

we can make a difference ...



February 2009

# Together

News for church representatives from your local area co-ordinator

## Conquering poverty

### 'Helping people to help themselves' in DR Congo

East Central area's project for 2009 is in Bas Congo West, situated on the Atlantic coast. Life expectancy there is 42 years and one in four children die before they reach the age of five.

Bas Congo West has a population of 1.2 million and is comprised of 15 districts, most of which are rural and extremely difficult to access during the rainy season. Conflict and neglect have left the country's infrastructure and health system in tatters.

There were 8,820 new cases of leprosy recorded in 2007 by the World Health Organisation in DR Congo – a figure which has more than doubled since 1993.

The project, which spans age, gender and religious groupings, focuses on the 15 villages in the province and centres on 'helping people to help themselves'.



Will you organise a prayer breakfast/other event and sell bacon butties to raise funds?

Our target of **£10,000** will include helping to fund a pig-breeding project in each village. Piglets will be 'seeded' from one village to the next as a way of linking all villages in a chain of enterprise.

People living with leprosy-related disabilities and other disabilities will be socially and economically empowered.

Formation of self-help groups (village associations) will enable members to integrate with other people in their communities.

Small loans (micro-credit) will be offered where needed to help villagers develop small businesses and become financially independent.

The project will also provide support to hospitals and schools, scholarships for poor children, housing repairs and construction and access to clean drinking water. The wider community will therefore benefit through enhanced village prosperity.

*Let's bring home the bacon – Together!*

### Events for 2009

*The Archers Enthusiasts' Quiz*  
Quiz based on the popular BBC Radio 4 programme. £2 per entry; quiz sheets available now. Completed entries to be received by Pamela by 30 April. Special prize for the winner! *Dum di dum, di dum, di dum ...*

*Walk of Hope*  
**4th Annual Rutland Round**  
Join us again in this beautiful part of God's vineyard for the sponsored 6-mile walk around the Upper Hambleton Peninsular at Rutland Water on Saturday 25 April 2009. See you at Oakham Methodist Church for coffee at 9.30 am first.



East Central serves the following postcodes: DE, DN, LE, LN, NG, NN, S18, 32-33, 40-45, SK13, 17, 22-23

Mrs Pamela Levens  
16 Queen Street  
Langley Mill  
Nottingham NG16 4EJ  
Tel: 01773 762376  
pamelal@tlmew.org.uk



The Leprosy Mission  
Goldhay Way  
Orton Goldhay  
Peterborough PE2 5GZ

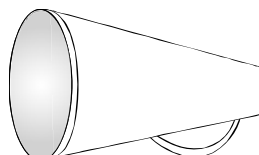
Tel: 01733 370505  
post@tlmew.org.uk  
www.leprosymission.org.uk  
Charity no. 1050327

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**Please share this information with other people in your church**



**Our vision: a world without leprosy**

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# 'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full' says Jesus, in John 10: 10

## Restoring lives in Kogi State, Nigeria

Thank you so much for your generosity towards our project last year, which amassed over £13,770 – tremendous!

## Nottingham 'Chess King of the Road'

My husband, David, completed 15 miles in the Robin Hood Marathon whilst playing six games of chess via a mobile phone against six of the best junior players in the county. He won two games, drew two and lost two! His energetic effort raised £1,200 through sponsorship. Thank you sponsors!

## Linking up with Africa

This raised £2,200,



Open day at Halsted Chapel with (left to right) Maureen (church representative) and Michael Hawksworth and Peter and Elaine Trayner from Glenfield St Peter's Church

which works out as just over 50p per mile from here to Africa – well done and thank you to all participants.

Thank you for the excellent and creative ways in which you have helped to make a difference in the lives of people with leprosy.

Coffee mornings,

afternoon teas, open days, harvest festivals, quizzes, sponsored half marathons – the list is endless. Your faithful, dedicated prayer and financial support is so valuable to us. Thank you for everything you do on our behalf. God bless you all. *Pamela*

## Annual meeting of East Central supporters

### Guest speaker – Jannine Ebenso

I am thrilled that **Jannine Ebenso**, prevention of disability adviser for The Leprosy Mission International, will be our guest speaker during the annual meeting of East Central supporters. The meeting will be on **Saturday 9 May 2009** at **Mansfield**

### Road Baptist Church, Nottingham.

Jannine has worked for The Leprosy Mission for many years, mainly in Nigeria, Africa. Her Nigerian husband, Bassey, is studying for his PhD at the Department of Social Policy at the University of Leeds.

Jannine, who is much loved and respected, has a keen sense of humour and no doubt will entertain us all extremely well. She will be assisting and advising all the countries in which we work. *Do come and join us – an afternoon NOT to be missed.*

## Other events in the pipeline include:

**Humber Bridge Walk** – 4 July 2009, 2– 5 pm, approximately 2 miles

**Sponsored Cycle Ride from Land's End to John O'Groats** – Pamela's husband, David (70), stepson, Martin (45), and grandson, Lee (22), will make this a true family event at the end of July/beginning of August

**General Knowledge Quiz** – from 1 September to 30 November 2009

**Eight-mile sponsored Walk of Hope at Carsington Water** – 26 September 2009

**Christmas Celebration Evening** – watch this space for details

## Watch out for The Leprosy Mission's new Gifts for Life leaflet, coming soon

Gifts for Life, which range from a child's education to a hospital bed, can be the perfect way to channel your donations or those of your church or group. They also make excellent alternative gifts. Contact me for more information.



## More events for 2009

### Photographic competition

Open to everyone in your church/group/community/local school from 1 March 2009, running until the end of August. There is no limit to the number of entries, but each photograph should be no larger than 7" x 5". Please send a cheque, made payable to The Leprosy Mission, for your entry/entries at £1 each. Write your name and address on the back of all photographs along with the chosen category for each entry.

The theme is '**Now thank we all our God**'.

The categories are:

1. Now thank we all our God, with hearts and hands and voices
2. Who wondrous things have done, in whom His world rejoices
3. Who, from our mothers' arms, hath blest us on our way
4. With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today

The Revd Hugh McKee, a retired area co-ordinator and excellent amateur photographer from Wakefield, will be judging this competition.

### Evening Concert with Richard Allum

Richard Allum is a music scholar in his final year at Durham University. Richard will give an organ recital at St Paul's Church, Carlton, Nottingham, on Saturday 28 March 2009, commencing at 7 pm. Tickets bought in advance are £6 or £4 for concessions and are £1 extra if bought on the door.

For more information on all events during 2009 please contact me (details overleaf).