

Messages from some of our beneficiaries March – August 2020

We have all been affected by the global covid 19 pandemic but the poorest people in developing countries have been impacted more than most.

As a result of poverty, they continue to face malnutrition, a lack of clean water and very limited access to education, employment and healthcare.

On top of this, they have suffered devastating consequences from the pandemic.

Here are some of the messages we have had recently from our beneficiaries in developing countries. We are asking you to help us to help them.

Sister Celestina runs a feeding programme in Ethiopia. She wrote to us begging for help to buy food for our poor. She said “This coronavirus outbreak has added many new poor to our usual ones. The prices of basic food have increased. Please can you help us. I am sorry to be asking at this time, but I don't have any other choice.”

Father Gustave works among the poor in Zambia helping with education and training. He has written to say that they rely on contributions from parents to pay the teachers in the school. Most of the parents are domestic servants and because of Covid they have lost their jobs. As a result, the teachers have not been paid since May this year and he has asked for help to pay the salaries otherwise they will be forced to close the school.

Sister Patricia Speight runs the Love and Hope Centre in Kenya where they seek to alleviate suffering and restore dignity to ill people living in poverty and desperation. The measures to restrict the spread of coronavirus halted much of this care but they now need our help to resume the work in line with the Government's directives.

Sister Mary O'Malley whose work in Kenya is trying to prevent human trafficking and helping people who have been trafficked to recover physically and emotionally. She wrote to us saying “We are coping as best we can and hunger is the big problem at the moment. People are out of jobs - where they sold some small bits like tea in a flask by the roadside in a kind of hand-to-mouth way, that survival kit is totally gone. All such outlets and markets are closed. So, there is great distress among the people especially those in slums. Schools are closed since early March so kids are home and people find it a great strain to feed them.”

Father Raymond McQuarrie writes similarly from South Africa that the “rich versus poor” problem has been highlighted by the pandemic. He says “Many have lost their means of income and children are permanently at home not eating adequate food because the only decent food they used to receive daily was at their school. It is quite heartbreaking. Winter is upon us in this part of the world, and this is a big concern for us under normal circumstances, without the added stress of a virus decimating our elderly, the vulnerable, our medical personnel, and adding to the numbers of individuals and families in need of some form of aid intervention.”