

***The BARK FOUNDATION***  
***In support of HOTPEC ORPHANAGE, BUEA, CAMEROON***  
*President: Reverend Edward Sakwe*

**NEWSLETTER APRIL 2009**

Time passes so quickly and it is time to give you a further update on the progress of our fundraising.

We are thrilled to report that we have now raised an unbelievable amount of £12081. All we can say is a big, big **thank you to everybody** who has contributed. This could not happen without the support of so many people – not only those who contribute financially but all who turn up to help us at every fund raising event.

We firmly believe that we were meant to go to Cameroon with Edward and that he was inspired to take us to HOTPEC Orphanage. Our support has come from so many different areas: members of the Leicester North Circuit Methodist Churches, the local Anglican and Catholic churches and Riverside School; also our friends and acquaintances from varying avenues – and their friends and families. Be assured that staff at the orphanage are overwhelmed that people from so far away want to help them and they are very excited that they can see the project really will happen for them.

The first £1000 (transfer costs an additional £47) that we sent in November was used to make 1000 building blocks ready for the start of building. We have this week transferred £4323 (transfer costs an additional £79.80) – this is to cover the full cost of earthworks and concreting, so we are now really under way!

We are grateful to Hans Njoh, the Financial Secretary at the Presbyterian Synod Office in Buea, who personally collects the money from the Western Union office for us and makes sure it is allocated to the orphanage. He will also oversee the project on our behalf, with the full co-operation of the orphanage staff.

The balance left on the account at present is £6630. Our aim is to raise a further £2850 as soon as possible. This will cover the cost of ‘blockwork’, plastering and **roofing** – if they can get the roof on as soon as possible then all remaining work will be under cover, as the plan includes a covered verandah.

We are in the process of preparing an application to become a registered charity. The nursery block is our first project – there are so many other ways that we can help the children work towards an independent future that we intend the work of the Bark Foundation to be a life-long commitment for us. If our application is successful it would enable us to apply to grant giving bodies and companies in an effort to raise funds more quickly. We would also hope it would mean we could claim ‘Gift Aid’ on qualifying donations.

Like all charities we have been hit hard by the devaluation of the £1 sterling. When we opened our Foundation in January 2008 £1000 sterling equated to 1,000,000 African francs. By the time we sent £1000 in November 2008 it was only 763,000 Afr. Francs. The latest exchange rate was 693,000 Afr. Francs. This means that to realise the completion of the nursery we will now need to raise £29,000. We hope that the £1 will recover some value as time goes by to improve our situation.

Best wishes and thanks for your support, on behalf of us all

David and Joy

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