

Staying Free from Persecution in Plymouth

Thomas came to the UK 6 years ago after fleeing from persecution in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where he had had a good job as the Deputy Director of the National Seed Bank. With a degree in Agricultural Science gained at Kinshasa University, he is now studying for a further qualification at Plymouth University.

However, whilst his academic achievements are great, his personal and economic situations are very difficult. Thomas had to leave a wife and 3 children behind when he escaped from the Democratic Republic of Congo and when he approached the Path Refugee Housing Support Service in Plymouth, he had no income at all due to delays in processing his asylum claim by the UK Border Agency. He had been sleeping on the floor of friends' rooms and had suffered a prolapsed disc in his back as a result.

The Path Refugee Housing Support Service helped Thomas to get a room with a bed in a shared house and the Fund for Human Need was pleased to help with a grant towards securing the accommodation for him.

How to contribute

Donations may be sent to

The Finance Officer
Fund for Human Need
111 Llanfabon Drive
Trethomas
CAERPHILLY CF83 8GX

Cheques should be made payable to

Fund for Human Need

Should you choose to set up a standing order our bank details are

HSBC Bank plc.
8 Victoria Street
Westminster
LONDON SW1H 0NJ

Sort code 40-02-06
Account title –
*The Methodist Church
Fund for Human Need*
Account number 61329243

However, we strongly advise you to contact our Finance Officer first. Experience shows that problems may otherwise arise.

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FHN Briefings

Where a little helps a lot

Fund for Human Need
occasional Newsletter
to contributors



No. 3: Spring 2012

More true-life stories • Colón School update

Roger Cresswell, Chair of FHN, writes...

I am glad to have the opportunity to thank you for your generous support of the Fund for Human Need and to invite your continued interest in our work.

In this edition of *Briefings* we offer some more (anonymous) stories which illustrate the kind of situations to which, with your help, we have been able to respond.

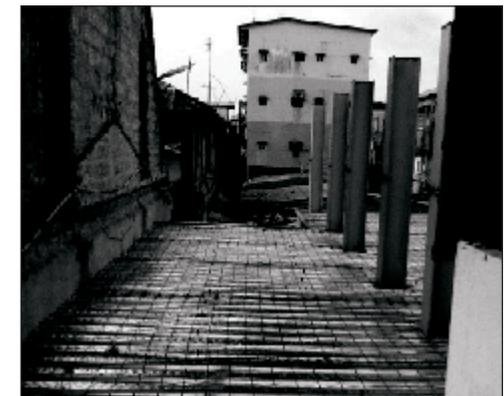
All the work of FHN is undertaken by volunteers. This enables us to keep administrative costs to a minimum [last year just 1.16% of expenditure] and make the best possible use of our income.

We are sad to report that one of our trustees, Olabisi Warden, died earlier this year. Her death and the fact that we have other vacancies means we are actively seeking to recruit new trustees. If you know of a person able to help promote FHN, and willing to serve in this way, may I ask you to contact me?

Thank you again for your interest in, and donations to, the FHN.

Roger
<rogercresswell@btinternet.com>
or ☎ 01543 473433

Escuela Metodista expansion plan



Founded in 1959 as a primary school, Escuela Metodista grew rapidly and by 1963 had its own single-storey building and playground on the site of a former manse adjacent to Trinity Methodist Church.

Continued inside

From Nigeria to London

Rita lives with her baby in a single room in a house which is shared with 7 other families. Rita first came to London as a nanny but after the family for whom she was working moved abroad, she had no job and was forced to live with friends. When she became pregnant, the father vanished and she was diagnosed as HIV+ through anti-natal care.

Living in the shared home is difficult as food naturally goes missing from the shared fridge, and the lack of shared cooking utensils causes friction. The Fund for Human Need was able to provide Rita with a grant to enable her to get her own fridge and microwave. CARA, an organisation providing help to people living with HIV, continues to help Rita and her baby.

Escape from Domestic Violence in Preston

Marjorie is a 46 year old mum with 2 adult sons who all live in temporary accommodation since she fled from her abusive partner. Preston Domestic Violence Services (formerly Preston Women's Refuge) stepped in to help her but Marjorie had a mental breakdown and had to be admitted to

hospital for 4 weeks. Her sons are also suffering from depression; one also suffers paranoia brought on by substance misuse. A bad situation only got worse when Marjorie's landlord issued a notice to quit due to £300 of rent arrears, accrued whilst she was in hospital.

Preston Domestic Violence Services intervened and the landlord agreed to allow her to remain in the property as long as a debt repayment agreement could be put in place. The Fund for Human Need helped with £100 towards the rent arrears which has enabled Marjorie and her sons to stay in their home.

Volunteering in Aberdeen

At the age of 21, Stuart was homeless and living in a tent near Aberdeen. When he was required to perform 120 hours of Community Service, Stuart voluntarily stayed on and did 150 hours, having been told that his work was of an excellent standard.

With help of the Children's Services and Criminal Justice Department of Aberdeenshire Council, Stuart applied to the Fund for Human Need for £65 to enable him to get his driving licence back, which in turn helped him to get back into paid work.

Continued from front page

During the past ten years more classrooms were erected in an area behind the existing buildings. These were the start of an ambitious scheme to develop a full secondary curriculum with new classrooms built over the existing church hall at a cost of US\$150K. (*see front page*)

Left in Limbo

When the UK Border Agency chose to appeal against the Tribunal decision to allow her to stay in the country indefinitely, Sarah was left in limbo. Ineligible for any benefits and with a nine months old baby, Sarah and her daughter were sleeping on the floor in a borrowed room.

The British Red Cross helped her with food vouchers and the Fund for Human Need helped by providing a bed for Sarah and a cot for her baby. The Asylum Support Appeals Project, who contacted the Fund for Human Need on Sarah's behalf, will continue to help her fight her case.

Bed Needed in Nottingham

Mr F experienced horrendous physical and sexual attacks in Somalia before he came to the UK

The school and parent are now working hard to raise the necessary funds to complete the project.

Contributions made payable to Fund for Human Need may be sent to Mrs Gwenda Watson, 5 Crimsworth Ave. Manchester M16 0EB. FHN will forward the money to the school in local currency.

and, even though he has been here for 5 years, he still suffers from mental-health problems including paranoia, post traumatic stress, flashbacks and depression. As a consequence he feels isolated – his mother died in Somalia – and he struggles to cope with life. He has been receiving help from the Refugee Support Team at Nottingham City Homes and it was they who applied to the Fund for Human Need on his behalf.

Nottingham City Homes had been able to find a suitable home for Mr F but were unable to obtain a grant for him to buy a bed. The Fund for Human Need were able to help and Mr F now has the bed he needs and he has started on the road towards independent living. Mr F has attended an ESOL course and is using his better grasp of English to start a Citizenship course and get better help with his mental health difficulties.