

If you are new to TASTE

TASTE was formed in September 1999 to demonstrate the love of Christ as seen in Christian works and values.

A charity which focuses on practical service in Nigeria, TASTE seeks to encourage the spread of appropriate and sustainable technology throughout the country. This could take the form of managing or delivering a project, sending suitably qualified Christian professionals to work alongside local people or offering a placement to young Nigerian professionals.

TASTE has identified Achi as the first community with which it will work and has appointed Mark Lipdo as Project Manager to take the work forward. Mark is a qualified engineer resident in Jos and he will oversee the Achi project and recommend future TASTE activities.

Don't forget to join us on 1st October.

If you can't join us, please remember to pray that we might know God's blessing on the meeting

If you received this newsletter, it is because you have requested it or some-one thought that you might be interested in our work.

If you do not wish to be on our mailing list, contact us at the address opposite and we will remove you from the list.

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News from

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I went to have a shower the other day and the water was cold! Now this was a little before the recent hot spell and, anyway, I like a hot shower before I go to work, whatever the weather. The fault was with the hot water system that was guaranteed and so I left my wife to call the manufacturers. When I got home, I asked the obvious question, only to discover that nobody could come until the following day. "But, that's outrageous. I want a hot shower in the morning ..." and, to my shame, my rant continued.

In the UK we take our water supply for granted. Even the smallest hiccup in the supply causes us concern. But, as we have said so often before, our brothers and sisters in Nigeria are not so fortunate. We were hearing recently about communities in the North of the country where they still scoop water by the cupful from almost dry wells.

TASTE did not start out to work only with water but, so far, that's the direction that God has led us. Please pray for our work, that we will be able to help communities who are most in need and that, in the process of helping them with drinking water, we can point men and women to the supply of Living Water, found only in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Diary Dates:

Saturday 1st October

Thanksgiving Service &
Annual Update, 3.00 pm
Wycliffe Church, Sheffield

Saturday 25 March 2006

Annual 5k Fun Run,
Weston Park, Sheffield

Let us know if you are able
to organise any events lo-
cally, we'll
publicise them here

TASTE Visitors

During the past few months, we have enjoyed meeting friends, supporters and family members.



Robert Ekpo from Port Harcourt is presently studying in Birmingham and travelled to meet with the Trustees recently. Robert has expertise in engineering and large scale water distribution projects. He was able to give the Trustees a valuable insight into Nigerian engineering practices and has offered to advise us when he returns to Port Harcourt this Autumn.

Some of you will have already met our other visitors, Daniel and Kathleen Gula. Daniel has recently retired from COCIN (Church of Christ in Nigeria) where he was a senior pastor and area Chairman - responsible for several churches on his 'patch'. But Daniel and Kathleen are probably better known to us as the in-laws of our project manager, Mark Lipdo. Mark gained them as family members when he married daughter, Eli. Kathleen is originally from Newcastle-upon-Tyne so she was very pleased to be in the North-East when they spoke at the TASTE / Tear Fund prayer meeting in Reeth. We were delighted to have Daniel & Kathleen with us in Sheffield to meet informally with the Trustees to share their vast knowledge of evangelism in Nigeria.



Daniel & Kathleen with Angie House, the master organiser of the Reeth Ramble

Prayer Points

We are working harder at keeping the *Prayer Requests* section of the website more up to date! Hopefully, when you find yourself thinking, "there must be some more news coming from TASTE" you ought to be able to log on and get up-to-date items for prayer. In the meantime, here are some pointers to keep you going.

Give thanks for:

- ◆ The safe shipping of the pumps to Lagos
- ◆ Rebekah joining the UK team
- ◆ Progress with drilling at Mashiah Foundation
- ◆ Joss' safe travelling with his family
- ◆ The peace that has held for the last few months

Let's pray that:

- ◆ Peace will be established in Nigeria
- ◆ The census 'issues' will be resolved without aggression
- ◆ We will be able to arrange clearance for the pumps swiftly and economically and for safe transportation to Jos.
- ◆ All our staff will have wisdom in their everyday dealings, so that others will be challenged by their Christian walk
- ◆ Rebekah will settle in swiftly
- ◆ Trustees will be able to source additional funding support for Achi
- ◆ The Trustees will know God's directing and guidance in all their decision making
- ◆ The daily testimony of Trustees and staff will give occasion for men and women turning to the Saviour
- ◆ We will know God's blessing on the Thanksgiving Service and that new supporters will be encouraged to join us

Politics in Nigeria

We often hear about violence and bloodshed in Nigeria but the political scene is not something we discuss too often. Now, it is true that the politics are complex and of varying nature as one moves from State to State, but we should not overlook what is happening on the political scene as today's politics are often tomorrow's events.

Amongst the disturbing news coming out of Nigeria, we hear that:

- ◆ The forthcoming national census is causing friction. There are plans to require respondents to state their religion. This is a question that the Muslims oppose. The Christians believe that if the Muslims are unsuccessful in their attempts to remove the question, they will turn to attempts to manipulate and corrupt the data collected from the question. So, some Christians have said that they will not complete the census questionnaire.
- ◆ Nigeria has joined membership of the Islamic Development Bank, an organisation established to foster social and economic development of its member countries and Muslim communities world-wide "in conformity to Shari'ah (Islamic Law)". Christians are concerned at the lack of information about this membership.
- ◆ There is a large interest from the countries that support terrorism in the forthcoming election and Christians will not support any candidate being sponsored by these countries.
- ◆ It seems that BBC Hausa is manipulating the news. An recent issue that concerns Plateau has been reported by a Muslim Hausa reporter in next-door Bauchi State but not by the English-speaking BBC service in Plateau itself.

Against this background, there is constant low-level violence (if violence can ever be termed low-level) where isolated attacks on communities, churches or individuals leave a few injured or dead. This is no longer considered news-worthy! However, those bent on terror add almost daily threats to this recipe of horror, with the result that a permanent state of tension and unrest exists in Plateau and neighbouring states in the north.



It isn't everyday that we can have an inspection visit from the UK. But that is just what happened on 10 August when Joss Etty from Sheffield (complete with mum, dad and nan) arrived in Jos to visit TASTE.

Joss, a pupil of Dobcroft School, has been a TASTE supporter since Mark visited his school to talk at an assembly. Since then

Ben has been an annual visitor to the school to update the children on our activities. In turn, the children have actively supported TASTE with donations from their own fundraising and regular participation in our annual fun run. So it was natural that Joss should want to see what we are doing with his friend's donations!

The visit centred on the Mashiah Foundation, where we are drilling a borehole to provide clean water for AIDS sufferers, their families and those left without family as a result of the disease.



Staff and residents of Hope Street Boys' Home (run by the Foundation) turned out to greet our visitors and Joss was presented with a quilt, made by the residents, for him to take back to Dobcroft. As Joss is moving to secondary school, he is planning a special visit to his former school to present the quilt and show some of the pictures taken during his visit.

We hope to be able to borrow the quilt and many of the pictures that the family took during their visit so that we can display them at our Thanksgiving Service on 1st October.

Welcome to Rebekah

We are delighted to welcome Rebekah James to the TASTE family, as our new Operations Officer. On the same day that Michael Owen was being introduced to the Newcastle fans, Rebekah was moving her things into Sheffield for the next year or so.

Rebekah has been in Sheffield since October 2001, when she started at The University of Sheffield, reading history. During her time at Uni, she was very active in the CU and a regular attendee at Wycliffe Church who, when she graduated, asked her to stay on for 12 months to lead their student work.

When Kathryn Walze left us earlier this year, the Trustees were unanimous in their decision to approach Rebekah to take over the post, which she has agreed to do until June 2006.



Rebekah will be working on a part-paid, part volunteer basis and aims to be in the office for two full days every week, with one of those days being Monday each week. When she is not around, you'll be able to leave a message or speak with Ann, who shares the office.

Rebekah's priorities will be to attract funding from grant awarding bodies, build up our contacts with schools & churches and administer events like the Thanksgiving Service and the annual fun run. Routinely she will also be communicating with our Nigerian team and sorting out any issues that they may raise. All that in just two days per week!

Please pray that Rebekah will quickly settle into the post and get used to working with Trustees who are also busy doing their own day jobs!

But I Can't Make a Difference ...

How often do you hear yourself saying those words?

For the writer, it's a fairly regular occurrence! But there is so much need around us. Where ever we look, men and women are rushing headlong towards a lost eternity; children are being damaged; wives are being battered; the environment is being polluted. How on earth can little me make a real difference?

The reality is that unless we have outstanding skills and personal qualities or unless God overcomes our shortcomings to make us a powerful instrument for good, on our own we can do very little. But that should not prevent us from making our contribution. There are innumerable organisations working diligently to serve those in need but those organisations require help from you. There are very few organisations who are able to fund and manage all their own activities without substantial input from individual men and women. Without the contribution of the 'ordinary person' - young or old, male or female - the big organisations will not be able to make a difference.

Our charities are becoming so switched on to marketing that scarcely a day goes by without some-one asking you to help them. Little wonder that we all suffer from charity-fatigue. But we still need to appreciate that, without our input, these organisations will be the poorer. And not just financially poorer.

So, what can you do for those organisations you support? First and most importantly, pray for them. Pray as specifically as you are able. Then tell others about their work and encourage others to pray. If you are able to donate, fine. This does not have to be large amounts. You would be surprised how valuable £1 per week can

become in terms of purchasing power elsewhere in the world and in terms of encouragement to the staff of your chosen organisation. And don't feel frightened to say, "No" to those organisations you can't support. Focus your energies specifically and recognise that you can help to change our world!