation  
Masaka, Uganda**

We thank all Workaid members of staff and all those who contributed to help our organisation. We sincerely say thank you very much for the kind work you are doing.

Please rest assured that your help will go a long way to us as Zambians, as you know that poverty levels will now go down in our land and the communities around us.

We have started sewing and carpentry and as well we intend to do a lot in the areas of poverty reduction, helping orphans and the less privileged in the society.

Please let it be known to you that ever since we started working as a project it was the first time to receive goods from your organisation and we never had such an encounter with any organisation before. You are the first to bless our project in that manner. All along we have been struggling.

May God bless you so much.

**Pastor Gift Kamuzyu  
Pentecostal Holiness Church  
Kazembe, Zambia**

We are very grateful for your generosity in sending us the machines. The students were very happy and excited when they arrived last week. They wanted to open them immediately! When we did open them it was like the treasure found in the field.

The materials you sent with the sewing machines are being made into blouses, skirts and trousers. The knitting machine is great to have. Lessons in machine knitting will be included in the curriculum for 2008. It will give the students another skill.

Than you again for the good work you are doing.

**Sister Nigisti Zeray, Director  
Chepnyal Women's Polytechnic  
Diocese of Kitale, Kenya**

We are very thankful on behalf of the Board of Governors, the Staff and the students of St Martin Vocational Secondary School, for the numerous and miscellaneous items donated to our school through our colleagues Interservice Kampala, Fr. Zachary and Fr. Pontian. You really boosted us to a level that we wouldn't reach single-handedly.

The vocational sections of carpentry, tailoring, building and concrete practice, knitting among others were well equipped with tools that would enable our students to acquire skills to pass through the hurdles of their future.

**Fr. Nanseera Vincent, Chaplain,  
St. Martin Vocational Secondary  
School, Masaka, Uganda**

## WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL

Workaid depends on the generous support of individuals, organisations and the local community. Our thanks are due especially to our 170 volunteers and 100 area organisers who give their time and efforts freely. We are also grateful for the financial support, some of it in kind, of: Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust, The Bartle Family Charitable Trust, British Airways, Broadway Baptist Church Chesham, CAFOD, Chiltern District Council, The Cundill Foundation, Ercol, Lonmin Plc, The Daughters of Jesus Provincialate, The Education and General Charitable Trust, The Entertainer, The FAF Charitable Trust, GE Healthcare, The Gunter Charitable Trust, Northern Containers, The Laing Family Trusts, The Marr-Munning Trust, Rickmansworth Parochial Church Council, The Rowan Charitable Trust, Toolbank, Rotary Club of Amersham.



**Construction students at St Martin's Vocational Secondary School practise their bricklaying skills**

**WORKAID**  
Self-help Worldwide

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