

Transfer of Appropriate Sustainable Technology and Expertise

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Resources for Self-Sufficiency

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Dear Friend

Please forgive the 'standard letter' approach but I have a matter of real urgency to share with you. It concerns the replacement of Rocky, our old and rather tired drilling rig.

We shipped Rocky to Nigeria in May 2004 and, since then, he's been busy every dry season drilling boreholes. At last count, he had constructed over 50 boreholes. But, in recent months, the rig has been available to us less and less due to a constant run of breakdowns. I guess that we have a breakdown every 3 days – in fact the drilling companies in Jos are amazed that Rocky is still going. It is only by God's grace and the dedication of our drillers that we see any activity at all. During the last 12 months we spent nearly £7000 on repairs!

So we have determined to find a suitable replacement and have identified a smaller, more portable rig that would allow us to work in the toughest terrains and in confined spaces. The cost of the new rig, complete with a full set of spares will be around £80,000. Whilst that seems a lot, actually we should be able to afford it. But there is a catch! We will be able to afford the rig, but we need to spread the cost over 5 years.

Now the obvious solution to this problem would be to go to a friendly bank and ask for a loan. But we've approached some and find them not too friendly right now. However, when sharing this with some friends recently, each of them offered to lend us £1000, on the grounds that they were receiving precious little interest at present so their money might as well be doing something worthwhile. They encouraged me to tell other supporters about the need as they felt that others would respond as they had done.

So there you have it. We need to raise around £80,000 and would love to do so from friends if that is possible. Can you help? Do you know somebody who may be able to help? Do you know a Trust that might be able to contribute? If the answer to any of these questions is 'yes', please get in touch – I'll be working on this project throughout May and June, so would be very happy to talk to you about it and, if necessary, come and meet with you. Tom reckons that a new rig would allow us to drill 50 boreholes a year! Help us to make that possible.

Thanks for all your support and encouragement up to now.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Horton
Chief Executive



"... rise and build"
Nehemiah 2v20

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