



Drilling For Water ... Caring For Life

Nehemiah Construction Ministries U.K.

Registered Charity No:1129983

New Beginnings – Newsletter May 2020



‘**New Beginnings**’ is the description which Les spoke of, at a Trustees meeting in October 2019 after finally completing the successful drilling of the 140m deep borehole at Ol-Kalou. He was referring to the fulfilment of this long-awaited promise, which had been overdue because of the necessity of mothballing all operations for a couple of years because of the national Kenyan elections and the subsequent time for repairs and renovations arising out of that.

Les returned to Kitale in January 2020 for a few weeks of research and challenging consideration of the future of drilling in this area. He reported that there were 3 options for him and Nehemiah Construction Ministries U.K. – sell the rig, go home or move to Kanyao, Pokot and continue the work. The Trustees fully discussed this at their next meeting in February and were in agreement for the Move / re-location in Pokot.

The reasons for the Move were that there were now many other drilling operations in Kitale quoting prices which are simply unsustainable, the offer of working alongside Rick Strickland’s work and business connections in Pokot where there was no other drilling operation and Rick’s generous offer for us to make use of his compound at Kanyao as a base for Nehemiah Construction Ministries U.K. .

The Move – of the rig, support truck and equipment - was immediately completed by Wahungu and Zeddys and all is now properly stored and secured in the compound and in one of Rick’s containers. Notice to leave the Kitale compound and remove household contents to Kanyao, is currently being negotiated to save money and the Trustees are hopeful that work can be commenced in this area as soon as the coronavirus restrictions and their implications are lifted / removed.

The challenges of the Move in other areas of the work of the charity – at home and abroad - are also currently being addressed, as follows.

(i) The immediate concern of the Trustees is the financial base of the work – the need to double the income of the charity to at least £10,000 per annum to support the drilling operations in the next 3 months. Since the purchase and transport of the rig and equipment to Kenya back in 2011, the Trustees have never directly asked our supporters for a particular amount of money. But we are now at a crossroads – which some may call, “an existential crisis” – it is felt that, as regular support has been at a constant level over this period, we need to bring this to your attention and simply ask for your help in this way. All such money raised goes directly to provide for the drilling operations in Kenya – to provide clean, safe water and the Living Water. We recognise that our support base – whether of individuals or groups and churches - is reducing with time and would also request your kind assistance in helping us to recruit other supporters in the near future by the production and promotion of up-to-date material.

(ii) The Move to share Rick’s compound through his very generous provision of an acre of the property requires a necessary major capital investment of £27,000 over the next 12 months to provide suitable garaging, storage and workshop with energy for the rigs and equipment as protection against the climate and environment, as well as an accommodation block for the team who will be working to drill at least one hole per month in this needy area. We are currently preparing applications to some grant funders for this considerable but necessary sum. As you will appreciate, such applications require a sufficient operating income (as above) to be in place before any further consideration.

(iii) In Kenya, we are required and want to set up a new Community based non-profit company requiring 15 local Board members, probably to be called ‘Nehemiah Construction Borehole Services’, with new National Construction Authority permit and regulations, a Kenya bank account and accountant. This is currently being dealt with by Les, Rick and Zeddys.

(iv) We are planning to work alongside Rick Strickland in this new area. He is an American pastor, ‘outback’ village churches planter and local business entrepreneur who, with his family, has been resident in the area for the past 15+ years and is a member of the local tribal leadership, recognised by the local government. This proposed working arrangement will, to an extent, be necessarily defined and monitored by local authorities as well as the Trustees.

(v) The environment also provides challenges for personnel and equipment. The climate is hotter / drier than Kitale and the area is more isolated (no real roads) with an agricultural and pastoral economy based around small villages, but with a total

population of about 150,000 people. The nearest town to Kanyao is Kapenguria, the capital of West Pokot (urban population of 13,000) about 50 miles away. The local government is ready and willing to provide more clean water sources in this area, which is what we wish to provide.

The personnel involved in this Move also have their own concerns, some arising out of the current coronavirus pandemic. Les, based in the UK, has obviously been locked-down for some time, but being self-employed, also needs to find and start work as soon as possible with a hoped-for return on 1st September 2020. Rick and his son Jacob hope to return to the States very soon for a couple of months, but at the same time, the Trustees also need to know as soon as possible, how the admin / business / legal side of this new situation is being and will be worked out. Les and his drilling team will be moving to a temporary residence (tent?), into a new part of Kenya to get to know as well as a new work scenario. We know that the local population will welcome and support this development – a New Beginning for them in so many ways – through better hygiene, increased farming and so, especially for the children and young people in these communities, more time for more educational opportunities for them. And we hope that you, will also travel with us and seriously consider, as outlined above, how you can support us in this Move.

The Move is ON. There is an enormous and significant difference to be made to the lives of so many people, who will benefit from this Move – and as we are very grateful to you for your connection with Nehemiah Construction Ministries U.K. , we look forward to an even greater relationship in the future.

Don't forget to check out our website www.nehemiahconstruction.org.uk - and please do keep in touch. With many many thanks,

John, Les, Will, Brian and Richard
Trustees

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