



# Newsletter

November 2011



life changing water

# from STEVE

Some of you will already know that during my August trip to Jos, I requested, and received, the resignation of two of our senior team members. Tom, our Jos team leader - our number one in Nigeria and Nus, our finance manager, both left TASTE after examples of bad financial management were uncovered. We believe that we have discovered all of the wrong accounting and mis-spending although, in situations of this kind, one can never be certain!

Such an event rocks the whole team, including Trustees and supporters. How should we respond? We could conclude that corruption is so endemic in Nigerian society that we must either live with it, or give up. Or we could move to the

other extreme and sack all the local staff and only work with ex-pats. However, both responses would run completely counter to the Christian ethos that TASTE espouses. Instead we have engaged a short-term replacement for Tom, moved one of our volunteers into Nus's role and put robust financial controls in place.

Rather than allow these events to slow us down, the team in Jos has taken positive steps to redress the financial shortfalls caused by "previous management"; the Nigerian Trustees are meeting regularly with the team; and the UK Trustees have approved an ambitious plan to replace our water tanker. New boreholes have been completed and

new business relationships established. Our hope is that what you read in the rest of this newsletter will convey something of the excitement we currently feel and encourage you to pray even harder and tell even more friends about the exciting work that God has given us to do.

*Steve*



The Plateau Community & Development Association is active helping communities in Plateau State. One of their initiatives has been to develop boreholes with funds from the World Bank.

However, so many of the boreholes failed to produce water that they had suspended that particular programme altogether. That was until TASTE went to see them!

We explained our philosophy of working in demonstrably Christian ways, which include honesty and reliability. They agreed to let us drill two boreholes initially and they were completed in early October, with excellent results.

We are now talking with them about drilling a further four boreholes, with the potential for further work once these all prove fruitful.

# When Corruption Is Practiced The Poor Suffer Most



**Y**ou may have heard this phrase before but may not have seen for yourself how true it really is. The following is a true picture of present day practices in Nigeria, the names have been changed to protect the guilty. We think that the work of TASTE needs no further justification.

Funding is available from a major donor to drill boreholes across Plateau State. Let's call this funder 'Wonderful Bank' (WB) This funding is distributed via a specially appointed organisation; let's call this organisation 'Money Does Good' (MDG).

## Here's what is really happening...

WB funds say, 200 boreholes, at a cost of N1,300,000 each (£5200)

MDG distributes the funds and first deducts around N300,000 in tax for the Revenue.

MDG invites bids from interested parties for funding. A number of independent contractors or middle men (MM) are awarded the contracts.

MM receive around N1,000,000 per borehole.

MM pay a facilitation fee to MDG managers and staff of around N300,000.

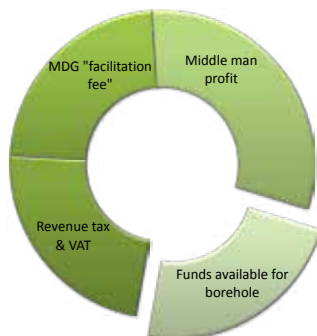
MM pay a local driller N300,000 to drill a borehole and MM pockets the balance.

Have you done the sums? From an original N1.3m, there's just N300,000 left for direct community benefit. And here's the rub - no driller can drill a borehole for 300,000 Naira if they want to cover all their costs, make a sensible profit and allow for equipment depreciation. So they do the fastest job they can and get out. The consequence is that most boreholes don't yield decent water flows and, within weeks, the boreholes stop working.

WB is pleased because it has funded the development of 200 boreholes. MDG managers and staff are happy because they have shared significant funds. MM are very happy with their pockets bulging and even the contractors have made a few Naira. But the people end up with nothing. How just is it to spend over £1,000,000 and leave the poor with no improvement in services?

That's why an organisation working with explicitly Christian principles is vital in Jos; an organisation that is not scared to trust God to keep them; an organisation that is prepared to say that the only real way of changing corrupt practices is the influence of the gospel of Jesus Christ. That's why TASTE does not engage with such practices and seeks, by God's grace, to demonstrate to those around that Christians should, and can, be different!

What happens to the £5200 given by WB to provide a borehole?



# Ready to clear out your wardrobe?

“Well I would; but I’ve heard about all sorts of dodgy collections where the clothes get sold and the collection company keeps all the money!” Great answer. Very perceptive of you.

Which is why, when TASTE decided to tap this painless way of raising funds, we teamed up with Clothes Aid. Social business Clothes Aid collects clothes door-to-door across the country, to raise money for a range of UK charities, including NSPCC and Papworth Hospital Charity. They ask households across the UK to donate clothes, linen, shoes and DVDs which are weighed and then sold in shops in nearby countries to raise money for

the UK charities they partner.

But, if you ask them, Clothes Aid will also collect from your charity group. So we have asked them to partner us and make collections from our supporters around the UK. All we need you to do is get your friends involved and sort out a date when you can get all your bags to a central location of your choice.

So, if you want a painless way to help us raise funds, get sorting through your wardrobe and get your friends to do the same! You can get loads of information from our website – [www.taste.org.uk](http://www.taste.org.uk) – or call the office and we’ll talk you through it and send you a pack.

## Dates for Your Diary

**Saturday 21 January - First Clothes Aid bag drop in Sheffield.** The office will be open between 09:00 until 3:30 p.m. and will have a constant supply of coffee and cake! If you want to drop bags off during the previous week, that’s fine, just ring first to make sure that someone is here. Please check the website for full details.

**Saturday 24 March The Annual Fun Run in Weston Park.** Last year we halted the downward trend in both participants and funds generated. Please add the date to your diary now and start persuading friends to join you.

# Who’s Who ?

## Nigerian Trustees

Andrew Gwaivangmin (Chair)  
Pastor Ani Ekpo  
Julie Anpe  
Pastor Dachollom Datiri  
Pastor Adamu Maga  
Stephen Marah

## UK Trustees

Suki Jandu (Chair)  
Ken & Kathryn Walze  
Andy & Hazel Bryce  
Ben Udejiifo (Founder)  
Ibi Erekosima

## Nigerian Staff

Tim Danchal (Team Leader)  
Yop Dungdeme (Finance)  
Julie Faruk (Geologist)  
Grace Ogunniyi (Facilitator)  
Helen Yinallah (Admin)  
Stephen Sunday (Logistics)  
Agal Anfi (Driller)  
James Elisha (Assistant Driller)  
Jonathan Makan (Pump Tech)  
Patrick Maren (Driver)  
Nanpan Daspan (Driver)  
Sunday Dung (Labourer)  
Davou Zhi (Labourer)  
Yohanna Buba (Labourer)

## UK Staff

Steve Horton (CEO)  
David Peat (Volunteer)  
Heather Jones (Volunteer)



# Accountant Wanted!

**D**readful rates of pay...  
...well, actually, no pay. But that doesn't make a great headline!

We are so grateful to Stephen, our accountant since our very first year, for his support and encouragement. But, as he stands down, he allows some-one else the privilege of serving God as TASTE accountant.

The work is not onerous but does come along all at once. It is a question of helping us transfer our computerised accounts and presenting them to meet SORP requirements. Oh, and identifying the occasional incorrect posting! Depending on your speed of work, the requirement is likely to be two or three days during February and March and the occasional phone-call for advice.

If you feel able to help, please call Steve Horton on 0114 273 7880 and he can fill you in on all the details.

# Got an old car to get rid of?

**O**ur friend Ray has recently given up driving and his car was only worth scrap value. So he sold it to his local garage and gave the £130 to TASTE. **Thanks Ray!**

But if you don't have a family garage whom you can trust, why not join forces with Giveacar, a social enterprise which collects unwanted and unused cars for charity – turning scrap into cash.

The concept mirrors one that is already popular in the United States and other countries – but which is still very much in its infancy in the UK.

Regardless of their condition, cars are collected free-of-charge nationwide by Giveacar and sold through an online auction, or disposed of at an authorised

treatment facility. Proceeds from the sale will be donated to TASTE, so you don't need to get teary-eyed over losing an old friend!

Many car owners want an easy and completely free way to get rid of their old car. Giveacar will help them to do this in a legal and environmentally friendly way... and TASTE benefits.

Just visit [www.giveacar.co.uk](http://www.giveacar.co.uk) and, when you scrap your old car, remember to tell them that you support TASTE.



# Fudge For Christmas Anyone?

Regular readers will remember that last month we announced the end of the road for Fudge. Our water tanker was past it and we had to consign him (or her??) to the scrapheap.

We desperately want to replace Fudge. There are so many benefits of getting a replacement tanker to Jos - it would let us do what we like doing best, helping communities in need; water sales around town would bring in some income to pay our office running costs; and a "new" tanker would really demonstrate our commitment to our Nigerian team.

So the Trustees have agreed to replace Fudge as long as we do so with "new money" i.e. as long as we don't divert any funds from any other area of work. We think it will cost around £7000 to purchase a replacement, get it serviced and shipped to Jos. It may even be a little more. We are presently applying to Charitable Trusts for help but we wanted to let all our supporters know. After all, it only needs 14 donations of £500.

On the other hand, you could donate to TASTE in lieu of Christmas cards or presents. That's where we got our

headline from - if we are truthful it was Ken's idea and we had to stop him coming up with other contributions. So, unless you want more from him next edition, please pray seriously that God will provide the funds we need for a Fudge replacement!



**TASTE** was registered as a charity in the UK on September 7 1999.

A key element of TASTE's work, as we **engage** with local communities, churches, missions, NGOs, Local Government and individuals is for TASTE to be seen to work in a biblical way.

We aim to **serve God** with our practical skills by doing everything to His glory and in ways that are different from purely secular development organisations.

**TASTE** was set up as a result of the **first hand experience** of one of the Trustees, Ben Udejiofo, of the hardship being suffered by ordinary Nigerians through the under-utilisation of both human and mineral resources and also the constant request for help by the people of Amankpunato Achi, the village from where Ben originates.

We have still to help the people in Achi but, in the meantime, we have established a base in Jos.

**TASTE** is **active** in three areas of work:

- Constructing boreholes
- surveying services
- water delivery

Our funding comes predominantly from our UK supporters, be that groups or individuals. However, funding from within Nigeria is a growing source of income.

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