



Opportunity 2 Hope eNews Letter

Winter 2012

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WHAT IS O2H?

Opportunity2Hope (O2H) is a mercy ministry operated by ordinary people to help the poor throughout the world. O2H is best described as a grass roots organization where the members not only contribute but also initiate grants for worthy projects. **The following is a summary of what each of you have done.** Some of the grants O2H have made recently include:

A Jubilee For The Poor: Apple Valley, MN, USA



This year O2H granted £3,000 (\$4,625 US) for a celebration of people in the Minneapolis area who are in need. Held September 17th, 2011, Jubilee was a day filled with fun, hope and encouragement. **The money was used for the tents.** Through donations from churches, individuals, corporations, and **O2H**, have brought blessings of food,

merchandise, services, all in a fun, festive atmosphere. It's all FREE!

The Mission of Jubilee is to give away more than just stuff. The true mission



of Jubilee is to serve God by giving generously, compassionately and unconditionally to people in order to demonstrate the hope and love that can only come through Jesus. This is the ninth consecutive year for giving away thousands of dollars of goods and services.

This year there were 1815 registered attendees with 24 area churches contributing. 60 + Vision screenings were done in a mobile clinic, 11 attendees had free dental treatment in another mobile clinic, 1600+ bottles of laundry soap distributed, thousands of pieces of clothing, baby items, and household items given away.

1728 loaves of bread were served and over 925 families took part. 1,700 bags of groceries were given away along with 65 haircuts, 140 family portraits and all with live





music, dance acts, clowns, pizza and more.

To serve this many people, 470 volunteers help distribute the goods and services, all in Jesus' name. Each family received a certificate good for 7 FREE blessings. These blessings include: a bag of groceries, a choice of services (haircut, photo session, etc.) and many new or gently used items such a clothing, toys and household



merchandise. Truly the people who attend call this their own fair for the poor! Jubilee has happened for 9 years.

To see a video of Jubilee 9 go to this link: <http://www.global-horizons.org/videos/single/jubilee-celebration-9/>

Fire Engines And Training For Kenya



We granted an application of **£2,500 (\$3,854 US)** to help build a **fire service in Kenya**.

A life-saving Kenya fire service was started by the simple donation of a single engine from Bedfordshire and now three more are being added to the original vehicle.



The President of Kenya has sent his thanks back to the people of Dunstable and to the Chief Fire Officer of Bedfordshire Paul Fuller.

The idea started with a Church related-charity: the Onset Trust and Pastor Douglas Richards of Dunstable Community Church. The church approached Bedfordshire and Luton Fire and Rescue Service to ask if it could purchase an old fire engine to send out to

Meru in Kenya where no fire service existed and deaths from fires are common.

The Combined Fire Authority (CFA) members decided they would give a vehicle which was going out of commission.



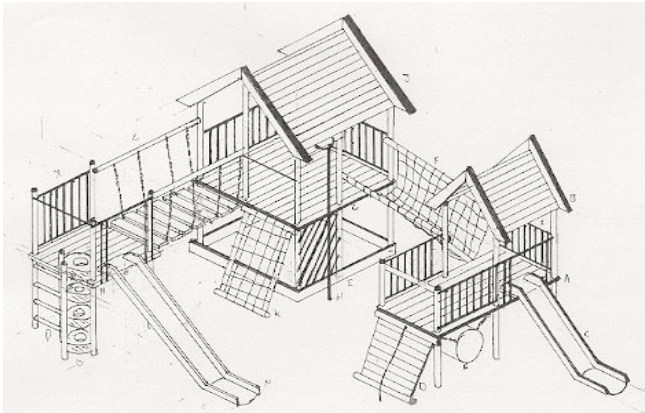
22 firemen are on the ground in Kenya. The fire engines have reached each town and the training has begun.

In 14 days time, Onset Trust, with your help will have trained and raised up 200 African firemen, commissioned fire engine two, three and four. Renovated and equipped the first Kenyan fire training centre in all of the country. In addition, multiple 1,000's of children in schools and people in slums are being taught fire safety by specially trained fire prevention officers that we have sent.

Many lives are being saved because of your help through Opportunity 2 Hope..



A Jungle Gym For Soweto, South Africa



We granted **£2,500 (\$3,854 US)** for an **AIDs/HIV clinic and orphanage called Emthonjeni**, located in an informal settlement near to Soweto, South Africa. Specifically, we helped to build a 'jungle gym' (outside play equipment) at Emthonjeni for children who live in the surrounding settlement.

We became aware of this project through an O2H member of Wharfedale Vineyard, in Leeds.

This past summer a family from the church traveled to Emthonjeni to build the gym.

Emthonjeni was established in 2001 and is central to the local neighbourhood where there are no other facilities of this type to benefit the community.

Emthonjeni provides medical and nutritional support to people in the local area, distributing medicines for AIDs related illnesses as well as sending out workers to people in their own homes when they are too ill to get to the clinic. In a country where at least 15 – 18%

of the population has HIV/AIDs, Emthonjeni is providing a vital service to the community it supports.



Thousands of children live in the surrounding area and around 100 -150 children attend Emthonjeni each day to get a meal and receive help with their school homework. They also have access to the medical facilities at the clinic. The jungle gym provides a good quality, safe and fun environment for these children to play on when they visit Emthonjeni.

The surrounding neighbourhood is characterised by poverty, high unemployment and a large proportion of child headed households. It would make a huge difference to the children living in this area if their visits to Emthonjeni not only met the basic need for a meal and help with school work but could provide a safe place for them to simply enjoy themselves and have fun.



Latvian Housing Project



O2H Granted **£1,200 (\$1,865 US)** to improve the housing for a poor family In Latvia. This initiative worked with a local Latvian charity (Misija Pakapieni) to improve the decrepit housing

provision for a single mother and her 7 children.

The house had rotten windows, no heating, limited electrics, no running hot water, no washing facilities

and the majority of the living space was unusable due to the floor being dirt/sand.

A team of nine volunteers from the Wharfedale Vineyard, in Leeds traveled to Latvia on 4th July 2011 to complete the work on the house. A member of the team, Gunita King, is from Latvia and has a long standing relationship with the local Latvian charity through which this project has been established.

The family now has a home in which the mother and 7 children will be able to live with shelter from the extreme elements in Latvia.

The winters typically see a large amount of snow and ice for at least 4 months of the year with temperatures regularly falling below minus 20 degrees centigrade. This means that the absence of adequate windows and any heating had been a real issue for the health of the children.

African Touchpad Tablet Project

Zambian Internet Touchpad Tablet Project – O2H has granted £330 (\$513 US) to help purchase Touchpad Tablets for Hope College, Zambia:

Amazon, announced that in the last quarter of 2010, they had now transitioned into selling more books via the Kindle device and application than they do paper books.



This is a significant statement from the world's greatest bookseller (and a significant educational source to the world). There is a realization that the world is heading more and more towards electronic portable devices for educational training. Many training schools, colleges, universities and centres are now using tablet notebook devices for education and training.

We have a great opportunity to utilize such in helping our friends in Hope College in Zambia.

We can supply the students of Hope College with internet touchpad computers for their training and holistic education.

This will not replace personal, one-to-one, hands-on training, rather this will supplement training alongside what is already provided. These tablets access a whole host of resources: The knowledge available on the worldwide web (both free and purchased books via the Kindle application), a plethora of Bible translations and Bible software, various social networking for audio and video communication (i.e. Skype, Facebook, etc), translations of multiple languages, etc. And the greatest thing would be to see this become a resource for uploading assignments in PDF format and placing all lecture audio into the music player'.

A student not only receives hands-on training on the ground, but after 2 years of training they leave with a resource bank to continue their own educational development and use for the development of other people.

This would be an educational seed into their own lives and the lives of others to come.

Short term goal: To provide 5 internet touchpad tablets for staff and pastors of Hope College, Lusaka, Zambia. This is a kind of 'tester' stage to see if this would be beneficial in the long-term.

Long-term goal: To provide internet touch-pad tablets for all pastor-students of Hope College (possibly beginning in January 2013).

The cost per tablet is: £165 (\$256 US).

Rugby Food Bank Project:

We granted £1,500 (\$2,330) for beginning a food bank in Rugby. The churches in Rugby, UK are setting up the food bank. It is an amazing initiative and I (Diane Mansell – an O2H Board Member) am so excited that we will be bringing this to the people of Rugby – many of whom are in great need.



It is a very 'big society' idea, and allows the people of Rugby to help the people of Rugby. As we reach out the church will be seen to be fleshing out Matt 25:35. We will be touching the lives of the lost, the least and the last... here in Rugby, with a message that we care, that Jesus cares and they are not forgotten.

We are doing this under the banner of the **Trussell Trust** based in Salisbury which operates as a franchise model equipping churches to deliver this to their location.



You may well have heard of foodbanks as they have received huge press coverage locally and nationally and last year provided emergency food to over 60,000 people in crisis. This is emergency relief – not long

term help – clients are sign posted to other agencies who will assist in the long term. The majority of clients come because of benefit delay, unemployment and low income.

Food is donated by the public via supermarket collections, harvest festival collections, church collections, etc – so it goes wider than just the Christian community and involves the local community helping their local community. Clients are referred through a vouchers scheme issued by front line agencies such as CAB, social workers, head teachers, children's centres etc. They are allowed up to 3 vouchers in a year each giving 3 days worth of long life nutritional food for all the members of the household.



Here in Rugby we aim to open for food distribution in mid March but there is much to be done before then. We are still locating a storage facility for the tons of food we will need to collect. We are now contacting the agencies and making the public aware of the scheme through press releases etc. However, as with any new operation there are significant start up costs and this is where I believe O2H could play a valuable part in bringing much needed emergency relief to many people in Rugby.

There are two websites to learn more about the foodbank network and the Trussell Trust.

www.rugby.foodbank.org.uk

www.trusselltrust.org

Longton (Stoke-on-Trent) Kitchen Project

We granted £1,250 (\$1,943 US) for the Longton Community Kitchen (Stoke-on-Trent, UK). The Longton Community Church has a beloved place in the city because of their reaching out to the elderly and poor in their city.

They were in need for equipment and other help in order to continue the needed gathering of people through community meals and the café.

The most recent community meal was the Christmas Meal where 60 people from the community turned up.

Here is what the Local Newspaper, **The Sentinel** wrote about the meal:

"Local traders provided vegetables and Churchill

China donated some crockery, while church members and volunteers from the church's youth group helped



serve the meal.

Around 60 elderly residents attended yesterday's dinner.

Andy King, pastor of Longton Community Church, said it was important that the dinner took place.

He said: "In previous years the dinner was supported by our local councillors, but that funding wasn't available this year, so we decided to raise the money ourselves.

"Local traders have donated fruit and veg and Churchill China has helped out as well.

"So the whole community has come together so the elderly people could enjoy a great Christmas meal.

"Some of these people don't really get the opportunity to get out, so this event gives them a great change to socialise while having a good, healthy meal. That is really important, especially at this time of the year.

"I think this is just the sort of thing our church should be doing. We want to be right at the heart of the community."

Rona Moore was one of the residents who enjoyed the Christmas meal.

The 61-year-old, of Lightwood, said: "I'm actually from Suffolk originally, and so this is the first time I've attended the Christmas dinner. I think it's absolutely

fantastic that something like this is taking place.

"It's bringing the whole community together and giving you the opportunity to meet other people."

Margaret Shaw, aged 81, of Longton, said: "It's been a really wonderful Christmas dinner.

"It was really great to see the young boys from the youth club helping out.

"I'm a member of the knitting group here and we've made the decorations for the Christmas tree, so everyone is coming together to help."

Mary Wallace, aged 63, of Caroline Street, Longton, said: "I've been to the dinner in previous years but I was worried it wouldn't happen this year because of all the council cuts, so it's great that the church is supporting it.

"It is really important that we have something like this."

Josh Stokes was one of the young volunteers who helped out at the Christmas dinner.

The 16-year-old, of Longley Road, Longton, told The Sentinel: "We've been helping to prepare and serve the meal to the elderly people.

"We go to the youth club at the church and Andy asked us if we'd like to volunteer, and we were happy to do it. I think it's gone really well."

This Christmas meal is but one example of what the church does in their community kitchen all year long.

If You Want To Join O2H

You can Join O2H by contacting the board chairman, **Andrew Sturgess** through the following link:

andrewandjulie.sturgess@btinternet.com

Place 'interested in becoming a member' in the subject matter.

Go online to see all of the places O2H has contributed:

www.global-horizons.org/humanitarian-partnerships/opportunity-2-hope/