



Nehemiah Construction Ministries U.K.

Registered Charity No:1129983

Drilling For Water ... Caring For Life Newsletter-Summer 2018



The drilling rig and support vehicle have now been in Kenya for over two years, and since that time have drilled many boreholes. Along the way there have been many frustrations and difficulties including some because of political changes. Les Saunders has been backwards and forwards to Kenya during this past year and has been doing his best to resolve the problems and difficulties. Unfortunately, this resulted in a temporary shutting down of operations during which time - whilst in 'safe' storage - the vehicles, equipment, compressor and tools were later found to have been used and abused. In April this year, Les and John Harrison went to Kenya for three weeks. During the time they were there, they were joined by a fellow Trustee, Will Symons. He was accompanied by a friend, Nick Durrant, who gladly volunteered his time and expertise in an engineering capacity. These men accomplished a lot during their short visit. As well as completing some of the necessary repairs to the rig and support vehicle, they spent time with the drilling crew, met with the accountant, dealt with administration, and had various 'official' meetings as well as making contact with key local people. There were of course the unavoidable daily delays and frustrations which are part of Kenyan life.

Future plans. Les is in the UK at this time and daily doing his job of work. At the same time, he is sourcing various the remainder of the necessary parts for the rig and compressor. He is also seeking expert advice with regards to the correct functioning of the Compressor. This machine is vital to the work of drilling and needs to work properly. Les hopes to return to Kenya in a few weeks time, solve the remaining problems and mobilise the drilling crew and rig to Ol-Kalau, which is some considerable way down in the south of the country

Trustees. Trustees meetings are held regularly approximately every 6 weeks. The four local Trustees, Brian Mahan, Richard Morrison, Les Saunders and Will Symons meet at a location in Peterborough and John Harrison joins them via Skype (it's too far to travel from the West Country!) We are currently looking out for additional Trustees. Trustees are usually asked these two major questions: What is the cost of drilling a borehole? and what is involved in drilling a borehole?

What is the cost of drilling a borehole?

It is often in the region of £10,000. Before the vehicles are mobilised, a geological survey takes place and various official permits are obtained. The survey and permits together can

cost in the region of £1,200. Then there is the cost of fuel as the vehicles are mobilised, the crews wages, insurances, taxes, accommodation and food etc. On site, fuel is required to run the compressor and deck engines. Various pieces of equipment need replacing and repairs take place. Temporary and permanent casings are bought along with sand, gravel, pump and associated rods etc.

What is involved in drilling a borehole?

The following are basic notes. 1. Mobilise the rig and drilling support vehicle (DSV) to site. 2. DSV fully loaded with materials, including water in the international bulk containers (IBC's). 3. Paperwork must be correct Geological survey; NEMA permit; drilling permit. Money in the bank etc. 4. Rig to be jacked up and levelled. 5. The Rig Mast raised. 6. The Mud Pit is dug. 7. Drilling starts using a drag bit, it is called 'opening the ground'. 8. Type of ground. If it is loose material, use the mud pump and polymer {polymer holds the ground temporarily}. If rock, use hydraulics hammer drill use of compressor is vital. 9. Once rock is reached, then temporary casings (8 or 10 inch) are used to hold the ground firmly so that the compressed air doesn't blow into cavities and thus cause further problems. 10. The small drill bit is used to go through the rock and then permanent casings (6 inch) are used. 11. Carry on drilling to the required depth making sure the water is both potable and plentiful. 12. Pull out temporary casings and then gravel pack. 13. A 6ft concrete slab is made and a pedestal is set into the slab. The pump and rods are inserted into the borehole. An India Mk2 hand pump is erected and the rods connected to it.

Finances. As mentioned in previous newsletters, we always have a small bank balance and money given for specific things goes immediately into a 'restricted' fund. costs continue to be incurred due to the on-going rent and wages for the base in Kitale. Specific financial needs and prayer requests:

1. Funding for Les. He has to work when in the UK to help fund his trips to Kenya
2. Funding to fix the compressor problems.
3. Funding for Boreholes, so that we can drill more 'humanitarian' boreholes.

Thank-you for regularly supporting our work both financially & prayerfully.

This newsletter: If you can print this off and keep it handy, we would be very grateful, as it will be a constant visual reminder to pray us.

