

Together update

The Latest News
from Smile International

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Challenges we have to face - from our CEO

SOME OF YOU WILL KNOW THAT in July I was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma, high grade, which is cancer of the lymphatic system. My treatment is expected to take at least 6 months. As I write this article I have just completed two cycles of chemotherapy, and have 6 more to go.

When our circumstances are suddenly changed, for whatever reason, it causes us to really focus on where our true trust and dependency lies. All sorts of emotions come into play and working through them is a challenge. *Why me? Why now?* What should our response be? It is at times like these that we can do one

of two things. We can either submit to our feelings and the lies and discouragement of the enemy, or trust in the Word of God, knowing that through faith and prayer we can give Him control of our situation, no matter how bleak it may seem. God calls us to live one day at a time and to totally trust Him with our future, however long or short that may be.

Many of the people that Smile International ministers to each day around the world are also faced with challenges, such as lack of clean water, inadequate food, sickness, lack of medicine, and loss of loved ones. We are fortunate in the West to have an abundance

of resources available to us but we need to be mindful that we can improve the conditions of others around the world through our praying, giving and going. Whatever challenge you may be facing today, you can be assured that God understands and cares for you more than you will ever realise.

"For I, the Lord your God, will hold your right hand, saying to you, 'Fear not, I will help you'". Isaiah 41:13

Thank you to everyone who has sent emails, cards and words of encouragement, which have been a real blessing to me.

• **Rev Clive Doubleday**

Sending Smiles to The Gambia

A SEA CONTAINER OF humanitarian aid was recently sent to The Gambia Baptist Union. The aid consisted of craft packs, educational supplies, sewing machines for micro-financing projects, shoes, and clothes for their hospital baby ministry. This is the second sea container that Smile has sent to The Gambia.

The educational equipment will enable the 1,500 children at the Baptist School to learn new skills and gain the most out of their education. The Gambia is the smallest African country and one of the poorest, so this aid will be of great benefit to the families and local community. Our thanks to everyone who

donated aid which made this shipment possible.



Clive Doubleday with Gambian Pastor Felix Banson

Socks & Chocs? Or, Vits & Kits?



BUY A GIFT THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Fed up with not knowing what to buy your family and friends this Christmas? Why not take a look at our Smile Gifts With Love catalogue, for something different for that perfect gift?

Keep a deprived child healthy with a month's supply of vitamins or help someone provide for themselves with a textile or carpentry kit. Whatever you choose will make a huge difference to someone in the developing world this Christmas.

How will you spend your 50p today?

FLORENCE IS ONE OF THE women in our Sponsor a Widow programme. She had the daily task of trying to find food for her 5 children, having lost her husband through the AIDS pandemic. Through the sponsorship programme, Florence now receives a monthly food supply of rice, beans, vegetables, salt, sugar, cooking oil, as well as basic necessities such as soap and washing powder.

Also, an outdoor latrine was purchased through our Gifts With Love programme, which has improved her life and that of her children considerably.

We have over 100 other women like Florence, waiting to be sponsored in Africa, Asia and Europe. For just 50 pence per day, you can improve the life of a widow and her children. Will you help support a



widow by joining our Sponsor a Widow programme today?

Please visit our website for a Sponsor a Widow form or call the office on 01689 870932.

Stepping out in Kosova 2009



AS WE WRITE THIS WE ARE JUST into Week 6 (out of 8) of the summer programme in Kosova. Each week there has been a different team, a different theme and a different schedule but everybody has been amazing and we praise God for the opportunities He has opened up for us.

This summer, Smile International partnered with the Girls' Brigade for the first time, so many of the team members came from GB companies across the United Kingdom and their enthusiasm was infectious. We asked the girls to bring some crafts along with them and the table in the lounge was lost under the

mountain of fantastic things they brought – stickers by the 1000's, beads, socks (for hand puppets), balloons, face paints, foam, glue sticks, sequins, masks, paper/ card, lollypop sticks and ideas galore. Planning activities was easy because we had so much to choose from.

In Week 1 we worked with the new Girls' Brigade Company at Eternity Church in Gjakove and had a lovely week – the walls of the church are now adorned with some beautiful collages and everyone admires them. The next week we did a holiday club in the Roma village of Rugove, spent some time visiting widows

and their families, and in the evenings had a variety of activities with Roma and church groups.

Week 3 was very hot although a little quieter as we were a small team but we still did GB, visited widows, sorted and delivered aid, and spent a beautiful day in the gorge near Peje. This set us up for weeks 4 and 5 – bigger teams and 2 weeks of school holiday clubs in Fortese and Krelan. The number of children soared and we reached 145 in Fortese and 180 in Krelan. It was great fun but very challenging especially with an age range of 3 – 14 in Krelan, but the village

community is so appreciative of all that Smile has done for them. During these 2 weeks we also had a painting team out and 2 homes now look clean and fresh thanks to the efforts of Steve, Shpendi and Kiki. In Week 6 we will be working in Brekoc at another Roma settlement, visiting more widows and preparing for a Widows Day at the Smile Centre at the end of the week.



Week 4 was challenging for an entirely different reason – most of Kosova had no water for almost 4 days!! This was caused by a major break in the main water supply, close to the one and only reservoir. It's amazing how effective a wet wipe and body sprays can be, but our first shower after the system was repaired was bliss. You can wash your hair in half a bottle of water but washing clothes is out of the question and we were only able to flush toilets after the fire brigade came and refilled our emergency tank. It made us realise how much we take water for granted and just what it must be like to live in some parts of the world where water is a luxury.

everyone wants to come again next year and 2 of the girls are applying to do a Smile Gap Year. Everyone has worked well together and all say they have discovered gifts they didn't know they had, that their faith has grown and been challenged and that they have made new friends for life.

We thank God for the privilege of leading these groups and we are so looking forward to next year.

• **Diana and Mike Seeney**
Smile Team Leaders



The partnership with GB has certainly been successful –

Lizzi and Jade with 80-year old Joan Dadswell proving that age is no barrier when it comes to joining a Smile Step Out trip!

Step Out Trips

DESTINATION	DATE(S)	COST
Kosova *Shoebox Distribution	19-26 October 7-14 December* 14-21 December*	1 week: £595 2 weeks: £695
Taste & See Weekends Kosova	9-12 October 13-16 November	£299 £299
Visit Smile India Bangalore	2-11 November	£995
Visit Smile Lanka Hambantota	21 February - 7 March 2010 16-30 May 2010	£1,495
Visit Smile Kosova Gjakove	9-16 April 2010	£595

CAN'T MAKE ANY OF THESE DATES? No problem, you can go at any time, for any length of time. Call Richard on 01689 883322 and discuss your requirements. Church group trips available. Book 10 places and the 11th goes free!

A life-changing experience!

I HAVE BEEN BLESSED TO BE involved in three different trips with Smile International, twice to Kosova, and once to Zimbabwe this year. My experience of being in Zimbabwe was a life-changing one. I had the opportunity to be involved in lots of different aspects of Smile's work including the Feeding programme, Child, Widow and Pastor sponsorship programmes, admin work, teaching in schools, witnessing

boreholes being drilled and installed, visiting churches, and so much more!

I am so thankful to God for the wonderful opportunities He gave me to serve Him through Smile International and I saw first-hand the difference that showing God's love in practical ways can make to so many people. I would encourage anyone who is led by the Lord to go on a Step-Out trip, or career break, to be

obedient, and go for it! Of course, the experience could be life-changing but then life really is an adventure in God.

• **Jayne Smyth**





Take 6 Eggs

EGGS ARE USUALLY ASSOCIATED

with Easter and symbolise new life in Christ. But at Smile International we want to be able to bring new life to needy people every day and not wait until Easter. Will you help us by joining our “Take 6 Eggs” campaign this autumn?

Just think what you can do with 6 eggs. Using your favourite tray bake, cup cake or fairy cake recipe you could easily make 60 cakes. How about a cake sale? Everyone loves home-made cakes. Perhaps you could throw in tea or coffee and have a coffee morning or afternoon

tea party with donations going to Smile. For the early birds, what about turning them into lovely fresh baked muffins and having a breakfast or brunch? It doesn't have to be cakes. Invite friends round for a fund raising lunch or supper with home-made quiche or freshly made pasta. You could even break with tradition and have an early pancake party – either sweet or savoury – 6 eggs should produce 50-60 pancakes.

We suggest you use your egg box as a cash box for your takings – cover it with paper and put a slot in the

top for money. You might want to add some pictures from our website or magazine to highlight the fact that you are doing this for Smile. At the end of your event, send us a cheque for the amount raised. Don't forget to Gift Aid it if you can.

We would love to see pictures of your events and learn about the creative ways you are helping Smile to bring the love of Jesus to people in need.

Time to get cracking!

• **Geraldine Alliston**
Chair of Trustees

