

Taste

Newsletter Winter 2015



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Nigeria has appeared in the news many times this past year. Mass abductions, suicide bombings and the rise in prominence of Boko Haram, have dominated media coverage of the region. Behind the scenes, though, God is working on a different story. Here at TASTE, we've been blessed with opportunities to provide numerous Nigerians with access to fresh water. We always have much to thank the Lord for, and 2015, amid the turmoil and suffering, has proved no exception.

As TASTE's celebrates its 16th birthday, we are grateful to those who have helped, in various capacities, to plan our projects, drill new boreholes, and reach out to communities. We are thankful for the relationships we are developing with Nigerian communities, and we continue to pray that, as these grow, we can be good witnesses to those we reach.

A great many of our friends and supporters have gone above and beyond in 2015, to fund TASTE's work and help us achieve goals this year.

That is why much of this newsletter is devoted to thanking some of those individuals. You will also find project updates, and, as we look ahead to 2016, a teaser into the work TASTE is planning for the new year.

We are grateful for what, with God's help, has been accomplished, we are excited for what is to come, and we hope you enjoy reading about this year, through our eyes.

TASTE TRUSTEES

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UK Staff

Ben Udejiofo (Founder / CEO)

Dan Walker (Patron)

LOTON

The community of Loton, situated less than 4 miles from Jos airport, has, in recent years, been dominated by disharmony. Inter-religious conflict in the region since 2010 has resulted in high casualties and significant destruction of homes and local infrastructure.

As a consequence of a recent increase in violence, the community has taken refuge in a neighbouring village called Jol. Jol is home to a borehole provided by TASTE, but due to the huge influx of internally displaced persons from Loton, it is in heavy demand and another borehole is required. Despite the great need, the area is often overlooked by agencies, due to its relatively small population.

As such, when Derek and Elaine Johnson decided to fund a borehole in a needy Nigerian community, TASTE nominated Loton as the beneficiary of their generous offer.

The residents of Loton will not only benefit from the additional source of clean drinking water provided by

the borehole, but will also have the opportunity to improve the health levels of the community through a hygiene education programme. TASTE are also planning to build a number of latrines in the area, alongside this project.

This combination of developments will help to support self sufficiency and ensure that the borehole is utilised to its greatest potential.

The images below were taken following an attack on Loton. The existing well, rendered unusable by attackers, who dumped dead bodies and other contaminants in it

Derek and Elaine's gift of £4000 will go towards a borehole for the community.



Rally at Nigeria High Commission

Daawoc (pictured below) whose name means 'God has heard' was one of those at the Nigeria High Commission, London, to highlight the ongoing attacks and violence across Plateau State. These needless killings are destroying families and causing untold hardship in the area, but are not being reported in the media. There are, however, increasing national, international and social media campaigns to raise awareness of the situation.

Like Daawoc, 'we Jos want peace': a number of the affected communities have strong ties to TASTE. Some of TASTE's staff currently reside in the region and many there have benefitted from our Water and Sanitation Projects.

Other communities are locations where TASTE hopes to deliver future projects when sufficient funds are raised. The rally was held on Friday 4 September of this year.



TASTE Anniversary

As TASTE celebrates its 16 year anniversary, some of those closely involved in the running of the charity are planning an event in London.

The evening will commemorate the remarkable achievements of TASTE since its fruition, such as the many bore holes drilled over the years, which are now used by hundreds of people everyday. Such success stories highlight the need of many communities that still lack clean drinking water and TASTE, therefore, is continually seeking to expand its operations in Nigeria.

The event which is still to be confirmed has been pencilled in for Monday 26 September 2016 will also, look ahead to exciting future projects, bringing news of the proposed development of TASTE. High on the agenda will be our new Headquarters, the planning of which is already underway; this will be the springboard for the next phase of TASTE's work.

Amongst those to whom invitation will be sent are the Nigeria High Commissioner, in addition to other prominent Nigerians and many of TASTE's dedicated friends and supporters.

TASTE's own Patron, BBC Sports Presenter Dan Walker, is expected to attend the event. Dan is best known for his roles on Football Focus and Afternoon Edition, the current affairs programme on BBC 5 Live.

It promises to be a most fascinating and enjoyable evening. Please contact Ben on **07737413772** or email **ben@taste.org.uk** if you would like to attend.

Ben's Meeting

The image below shows the CEO of TASTE, Ben Udejiofo, at the Nigerian High Commission, London on Monday 27 July. Ben was there to meet with the High Commissioner and other senior staff to tell them about TASTE and seek their help in reaching the estimated 2 million Nigerians in the UK*. The meeting was reported as being very encouraging.

TASTE's relationship with the High Commissioner promises to develop further, with his invitation to TASTE's event in September 2016.

*Figure according to the CANUK: the Central Association of Nigerians in the UK.



NEWS FROM NIGERIA

Members of TASTE have taken time to visit some communities in Nigeria, to see how the boreholes we have drilled are fairing. Below are their testimonials and findings.

In RAWURU

A member of the TASTE team, Jonathan, was sent earlier this year to Rawuru to repair the two boreholes that we constructed back in 2013. The last time we heard from them, the boreholes were in excellent working order.

TASTE has not been able to visit Rawuru in recent months, due to turmoil in the area, although we hope to when things calm down.

CHRISTIAN ROYAL COLLEGE, Bukuru, Jos

This is a private boarding High School just across the road from CRUDAN Offices where TASTE is located in Jos South LGA of Plateau State. This college spends money on water tankers and 'pure water' (water in polythene bags) each year for its students when their wells run dry. The schools environment gets littered with polythene bags.

This year has been the first time they have saved money from water tankers and 'pure water' because of the two boreholes TASTE drilled. Moreover, the schools environment is clear of polythene bags as there was no need for 'pure water' anymore.





At CHRIST APOSTOLIC COLLEGE KUBA

This college is situated along Bokkos town in Bokkos LGA (Local Government Area) of Plateau State. CEO Ben Udejiofo and Andrew Bryce (UK Trustee) called in on the school when the pair visited Nigeria in 2013. The school has converted the hand pump provided by TASTE to a submersible, and this has been serving the school community well. Students, staff, and the local community use the borehole as their main source of clean water. It was drilled with funds organised by Dr Sampson Maren. There is pressure on this one borehole due to the number of people using it.

The TONGFOM COMMUNITY

This is a big village on the outskirts of Pankshin town in Pankshin LGA of Plateau State, some 70-80 miles south of Jos. When I (Tim Danchal) visited the only borehole in the community drilled by TASTE, the community said the borehole was the 'fountain of life'. It has never stopped supplying clean water since we drilled it about two years ago, with funds provided by Satley Daze -a community member residing in Jos.

There was such a serious water shortage this year on the Plateau, that wells and some boreholes went dry. This one never did. Others, from neighbouring villages, came there for water, and even parts of Pankshin main town had heard of this borehole. People brought containers in their cars and fetched drinking water from it. They were so grateful to God for using TASTE.



Congratulations and Many Thanks...

None of the work we have done this year would have come to fruition without the backing of our friends and supporters. We are incredibly grateful to all. Here are a few shoutouts to those who have helped TASTE to finance and implement projects. We hope they enjoyed their various fundraising activities.

Dave and Seth Charles

When Seth Charles decided to raise money for TASTE by partaking in the 20km Sheffield Round Run on June 28th, he caused a bit of a stir. Organisers were initially unsure whether their insurance would cover the 7 year old, but permission was duly granted, and Seth proved his worth in a swift hour and 57 minutes.

Dave Charles, Seth's father, came trailing in someway behind.



H2O Race

Congratulations are in order to the team who tackled the gruelling H2O cycle ride in the name of TASTE sponsorship. All those who started finished unscathed, and it is hoped they will forget the many miles of difficulty in time for next year's race.

Tom Cone, proprietor of the Barrel Inn, made himself popular with the cyclists with his contribution of sandwiches and chips.

The victorious riders were dubbed 'Kings of the Road' and dutifully accepted the requisite crowns and medals made for them by Eva, 4 year old daughter of one of our riders.



Sheffield Fun Run

TASTE would like to say a great big Thank You to all our friends who completed the Sheffield Fun Run to raise an incredible £738. The event took place on Saturday 4th July.



North Wales Fun Run

The North Wales Fun Run took place on Saturday 25th April. About 45 runners took part on behalf of TASTE - a new record for this event!

They raised an astounding £1280; we would like to say a very big Thank You to all our friends for this incredible achievement. A special 'thank you' goes to Diane Roberts and Glenys Prydden who organised it all.



Hilden Charitable Fund

TASTE would like to offer a huge Thank You to the Hilden Charitable Fund, for its very generous grant of £8,000 for our project in Rahwol Chom Community. The 2 existing wells were insufficient to meet the needs of the community, particularly during the dry season, when there are long queues and one of the wells dries up.

Hilden Charitable Fund's contribution will enable the provision of 2 boreholes and 5 latrines in Rahwol Chom, in time to avert the long queues of the coming Dry Season (October - March).

Musicality Singers

A special Thank You goes out to the Musicality Singers, who held a concert in support of TASTE on Thursday 21 May. The performers sang their hearts out at the event, which was hosted by All Saints Ecclesall Church. Proceeds for TASTE amounted to £340. Particular mentions go to Chris Betts, Joan Broughton and Greg Watson.



TASTY Desert Fundraiser

This year's TASTY Dessert Fundraiser rivalled contestants on The Great British Bake Off, and raised a remarkable £1051 to boot. Many thanks to all who attended the West Midlands event on 11 June and a particular Thank You to those who supplied the mouth-watering array of puddings. An extra special 'thank you' goes to Jan Lawrence and Connie Doody for organising the event.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

North Wales Fun Run

Saturday 16 April

The run will begin at 11am from the Visitor Centre, Alyn Waters Country Park. You can register in advance online at www.taste.org.uk.

Spring Choir Concert

The Sheffield Folk Chorale

Saturday 7 May

H2O Cycle Ride

Saturday 21 May

One of our major fundraising events for this year, the H2O Sponsored Cycle Challenge starts from a place beginning with 'H', and ends in a place beginning with 'O'. If you are interested in taking part, please email Ben on ben@taste.org.uk

TASTY DESSERTS

June - Date TBC

Our friends in the West Midlands are busy preparing to host a very delicious way to raise funds for needy communities in Nigeria and excite your TASTE-buds!

Sheffield Fun Run

Saturday 9 July

Our annual Fun Run will begin at 11am from the Museum in Weston Park opposite the Children's Hospital. You can register in advance online at www.taste.org.uk

Water Aid

TASTE is pleased to announce that we are now on WaterAid Nigeria's list of approved Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) for their projects across Plateau State.

This means that we will be invited to bid with others NGO on the list to carry out Water & Sanitation Projects. Although we were unsuccessful with our recent bid for projects comprising over 30 boreholes and 5 latrines we learnt much valuable lessons from the bidding exercise which will stand us in better stead for future bids. Please pray with us that we will be successful in future bids.



Dalo Memorial High School

Our major project of 2015 has been Dalo Memorial High School project funded by the States of Guernsey to the value of £23,500. The project is now complete. The project will provide a sustainable supply of clean water to the school with a population of 800 students. It will also significantly improve the hygiene and sanitation provision at the School.

The funding was granted to enable the construction of four new water boreholes and ten latrines and the provision of an educational workshop within the school to promote the benefits of hygiene and educate the next generation on the consequences of using dirty water. This holistic approach that spans direct practical support for clean water linked with education and learning ensures the project has both short and long term benefits. The benefits are not only for the direct beneficiaries in the school but also in the wider community in economic terms as materials and services were purchased locally. TASTE would like to thank the States of Guernsey for funding this vital project and we look forward to further collaborations in meeting the needs of other communities in Nigeria.

The next edition of TASTE Newsletter will feature a full report of the project.



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