

From: Rebecca Baldock

6 March 2008

Dear All

Hope you are all well and looking forward to Easter. It's hard to believe it's almost here already.

I'm supposed to be preaching on Psalm Sunday so have been reading up about the Jewish Passover. One of its main features is the sacrifice of a lamb, to remember God rescuing them from slavery to the Egyptians, and atone for their sins. This lamb was to be roasted whole, as a symbol of unity, with not a bone in his body broken. The ancient custom was to slay the Passover (the lamb) shortly after the daily sacrifice, which would have been at the ninth hour – 3 o'clock (the same time Jesus died).

We often talk about Jesus being the lamb that takes away the sins of the world – I understood that in the past the Jews had to make sacrifices to atone for their sins, and that Jesus was the ultimate sacrifice – but I'd never realised how much his death coincided with the traditions of the sacrificial Passover lamb.

In January I spoke about setting up a craft stall to sell crafts made by disabled people. Well it has now opened. Over the past few months we've been looking into what people can make, who is able to be part of this project, and what visitors would like to buy. During the last two weeks we've had a lady visiting, who is part of friends of Kagando. Her husband is a Gynaecologist. They come once or twice a year. Ceri is very good at crafts and agreed to spend time with some of the disabled people – looking at what they were making, and to encourage, teach more skills and ensure that what they were producing was appropriate for a western audience. It has given us something to work towards and so far has been a success. The great thing is that as Ceri will be coming back regularly she can continue to monitor how things are going and work with more people if the demand for what they are producing grows. Below and attached is the information about the different people involved, what they are making and how we are hoping to help them. I've attached two profiles of the people involved. I will send the others soon.

There are many children and adults with disabilities within the community. However due to lack of understanding often these people are devalued within society. They are often unable to dig and therefore help to provide for and support the family, and so are viewed as a burden. Families tend to be large and the search for getting enough school fees to send children to school is a constant problem. The children with disabilities are given low priority in schooling, this coupled with the fact that schools and teachers are ill equipped to deal with children with disabilities makes it hard for them.

To highlight this, there was a 10 year old boy on the ward with a mild cerebral palsy, which he'd had for 6 years. He was able to walk, but did not have full function in his right hand. His father thought that due to this he was unable to go to school. Another boy with spina bifida, causing him to be incontinent and to only be able to mobilise a short distance with crutches, has finally started school at the age of 14. A local charity aimed at linking facilitating children with disabilities has finally persuaded the family to educate him. They are really happy as when he started school he showed himself to be very bright and was immediately put forward a class into the next year.

The aim of this craft stall is to promote and value people with disabilities in the society. Through selling their products these people will be enabled to earn a living and be of value and respected within the communities, this will then demonstrate to the community the value of everyone with or without a disability.

Have a great Easter

Rebecca

Prayer requests

- Please continue to pray for the disabled craft stall – as it has great potential to help people.
- Physio work has gradually increased over the last three years which is great. We are now working to full capacity and for the last few months there has been more work for us than we have always been able to do. This is great, but I have still not heard that there is anyone that will be able to come to replace me. There is a huge need still, so please continue to pray for a replacement.