

# *In*ternational Aid Trust

Christian Compassion For A Hurting World



Picture shows Aminata with her 'Virtual Gift Bag', see page 7 to find out more!

## *In* touch

Issue 5

Registered Charity No. 1086597

# Welcome! From our Founder and CEO

Dear Friends and Supporters,



If we had to rely on what we see or read in the media, we wouldn't really have much to look forward to, would we? But despite what the news says, God's word, and His promises never change. There are so many encouraging scriptures, and the truth is that it's far more beneficial to spend a few minutes with the bible each day than to spend hours stuck in front of a television.

Have you ever stopped to think where you would be if Christ had not changed your life? Sometimes I shiver at the thought of what life would be like if I had not accepted Christ's forgiveness and continued in my sin and ignorance. I thank God for the mercy and grace that He has extended in saving and redeeming all who believe! And the good news is that it's a free gift, it costs us nothing, but it cost Jesus everything. He died that we may live, but He didn't stay in the grave, He rose again. And that resurrection promise is still real for each one of us today.

Despite what some say, it is not easy being a Christian. None of our leaders overseas find it easy, and nowhere in the Bible does the Lord say that life will be easy if we follow Him.

***John 16:33 "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."***

Pastor Michael, our Director in Sierra Leone, when asked how he is always says, "I am blessed, very blessed!" And in the midst of the poverty there, he means it. That's what it means to know the love and peace of our Lord Jesus in our lives. Bishop Kota, our Director in India, and his pastors, are constantly under threat of violence and persecution, simply for sharing the Good News. Pastor Pasha, our Director in Eastern Europe, also comes from a long line of persecuted Christians. Since 1991 we have shared this "Good News" with the poor and needy in almost fifty nations. Seeds of love and compassion have been planted, watered, and borne so much fruit, as the practical and spiritual gospel changes and saves lives for ever, as we have witnessed so many times.

If you don't have the love and security of Christ in your life yet, if you doubt, just ask Him to make himself real to you today. Forgiveness and the promises of Romans 10:8-10 are just a prayer away.

***But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: that if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.***

Every blessing and peace

*Bernard*

Rev Bernard Cocker, CEO & Founder

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*John 10:33*



## UK News: Focus on New Hall Lane Charity Shop



Our UK charity shops are at the heart of International Aid Trust, funding our life changing work around the world. They provide very reasonably priced clothes and other items and offer a Christian presence in their communities.

The retail operation covers all administration costs, so if you donate to a project, 100% goes to that cause.

Welcome to our charity shop on New Hall Lane, Preston!

Volunteers Annette (right) and Babs (left) are doing a wonderful job whilst manager Marzena is on maternity leave.

Annette began volunteering about three years ago, initially just on a Saturday and is now at the shop six days a week! Annette enjoys getting jobs done and keeping the shop looking good, she says "I like meeting customers, getting to know them and being able to help them."



Babs began volunteering six years ago, by hoovering, when the charity had just taken on a shop in nearby Blackpool Road. She likes that there is always something to do and making customers feel welcome. Babs says "Sometimes customers come in here to be cheered up, we have a laugh and a joke with them and I even get them singing!" If you're in the Preston area, pop in to the New Hall Lane shop, you're sure of a warm welcome!

Please see the back page for your nearest International Aid Trust charity shop.

**We give thanks for all our charity shop staff and volunteers, for their hard work, dedication and kindness. We thank God for all the funding the shops bring in for the charity. We pray that all the staff and volunteers will know God's loving presence and help in every situation they face.**



## UK News: Thank you for giving

**A huge 'Thank You' to everyone who has donated to and prayed for our UK Headquarters Development Fund. Thank you also to companies who have made practical donations.**



**Our UK Headquarters Development Fund has received a total of over £30,000 in donations so far. This is enough to fund 75 square metres of the development of the first floor!**

Photos show the work on the toilet block so far. This will be followed by a kitchen, prayer chapel and a flexible space which will help us to support our local community in Chorley.

There's much more to do! If you would like to know how you can support the development of the Galleries building, please get in touch for a chat on 01772 611000 or email for more information [office@internationalaidtrust.org.uk](mailto:office@internationalaidtrust.org.uk)

Thank you also to everyone who donates, each gift helps to further our life changing work! Please keep reading to see just a few of the people you are helping.

You can now make donations to International Aid Trust through Stewardship, an online giving platform that shares our Christian values.



**Support us at  
Stewardship**



Share the Good News with

**Gospel Cards, etc.**



Gospel Cards, etc. make Christmas cards, calendars and so much more.

Visit: <https://gospelcardsetc.com/> or ask us for a catalogue.

Gospel Cards donate a percentage of all sales to 29 Christian Charities including International Aid Trust!

**Want to hear more about International Aid Trust's work overseas and in the UK? You can book a speaker to visit your school, church or group, email: [office@internationalaidtrust.org.uk](mailto:office@internationalaidtrust.org.uk)**



## UK News: Thank you for partnering with us



This truck was packed full of much needed aid collected by our friends at Upper Room Christian Fellowship, led by Pastor Les and Joan Potter, in Great Yarmouth. Items sent include clothing for all ages, household items and knitted clothes and blankets made by the Norfolk Knitters.

A huge thank you to everyone who was involved in getting this aid on the road to Transylvania. Turn the page to see who these items helped!



### Working in partnership with local churches and groups is at the heart of what we do!

We are very thankful for all these partnerships. Pictured are our friends at Shoebox Express, Formby - who fill thousands of shoebox gifts every year. The beautiful knitted hats and scarves, below, were made by Christ Church 'Tuesday at Two' members.

Other churches support by sponsoring a family, pastor or project overseas, some have been able to visit this work too.

Some support by praying regularly for our work. How could your church or group get involved?

**We thank God for all the churches, groups and schools who we have partnerships with, and for everyone who supports International Aid Trust; practically, financially or prayerfully. We pray that they will be blessed as they are a blessing to others.**



## News From Transylvania

The truck on the previous page arrived in Transylvania with our partners; Prison Fellowship Romania only four days after departing!



You can see from the photos, this region was badly affected by the devastating floods that swept through Europe. Houses were completely destroyed. As soon as the truck had been unloaded, PFR's Director Andrei and the team set about getting aid to families in the villages which had suffered badly from the flooding.

People in the villages were very grateful to receive useful household items, clothes and warm blankets. We are so thankful to God for his timing and provision; that the truck arrived just at the right time to help and bless so many people in crisis.

PFR are now working with villagers to rebuild homes.



We give thanks that all these very useful items arrived so soon after the devastation of the floods, we also thank God for Andrei and the team at PFR's prompt action and care for people in need. We pray for everyone who has been affected by the floods, that they will know God's help and blessing as they rebuild their lives.



## News from Moldova



Photos show the children and leaders at the 5 day long summer camp in Moldova, organised by Pastor Victor and team. As you can see there were lots of fun and games, exercise sessions, times of worship, talking and learning about God.

The leaders are pictured studying God's word together as they prepare to teach the children. There is wonderful news that thirty five children of the children who attended made a decision to follow Jesus!



**We thank God for all the time, effort and prayer put in by the camp leaders. We also thank God for the news of the children who have given their lives to Jesus! We pray for them to grow in faith day by day, we also pray for the ongoing ministry throughout the year to young people in Moldova.**



## News from Sierra Leone

Pastor Michael, our Director in Sierra Leone, (pictured far right with wife Alice, headteacher of New Hope School) has been appointed head of the Pentecostal Fellowship in the Lungi Region.



Our team hosted a training programme called EQUIP for Pastors and Leaders from this group. Forty participants from nineteen local ministries attended. They enjoyed fellowship, and learning together.

The evangelists from New Hope Church continue to visit other villages regularly. Outreach includes occasional meals that the whole community is invited to. Picture below shows a meal being cooked at Lokomasama, where a church has been planted and is growing.

Did you notice the bag on the front cover with the 'Gifts of Love' tag? The ladies taking part in the Hands of Dorcas tailoring training have made these, ready to be filled with gifts as part of the Virtual Shoebox scheme. Visit the shoebox appeal pages of our website to find out how you can join in!



**Give thanks for the Lungi Pentecostal Fellowship and the support it is providing for Pastors and churches. Please pray for God's guidance for Pastor Michael as he leads. Give thanks for the dedication of the evangelists and pray for God's help and encouragement in their outreach.**



## Focus on Education in Sierra Leone



Pictured are some of Class 1 at New Hope School, saying grace.

The school has been able to give a good primary education, and free school meals, to over a thousand children over the last eleven years. We thank God that all those children have learnt about Jesus' love for them.

At the end of May, Class 6 sat their National Primary School Examination.

Following lockdown last year, teachers and children put in extra hours every day to prepare for the exam. We are very pleased to report that all 43 children passed!



But we 'lose' them around the age of twelve; all the local high schools are Muslim run, and have lessons on Sundays, so church is out sadly; the seeds of faith that have been planted in our New Hope School aren't being watered.

Also in the community that New Hope School serves some families can't afford school fees and their children don't go to high school at all.



There is a real danger for girls who don't complete their education of being forced into arranged marriages at an early age or ending up on the streets. Our vision is to build a secondary school, so our students can continue in their Christian education, whilst being fed, and receiving pastoral and health care. Pastor Michael and Alice have kindly given their land for the building.

**Give thanks for the dedicated teachers at New Hope School and for all the children who have been educated. Please pray for great wisdom making plans for the secondary school, for funding for the building and future staff and running costs, for the right architect, builders etc. in Sierra Leone.**

## News from Ukraine



Our Ukraine Director, Pastor Pasha, is pictured far right with young people from the churches in Kyiv, who have been helping with the outreach in rural villages. They spent time with members of Klekhivka Church sharing the gospel, giving out practical gifts and blessing the village by litter picking.



Children's camps and holiday clubs have taken place in many areas of Ukraine over the summer, run by the local churches. These include the camp pictured at Gvardiyske village; children enjoyed lots of fun and games, good food and learning about Jesus. A church has been planted here from the ministry in nearby Klekhivka.

**Give thanks for Christians in Ukraine, who are committed to sharing their faith; including the youth from Kyiv and all the dedicated summer camp leaders, who gave their time to care for the children and teach them about God. Please pray for the seeds of faith planted at camps to grow and please pray for the church at Gvardiyske to continue to grow too.**





## Focus on Shoebox distribution, Ukraine



A huge thank you to everyone who fills shoebox gifts! They are a huge part of our outreach.

Pastor Igor, our Administrator in Ukraine writes:

"Thank you for your gifts. The shoeboxes were distributed to families facing various difficulties, living in villages in the Kyiv region

Maria and little baby Eva (above) live in the village of Fastivets. This family is extremely poor. Their parents often abuse alcohol; the children are mostly taken care of by their grandmother.

The village of Gvardiyske is located away from the main road. Today it is abandoned by businesses. There is no work for people in the village; the school and the hospital are located several kilometres away.

Alexandra 7 years old and Matthew, 2 years old (right), live with their grandmother most of the time. Their father has sadly died and their mother works long hours in another village.



All the children were very pleasantly surprised and very pleased with your shoeboxes. The parents and children sincerely thank you for the gifts. All the gifts were lovely and had many useful things to offer. Thank you, everyone who took part in the preparation of gifts and their delivery to Ukraine.

May God bless you and your families. Best wishes, Pastor Igor Khainatskyi"

**Give thanks for everyone who fills shoebox gifts and for Igor and all our teams who distribute gifts and at the same time provide pastoral and spiritual support. Please pray for the families who received shoeboxes, that they will know that God loves them and has good plans for them.**

## News from India



We are very thankful that after so much time missed due to lockdowns; Living Hope School has reopened.

Pupils and teachers are working hard to catch up!



The church in India continues to grow despite persecution.

International Aid Trust India Pastors are serving in six states, largely in impoverished rural areas, where they often face opposition from extremist Hindu groups.

However the outreach to tribal people and Dalit communities (formerly known as untouchables) is bearing much fruit, as people learn of the God who loves them. Pictured are new believers who were baptised recently.

Bishop Kota, our Director in India, is pictured centre with six pastors who have recently graduated from Living Word Bible School.

The Bible School operates from six localities in two states, Telangana and Maharashtra, with twelve teachers, in different locations. Each Bible teacher has twelve students and it is the vision that more of the graduates go on to teach even more students. Pastors are supported by regular conferences.



**We give thanks for the all pastors in India and their faithful witness in difficult situations. We give thanks for the new believers who have given their lives to Jesus and been baptised and the pastors who have just graduated. Please pray with us for all Christians in India, for protection from persecution and for them to stand firm in their faith.**



## Focus on Bible Distribution in India



There is wonderful news that, thanks to very kind donations, sponsored Bibles are being distributed in India.

Lingamma, is one person who received a Bible, she shared her testimony:

“One day, unexpectedly at 6:30pm I came towards Church. One person was sharing the word of God, and I sat outside the Church and heard the word of God. After hearing word of God, I went home and slept. In my dream, God spoke to me, before this I was an idolater and also an alcoholic.

Next week I met a Church member and said to him that I also accept Lord Jesus Christ, by hearing this he was very happy. I went to Church, the Pastor and other Church members prayed for me and also they gave a Bible to me. All these days I used to feel lonely, but when I went to Church, I was so surprised there were people to pray for me and for my health. Now, on Sundays I am going regularly to the Church, I never bother if anybody says anything to me.”



Below: Short gospel tracts are also being given out by our team. Introducing people to Jesus for the first time!



**Give thanks that Bishop Kota and the team in India have been able to distribute Bibles. Please pray for Lingamma and everyone who has received a Bible that they will grow in knowledge and love of Jesus every day.**



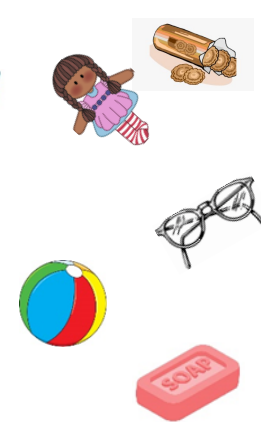
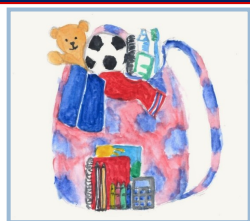
# Archie's Activities: Virtual Shoeboxes

Hello! Archie, Office Dog here! I love getting presents, so I'm excited to tell you about our new Virtual Shoebox scheme!

Visit our website to make a donation and send a gift to a person in need. You can choose the area of the world, the age and gender of the person you send a gift to. Each shoebox or gift bag will be packed by our team in the country and filled with things that are just right for the person you have chosen. In some places the 'Hands of Dorcas' tailoring trainees are making bags for the gifts to go in.

Find out more: [www.internationalaidtrust.org.uk/shoeboxes/virtual](http://www.internationalaidtrust.org.uk/shoeboxes/virtual)

Lets have a game of fetch! Can you match up the person with their gift box or bag? Connect them together with a straight line that goes through 4 things that might be part of their gift. Watch out, there are some things that won't go in anyone's gift!





**HEAD OFFICE 01772 611000**

**[office@internationalaidtrust.org.uk](mailto:office@internationalaidtrust.org.uk)**

International Aid Trust, The Galleries,  
Croft Mill, Pall Mall, Chorley, PR7 3LT

## Contact Details

Please contact the office for all warehouse enquiries at the present time.

**CHARITY SHOPS:** Details of your nearest International Aid Trust Shop are below. Pop in to find a bargain or donate items you no longer need. Want to be part of the team making our life changing work possible? Our shops welcome new volunteers, please get in touch to find out more.

### **ANGLESEY 01248 853898**

Unit 4 Bryniriol Precint, Benllech, Tyn-Y-Gongl,  
Yns Mon, LL74 8TF

### **CARNFORTH 01524734109**

27 Market Street, Carnforth, LA5 9JX

### **CHADSMOOR 01543 577232**

8 Ashworth House, Cannock Road, Chads Moor,  
Cannock, WS11 5DZ

### **CHORLEY FURNITURE 01257 264982**

Croft Mill, 43 Pall Mall, Chorley, Lancashire, PR7 3LT

### **CHORLEY GENERAL 01257 233036**

84 Market Street, Chorley PR7 2SF

### **COPPULL 01257 795454**

205 Spendmore Lane, Chorley PR7 5BY

### **HORWICH 01204 460294**

90 Lee Lane, Horwich BL6 7AE

### **LOSTOCK HALL 01772 338070**

11 Hope Terrace, Lostock Hall PR5 5RU

### **MILL HILL, BLACKBURN 01254 278892**

80 New Chapel Street, Mill Hill, Blackburn, BB2 4DT

### **PELSALL 01922 694144**

Unit 3 & 4 Mayou Court, 32 High Street, Pelsall,  
WS3 4LX

### **PRESTON, NEW HALL LANE 01772 796605**

171-173 New Hall Lane, Preston, PR1 5XA

### **ONLINE!**

On Ebay search for seller: IATheadoffice.

On Etsy search for 'InternationalAidTr' for our vintage shop  
or 'Hands of Dorcas' for beautiful bags made in Sierra Leone.



# Freepost INTERNATIONAL AID TRUST

**Get In touch**

Cut out and affix to an envelope



To keep up to date with our work return this form to the freepost address above

**Title:** Full Name:

**Address:**

**Postcode:**

**Phone Number:**

**Email:**

**Please send me / us regular updates:**  
by email usually once a month  
by post no more than three times a year

☐  
☐

**Please contact me about regular giving plans**  
**Please contact me about sponsoring a family or pastor**

☐  
☐

**Signed** ..... **Date** .....

*Please note we will never pass on your contact details to any other organisation*

To make a one off donation you can send a cheque to the freepost address or donate through our website: [www.internationalaidtrust.org.uk](http://www.internationalaidtrust.org.uk)

If you are able to, please complete and return this gift aid declaration:

**I want to Gift Aid my donation of £ \_\_\_\_\_ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years.**

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less income tax and / or Capital Gains Tax in that year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

**Signed:**

**Date:**

**Name:**

**Address and Postcode:**

## Give Regularly: Standing Order Mandate

Please make the payments detailed below and debit my/our bank account:

**Name of Bank** ..... **Sort Code** .....

**Account Name** ..... **Account Number** .....

**Bank Address** ..... **Post Code** .....

Please pay: Royal Bank of Scotland Sort Code: 16-28-16, Account Number: 10075885 for the credit of International Aid Trust.

Amount in figures: £ ..... Amount in words .....

Commencing on ..... (date) and on the same day every month

**Signed** ..... **Date** .....