

Invest just £20 a month and
join the **LIVING PARTNERSHIP**.
Manila invested everything.



Tzedek
www.tzedek.org.uk

RESPONSIBILITY **Arevut** NEWS FROM TZEDEK

ISSUE 14 SUMMER 2011

Colours of Kolkata

Below is an extract from Hadassah Wachsmann's blog. Hadassah spent 5 months in India as part of Tzedek's year long intern programme. Part of her time in India was spent visiting the projects funded by Living Partnership supporters.

"Tzedek funds many projects in both India and Ghana and this week I had the pleasure of visiting two of the projects that we fund in rural Bihar.

On Monday morning, Shoab (my translator/consultant/friend) and I got picked up and taken to visit the first project. What normally would have been about an hour drive ended up being a three and a half hour drive to get there. Why, I hear you ask... well we got caught in a one-month traffic jam which is still ongoing. It was literally the most ridiculous thing I have ever seen. 80KM of trucks which hadn't moved in days. Luckily we were going in the opposite direction but still had problems as a result of it.

Anyway, about three hours in to our journey we stopped for some chai on the street. We are now in rural India, some cars, a few small 'shops' around, not much else. I sat down on the side of the street, drinking my chai and taking in my surroundings.

Visiting the projects this week meant that I got to meet Tzedek's beneficiaries first hand. I got to visit what Shoab kept calling 'real India', the beautiful villages, lush green fields... and 'real' it certainly was. It was a humbling experience and incredibly inspiring to see the people whose lives have changed as a result of Tzedek's work out here in India.

Rajee Kumar is only one example. Rajee is 16 years old and lives with his parents, four brothers and four sisters in one room. He is one of the beneficiaries on a vocational training program with Tzedek's partner, BOARD. He trained in motor-rewinding for six months. Rajee is now employed, he works during the day and brings in 3, 200 Indian rupees a month, around £44. He gives 3000 rupees (£41) straight to his parents and family, which



means that his sisters can afford to go to school. He keeps the remaining 200 (£3.00) for himself, that is all he needs he says.

Rajee is keen to finish his education and goes to evening classes when he is not working. He is a very ambitious 16 year old and tells me how he now has a great reputation in his village and people often call him for help. He is so grateful that he has had this opportunity and hopes to start his own business, training others so they too get a chance at a future."

Tzedek's new projects

Since the last issue of Arevut the OPT has reviewed 75 initial Letters of Inquiry from potential Tzedek partners and as a result invited more than 25 to submit full applications. 10 of these projects have been approved for funding by the Board. Example projects include:

- **SDKF in Uganda** will be granted £4650 to train children and youth from poor family backgrounds in tailoring and design ensuring that they do not become street kids who resort to drug abuse and prostitution
- the **SEEDS** organisation in Tamil Nadu, India will be funded £4,200 to provide training and materials for tribal forestry villagers to engage in broom making and selling
- **CHANARD**, in Tamil Nadu, India will be granted £5,800 for a second project to build on its vocational training to set up a co-operative which will specialise in wholesale garment making for women who were previously victims of the sex industry

Tony Blair Faith Foundation Faiths Act Fellows announced

On July 25th 2011, Tzedek welcomed two new arrivals: Charlotte and Maryam from the Tony Blair Faith Foundation, embarking on the Faith Act Fellowship. The main goals of the Faith Act Fellowship are to increase multi-faith action on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly among those who have not been involved in multi-faith work before. During their time at Tzedek, the fellows will be involved with numerous projects, including the multi-faith theatre project, developing Tzedek's sustainable development theatre resource to include both a multi-faith dimension and a focus on maternal and child health education and malaria.



Tony Blair, Founder and Patron of the Tony Blair Faith Foundation said: "Too often we hear about

the negative aspects of faith..... Faith can build understanding and provide unity and strength to counter those who see faith as a source of division and discrimination."

Charlotte said: 'I am thrilled to have been chosen to take part in the Faith Act Fellowship this year, and to be partnered with Tzedek! The campaign to educate and make people aware of the MDGs and the need for them is so important, and I can't wait to get started, to help in the fight against poverty!'

Maryam said: 'I am very excited at the prospect of furthering the Millennium Development Goals and joining the fight to eradicate malaria. However I am just as thrilled at the opportunity to learn more about the philosophies and the beliefs of others and leave the fellowship truly appreciating their cultures and traditions.'

Recent events

Tzedek's Charity Abseil

Tzedek volunteers came together on 6th March 2011 to abseil down Guy's Hospital Tower in Southwark, London. The volunteers raised over £12,000 for Tzedek funded projects.

35 Tzedek staff and volunteers, including the director, Dan Berelowitz, abseiled down the 469ft Guy's Hospital Tower – the tallest hospital in the world. Located in Southwark near London Bridge, the volunteers had a spectacular view of London before stepping over the edge of the 30 story building for their 15 minute abseil to the bottom.

The money raised will go to Tzedek and it's supported projects such as Hospitality for the Needy (HNC) in Tamil Nadu, India. This project provides tailoring training for 50 young women, who will then be able to take their skills and make clothes for local shops and markets. The project will also provide a small, low interest loan so that the beneficiaries can start their own businesses. The increased income from these activities will ensure a safe, sustainable future for them and their families.

London To Cambridge Bike Ride

Sunday June 26th, 2011...Hardcore cyclists and keen amateurs slapped on the sun cream and rode off into the glorious sunshine for the JCC / Tzedek London to Cambridge charity bike ride.



Some 30 people got on their bikes to make the 57-mile ride organised in association with UJS and RSY raising £5500 for core Tzedek and JCC social action projects.

Rosella De Jong, from Belsize Park, finished with a sigh of relief, saying : "I made it! I am really happy to have played a part in making the world a little bit of a better place."



Can you help us...

Looking for an Arevut editor.

Looking for committee members to join our Quiz event committee.

Tzedek welcomes Madame Cecilia:

In early spring Tzedek funded a teacher from Ghana to visit the UK. Madame Cecilia is the owner and Proprietress of Morning Star School, Tamale, Ghana. Madame Cecilia, an orphan herself, built the school to provide free basic education to orphan children in Northern Region of Ghana. For the last two years Morning Star has been involved in Tzedek's Lomdim B'yachad Programme (Learning Together) which links Jewish schools in the UK with schools in Ghana.

During her time Madame Cecilia visited 6 Jewish primary schools speaking about how she came to set up Morning Star School in her garage with only 4 orphan girls who would otherwise not have had the chance to go to school. During her visits students really enjoyed the opportunity to ask her questions which highlighted how much they had listened, learnt and remembered from the previous twinning lessons.

The impacts of this visit were immediately clear, not only are the schools more passionate about the whole project, but we had several comments from teachers about the fact their students still refer to the visit months later.

"My children have loved the twinning project. it was amazing to have Madame Cecilia come to our school. They have learnt a lot and have been



motivated about the unit of work!!!"

An unexpected result was that on her return we had arranged for Madame Cecilia to brief the other schools in Ghana about what she had learnt. From this meeting the teachers in Ghana decided to create their own network. They now meet regularly – every 4 to 6 weeks and discuss different issues that relate to their schools, but in addition they are looking for further funding that as a network they can apply for together. They have therefore become stronger as a group and they are collaborating much more.

As a result of this success we are looking in to opportunities to enable further visits and face-to-face meetings between teachers in Ghana and the UK and hopefully for students via on-line means.

Benjy our Ghana Volunteer coordinator is managing Tzedek's 10 Overseas volunteers this summer. He recently updated his Facebook status:

"Last night I was sitting by a pool on top of a mountain overlooking the lush Ghanaian wilderness at Mole safari park - replete with crocodiles and antelope grazing below - whilst conducting interviews with the volunteers I'm leading, and thought to myself... will a job ever get this good again? One has to recognise living the dream in the rare moments that one actually does, I think."



Tzedek's gratitude goes to Matthew Rosen Marsh for his gift to Tzedek in memory of his father Peter Marsh.

Peter Marsh was a Journalist and Lawyer who was driven to his vocation through his humanitarian ideals. A strong believer in reconciliation in the case of family conflict, he was ahead of his time in recognising the plight of fathers denied access to their children in divorce cases or custody battles.

Help us to combat poverty; make a donation online at www.tzedek.org.uk



152 West End Lane
London NW6 1SD
Tel: 020 7443 5121
Email: info@tzedek.org.uk
www.tzedek.org.uk