



LENT APPEAL

**GUATEMALA**

WORLDWIDE

**LOOKING BACK  
IN GRATITUDE**

# NEWSBRIEF

News from Global Care and our partner projects

Spring 2021

# (NOT) BACK TO SCHOOL?

**The UK began 2021 by closing schools again, but for millions of children elsewhere, schools had still not reopened after the first lockdown.**

**D**isrupted education is a widespread side-effect of the pandemic, and too many children in vulnerable communities will live with the consequences for a life time.

The World Bank estimate COVID-related school closures will push an additional 72 million children into 'learning

poverty' – being unable to read by the age of 10. The UN warn of a disturbing range of consequences; widening inequalities, increased child labour, higher rates of early and forced marriage, more adolescent pregnancies, missed opportunities for nutritional support and vaccinations, more children recruited by armed groups. The list is long.

Educators worldwide are concerned that millions of children may simply never return to school.

Many of our international partners share these concerns. Our latest round of funding

in response to the pandemic focusses on the need to support children's education, and so does our Lent Appeal.

**Educators worldwide are concerned that millions of children may simply never return to school.**

Funds from our Lent Appeal will initially be used to help our partners in Guatemala deliver catch-up classes for high-risk children on their mentoring programme. Any additional gifts will support projects by partners in other countries, aimed at helping children catch up on missed learning, re-motivate them towards education, or get back to school safely.

"Not only have so many children missed so much school, but getting back to school may be a challenge in itself," says CEO John White. "Many vulnerable families have lost so much income, and now face an uphill battle just to have enough money so they can eat. Difficult choices are having to be made.

"Our partners are working with families to encourage them to allow children back to school, and facing up to the challenge of helping children catch up with missed learning. Our Lent Appeal supports one such venture, but we know there will have to be many more of these programmes to help children, who will otherwise fail at the education which offers them a future."



*Photo taken at Spurgeons Academy before the outbreak of Covid -19*



GUATEMALA - LENT APPEAL

# COVID CATCH UP CLASSES

**In Guatemala, schools remained closed throughout 2020.**

**M**any schools were still closed in January 2021, as they could not comply with new Covid protocols. These schools may not re-open until the middle of the year.

Our partners say the biggest education impacts from Covid have been loss of motivation (especially in homes where adults don't hold education highly), and students falling behind, undoing hard-won educational achievements.

Although some schools offered online education, most children couldn't access it, with no computer and at most, limited

internet via a shared mobile phone. Many families needed money desperately, so children had to work rather than study.

Lockdown restrictions meant our partners, Street Kids Direct, were unable to open their mentoring centres, or offer any face-to-face contact other than food deliveries, for six months. However, once the centres re-opened, the team began meeting with small groups of the neediest children.

Initially, children were able to come to the centres for two hours, twice a week, and receive support with school work if they had assignments. Our partners say this helped, but was not enough.

Now they hope to improve the support on offer by employing qualified teachers to run covid-secure catch-up lessons, in each of the two mentoring centres.

Two teachers will work with small, socially-distanced groups of children, six days a week, from January to November 2021.

This will benefit 40 children on the mentoring programme, including all 36 of Global Care's sponsored children. Each small group will receive a minimum of three half-day sessions each week.

Our partners believe this specialist, targeted support will help the children get back on track.

They write: "We aim to provide a safe learning environment, following all necessary protocols, and to help re-motivate the children to prioritise their education. We also aim to achieve across-the-board excellence in quality of education. Our goal is to help all the children not only catch up after the challenges from this past year but to excel, as many of them have previously done."



**Please help us raise £15,000 via our Lent Appeal to cover the costs of this one-year programme, including wages, study materials and refreshments.**

**[www.globalcare.org/Lent-2021](http://www.globalcare.org/Lent-2021)**

"Covid affected me a lot, because I could no longer see my friends, play soccer with them or have a teacher who could explain the homework I was set by the school. The school was closed and there was no support at all from anyone"

*\*Jeronimo, aged 15*

# THE CHALLENGE *ahead*



“ As we enter 2021, we face challenges which were unimaginable at the start of 2020.

In 2021, 235 million people will need humanitarian assistance and protection.

That's 1 in 33 people worldwide needing help — a significant increase from the 1 in 45 people a year ago, which was already the highest figure in decades.

The UN estimate the pandemic has undone 25 years of development in areas including education, health care, mortality rates, gender equality, vaccinations...

We know that we can't do everything, but we mustn't do nothing. We also know that we trust in a God who provides, and 2020 has proved this over and over again. ”

John White, CEO



## *high risk of* **DROP OUT**

Schools in **Bangladesh** have been closed since March 2020, including our partners' preschools in Horintana.

When staff were finally able to visit they found the children de-motivated and displaying poor behaviour: "The children are at high risk of drop-out, and losing interest in education altogether... Most of the students are growing without proper guidance."

The preschool team began delivering individual and small group tuition, in a socially-distanced way.

It's not easy; teachers have to walk a long way,

as many homes are inaccessible by road, and often there is nowhere to sit. However, parents who were initially reluctant now welcome visits, as they can see teachers washing their hands and feet, disinfecting the area before they begin, using social distancing and wearing masks. They also see their children benefit.

Global Care's funds are helping six teachers support 120 children, from January to March 2021, at a total cost of £2,306. Each child is visited twice a week. In addition to wages and study materials, funding covers travel expenses, mats for sitting on, hand sanitizer, masks, and disinfectant.

**The children are at high risk of drop-out, and losing interest in education altogether... Most of the students are growing without proper guidance.**

\*Amala's dad sells cosmetics in the market, at festivals and fairs. Initially, lockdown meant he had to close his stall, but even afterwards, demand for cosmetics dropped off, as people prioritised food. All festivals and fairs were cancelled.

As a result the family face serious financial problems. Under huge stress, Amala's education was a very low priority for her parents.

Our partners say: "Amala started to forget all she learned, and when the teachers started tutoring her, they were shocked to see her behaviour. But within a short period she is changed to her back days. She is now good mannered again and has improved in her studies."

## \*Amala's Story

In **Zimbabwe** schools have begun to re-open. At the Houtberg Childcare Centre the team will help 20 children back into class, and plan to employ teachers to run booster clubs for one month.

In addition, they will provide over 800 masks, water buckets with taps, 10 boxes of soap and an infra-red thermometer to the local primary school attended by the majority of children at the centre, in order to make school more Covid-secure for children and staff alike.

Global Care has funded their entire efforts at a total cost of £3,764.

In **Sri Lanka** schools returned from July until early October, when a second lockdown began.

During each lockdown, the team at the Morning Star Care Centre supplied study packs and food parcels to the 60 children who attend the centre. Global Care is funding five months of this continued programme, from December 2020 to April 2021, at a total cost of £6,680. Costs include a monthly food parcel, study materials, and a travel allowance for teachers, so they can avoid public transport.

*A child at MSCC plays with lego donated to our charity shops*



## Exposed to domestic violence, verbal abuse, chaos...

“ The pandemic has impacted the children's education negatively. But even though the schools were closed, the children were given study packs to help them keep in touch with their work while at home. Eighty percent of the children did their work and returned it to the Morning Star centre to be corrected.

During this period most of the children went through emotional upheaval as they were confined to their homes. Living in confined spaces brought about conflict between siblings and parents. As most of them live in one or two rooms, the children were exposed to domestic violence, verbal abuse, chaos and adult behaviour. I am concerned for our children.

When they return to school I will be asking them to put their experiences into a visual format, showing what

they faced while they were in lockdown. We hope to address these issues together to help them evaluate the issues they faced.

The Field Officer and one of the teachers were brave enough to visit one of the children who was facing some terrible difficulties, while the virus was at its height. The case took much time and many of our teachers and Field Officer were involved to try to get her into a home that would give her safety and peace. I think this has been achieved even though it was a slow process. I am grateful to my team, who are not only educators for children, but a friend, a listening ear and a confidant.

Thank you Global Care for being an immense support to the children who have very little in life. You made this all possible. ”

Principal, Morning Star Care Centre





# BRINGING "A SMILE OF HOPE" IN THE MIDST OF TRAUMA

## SYRIA

### Children attending the House of Hope

**School Clubs in Syria are making great progress, despite the many challenges they face; unstable home environments, violence, trauma, poverty, and of course, the coronavirus pandemic.**

The project is such a beacon of light in this fragile society, the children even featured on national TV, when a visiting Russian military delegation came to watch a Christmas performance.

Our partner Afaf told the nation: "We know that the birth of Christ symbolizes love and peace. It's an

opportunity for us to send this message to our country. We want to bring a smile of hope, and joy to the faces of children."

Over the year 94 extremely vulnerable children attended the School Clubs, which run two sessions each day for children in grades 1-3.

The School Clubs had to close in lockdown in March, but were able to re-open in September.

Three teachers work with grade-level groups, and a fourth is employed to work therapeutically with children with special needs. Over two terms, 15 children needed one-to-one support.

The team saw big improvements in children's behaviour, confidence and socialisation, as well as

academic improvement in subjects including Arabic and Maths.

Challenges over the first year, apart from Covid, included local pressures causing staff turnover, and difficulties working with guardians who were not the parents of the children in their care.

CEO John White said: "Our partners in Syria really are doing an amazing job against the odds. We are privileged to be able to help them provide this desperately-needed initiative. Please pray as they navigate all the local and practical challenges of working in a society shattered by almost a decade of civil war, brutal violence and desperate poverty."

# \*Karim's Story

10-year-old \*Karim lives with his mother and three siblings in an unfinished rented apartment. The family fled from fighting in their home town, Sakba in southern Syria, during the war. Karim's parents are divorced. His mother works as a hairdresser but earns barely enough to pay the rent.

When Karim joined the School Club in 2019, academically he was very weak. Experiencing domestic violence and witnessing war in his home town left him traumatised: the children not only experienced beatings themselves but watched their father attack their mother. On one occasion his dad violently harmed himself in front of the whole family. Karim was anxious, afraid and psychologically scarred.

The House of Hope team gave Karim extra private lessons to help his academic learning. They are delighted that his academic work is improving. He has a psychological care plan and one-to-one support to help him overcome fear and loneliness.

The team say Karim is showing increasing responsibility, working wholeheartedly on tasks given to him at school and helping his mother at home: "For us in House of Hope, it is very encouraging and motivating to see the progress and change happening in Karim's life. This gives us the energy to keep serving our society in this situation that our country is going through."



When \*Abdul joined the School Club, he was aggressive and afraid. His whole life has been spent surviving war, trauma and domestic violence. He witnessed his uncle die from a bomb. His father beats and curses him, and beats his mum in front of the children. His youngest brother has both physical and learning disabilities. Even though he's only nine, his father often makes him work as an errand boy at a vegetable shop, to supplement the family income. Previously, he worked as a cleaner.

The School Club is a safe place for Abdul to be helped in his learning, and to receive therapeutic support. Our partners aren't daunted by the huge load of trauma he carries, and their love and care is beginning to make an impact. They say: "Abdul always wears the same clothes and shoes and often asks the House of Hope team to give him sandwiches to take to school. During his time here, his behaviour has changed; he is less aggressive and disobedient. His grades have improved. He is showing motivation to study as he now has the ambition to become an engineer. His teacher says Abdul is starting to accept advice and working on changing wrong behaviours, and that underneath the fear and aggression is a very sensitive boy."



# \*Abdul's Story

# LOOK BACK IN GRATITUDE

In such a difficult season we could easily produce a magazine full of gloom and despair. However, despite all the challenges, we have so much for which we are grateful, to God and to our donors. In no particular order, here are our top ten positives from 2020.

1



## Your astonishing generosity at Christmas.

You gave £54,057 to our Christmas Appeal, helping families in Ethiopia, bought 68 goats as alternative gifts, providing vital assets for families affected by disability in Uganda, and purchased 70 packs of facemasks, benefiting 350 children at Spurgeons Academy, Kenya. Our sponsors gave £11,879 to buy gifts for our sponsored children, a third more than last year's total. You're all amazing, thank you!

2

**Your Covid generosity.** You gave and our partners fed thousands of desperately vulnerable families, in 11 countries on four continents. Donations to our coronavirus response reached almost £150,000 in 2020, ALL of which was desperately needed. It was a privilege to be part of this outpouring of blessing.

5



**\*Oscar was very very poorly last year.** But a new corset and wheelchair gave him a new lease of life. Not only have his frequent bouts of pneumonia and hospital stays ended, he can even pinch, which he has never done before. We're so thrilled at his progress! Oscar's story is just one of many positive interventions you have enabled for children with disabilities in Uganda. For every donation, and every child sponsor enabling care and welfare for children like Oscar, THANK YOU!

4



## These boys went home! Twins

\*Denis and \*David lived at the New Hope Children's Home, Cambodia, after their single mum sought work in Thailand. She returned in 2020 with a new husband, a home and an income to support her boys properly. No matter how good an institution is, children thrive best in families. It's always a cause for celebration when a child is safely welcomed home. We're so grateful that three children from NHCH could go home in 2020, and three in 2019.

3

## What a blessing!

Following the devastation of Cyclone Idai, in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic, with food prices rising, incomes shrinking and a shocking one third of children in Zimbabwe suffering from malnutrition; our partners at the Houtberg Childcare Centre enjoyed a bumper harvest! The massive 4.5 tonnes of maize will feed the children comfortably with surplus for sale.

6

## In May, Bangladesh faced Cyclone Amphan,

the worst in a century. 600+ people crammed in a shelter built by Global Care, and in the end, no lives were lost. Compare that to a smaller storm leading to over 100 deaths. We're so grateful for this deliverance for families already struggling in the pandemic. The life-saving impact of our shelters



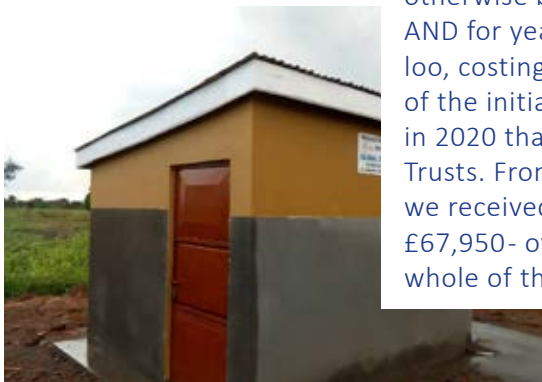
**aced Super**  
 worst storm of the  
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 communities we serve,  
 to 2007's Cyclone Sidr,  
 10,000 deaths! We're  
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## We're so grateful for all our volunteers.

In our charity shops, in the office, running the ebay channel, helping with events, trustees and envelope stuffers... THANK YOU!! You make us more effective, more efficient and more able to help more children. You are another huge reason for gratitude in this most difficult of years.

**It's a school toilet.** Why are we so excited? Because this toilet is fully accessible, giving dignity and independence to children currently attending the disability playscheme at a school in Abeko, Uganda. With two self-contained stalls, with handrails and turning space for a wheelchair, the school can appropriately educate children with disabilities, who may otherwise be unable to attend, now AND for years to come. This fab new loo, costing almost £5,000, is just one of the initiatives we have delivered in 2020 thanks to the generosity of Trusts. From April to December 2020 we received Trust grants totalling £67,950- over £10,000 more than the whole of the previous financial year.



7

**It has been our privilege to bear witness to 'the god who turned up'** in the Dalit slum of Patripul, near Mumbai, where desperate families faced starvation. (see overleaf) Thanks to your donations, a suffering Hindu community saw that this Jesus is a God who cares for the broken and disadvantaged, as we served those who stayed in the slum, and provided safe passage to village homes for hundreds of others. Thank you for equipping us for this practical ministry which bears witness to something greater. Thanks especially to the Catalyst Network of churches which donated almost £10,000 to this work.



9

10

**We're so grateful for those who uphold us in prayer.** This tumultuous year has shown us afresh that all we do is thanks to the grace of God. All these positives exist in the context of calamity in the charity sector. A study in August 2020 showed thousands of small charities

like us expect to close in the next 12 months; they won't survive the pandemic. UK government aid is being reduced. Charity scandals have damaged trust. UK individual giving to international charities has almost halved in the last six years. With Brexit finally here, and the pandemic far from over, financial uncertainty is an ever-present reality- at a time when our work is needed more than ever! Yet we saw God provide in 2020 and trust He will continue providing, as we continue committing our work to Him. Thank you for your prayers- please keep it up!



# BECAUSE WE ARE **DALIT** THE GODS DON'T WANT US

**\*Kavita was trafficked from Bihar when a high caste man promised her a good job in Mumbai.**

Instead she became his house slave. Without even a bed, she slept with the dogs outside.

Kavita is a Dalit, the lowest caste in India's discriminatory caste system, despised by everyone.

Escape came when she met \*Neeraj, a driver working for the same man. They married and moved to Patripul, home to thousands of Dalits, where they found work and were blessed with two little girls. Then coronavirus struck.

There was no work. Leaving the house risked a brutal police beating. Mumbai was a Covid-hotspot from the start, and lockdown dragged on for months.

They used up their savings, then for four days went without food and water, sitting in a dark room calling on many gods.

"No god heard our voice," they say. "We were thinking, because we are Dalit the gods also don't want us. Why then did we come into this world?"

And then, Global Care's partners arrived, with food. "Who sent you?" they asked.

Our partners take up the story: "We said we were from Global Care. And they asked us to tell them something about Global Care. So we told them, and said: 'Jesus loves you, he will not forsake you', and they asked 'Who is Jesus?'"

**Thank you Jesus  
and Global Care  
for saving us  
from dying.**

We explained about Jesus. They said they asked for help from many gods but only Jesus heard their voice and understood their situation and sent us to them."

Kavita comments: "We thought everyone rejected us, but at the end we understood Jesus is there for the needy and rejected people like us. He showed his love through sending you with the food package. **When the coronavirus came and all gods ran away from us, only Jesus stood with us.**

Thank you Jesus and Global Care for saving us from dying."

**The coronavirus pandemic proves the value of child sponsorship, as well as increasing the need for it.**

In many communities, sponsorship has been the difference between life and death, hunger and adequate food, justice in the face of abuse, hope instead of despair.

Crucially, sponsorship brings at least one consistent caring adult into the life of a child, as our partners oversee their wellbeing. All the research into Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) proves this is a huge protective factor.

## TAKE A VU

At times of crisis, as in the past year, a sponsored child has somewhere to turn. Especially when other protective factors, like safety at school, are reduced.

Our sponsored children all face different challenges. But sponsorship helps them ALL face the future with hope.

**It costs just 82 pence per day to sponsor a child. The need has never been greater.**

**[www.globalcare.org/sponsorship](http://www.globalcare.org/sponsorship)**



## \*Billy's Story

Billy's father died when he was six. The loss of the family breadwinner plunged the family of seven into poverty. At the same time Billy's mum was diagnosed as HIV+ but she refused to accept the diagnosis, and refused medication. She died a year later.

After the funeral, relatives asked for help, and our partners accepted Billy on to the child sponsorship programme.

One year on, now aged eight, Billy's teachers say his life has changed – he has shoes, clothes, a school uniform, blankets, books, pencils and food packs. His diet has improved and so has his health.

Without sponsorship, where would he be? But with sponsorship, he has a bright future.

# VULNERABLE CHILD GROW A STRONG ADULT

## \*Angie's Story

Every day 15-year-old Angie, her mum and two younger siblings, take an hour's train journey into the heart of Kolkata.

Dad ran off with another woman years ago and Mum works two jobs as a housemaid to make ends meet. While Mum works, the children go to school, and to the Pavement Club run by Global Care's partners, where they enjoy homework support and fun activities.

Life is still precarious, but the family cope. Even in the coronavirus pandemic, when so many suffered.

Public transport shut down. Angie's mum lost both her jobs. They quickly ran out of money, and waited for hours on street corners hoping someone would distribute food.

The Pavement Club team acted immediately. They secured food and hygiene supplies for the family in their distant neighbourhood, and helped the children access educational support.

Without sponsorship, where would they be? But with sponsorship, they have a bright future.



## \*Dan's Story

Dan's father lost his home and land due to river erosion just before Dan was born.

A church gave them land for a house, but the struggle for food was constant. They couldn't afford hospital treatment, so when Dan's mother haemorrhaged in childbirth, she died.

Two years later, Dan's father died following a massive heart attack, leaving Dan with his grandparents, and an uncle in distant village. When he was six, Dan's grandmother was diagnosed with cancer, and approached our partners, Love Your Neighbour, to request a place at the Home of Love for Dan. When the team visited they found little food in the house, and a very dirty, thin little boy. They welcomed him in, and Global Care found him a sponsor.

Now aged eight, during a recent visit to the village, neighbours were amazed at Dan's transformation. When not at the home (which had to close during the pandemic), Dan is supported to live with his uncle. Despite everything, last year he came top of the class.

Without sponsorship where would he be? But with sponsorship, he has a bright future.

# Yes, I'd like to support Global Care this Lent.

Please find enclosed my/our donation of £

I/we enclose a cheque (payable to Global Care) ☐

Please receipt my/our gift ☐



I'd like to purchase  copies of the book 'Where You Go, I Will Go'.

I/we enclose a total of £

## Your details

Title  First Name  Surname

Address

Postcode

Email

Phone no

*giftaid it*  
Making your gift go further,  
costs you nothing!

Gift Aid on your donation means extra funds for Global Care!

I would like Global Care to reclaim the tax I have paid on this gift, all gifts of money made in the past 4 years, and all future gifts made from the date of this declaration. (Delete as applicable)

I understand that Global Care will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give. I confirm that I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference. I will notify Global Care if I change address, no longer pay sufficient tax on my income and/or capital gains, or if I want to cancel this declaration.

Yes (please tick) ☐ Date  Signature

To make a card donation over the phone call the office on **030 030 21 030**

To make a card donation online visit: [www.globalcare.org/Lent-2021](http://www.globalcare.org/Lent-2021)

or buy a book at [www.globalcare.org/shop](http://www.globalcare.org/shop)

Please complete this slip, and send it with your donation in the enclosed Freepost envelope

*Thank you*



*new book*

# WHERE YOU GO I WILL GO

## LENT STUDIES

### Take a walk through the book of Ruth with the children of Global Care...

A brand new book of 40 Bible studies, reflections and prayers, drawn from the book of Ruth, has just been published.

Written by Baptist minister Keith Parr, one of our Trustees, and his wife Karen, the book also incorporates true stories of the challenges faced by children supported by Global Care.

The studies encourage us to consider what it means to love like Ruth – to choose to walk with someone from poverty and desperation, to a place of hope.

They are suitable for personal use and small group study, at Lent or any other time of year.

The book costs £7 including delivery. All money raised through the sale of the books will support the general work of Global Care.

If you order more than 6 copies, please contact the office to discuss a contribution towards postage. Copies can be ordered from our website at [www.globalcare.org/shop](http://www.globalcare.org/shop) or from the office on 030 030 21 030.

\*Names have been changed to protect the identity of children

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