



OFS Canada JPIC Communiqué JPIC Octobre 2020

For Everything, there is a Reason...

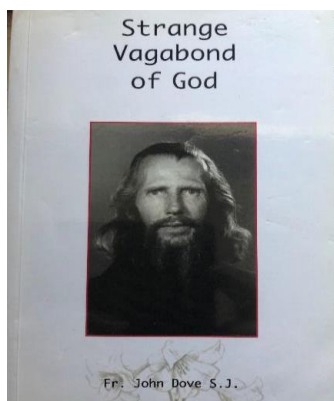
Do you remember the song: [Turn, Turn, Turn by the Byrds?...](#) (The verses are taken from Ecclesiastes 3). Our summer pandemic experience taught us many things and highlighted needs in our fraternities that were not even aware of. The most important need... to be flexible and adaptive. It seems that the Holy Spirit is doing the same for our **Well4Africa** fundraising. The National JPIC team was informed in late August that the project in Malawi no longer needed funds for the extension of its well project. The extension would have cost much more than we would have been able to raise and the project looked for alternative funds to make up the difference. To their surprise, a German Franciscan foundation agreed to pay for the whole project on its own, **Praise the Lord for he is good!**



The Holy Spirit however was not done with us yet. CIOFS had accepted a new project that appeared to fit our own fundraising goal: a water well in Zimbabwe. Not just any well, not just any mission, but one where Blessed John Bradburne, ofs, lived and served the lepers for 10 years.

The National Council, the National JPIC Team, and two of our major contributors all agreed that the change in venue was not only acceptable but providential. ***What Would Francis Do?*** “When I became acquainted with them, what had previously nauseated me became the source of spiritual and physical consolation for me.”

Help us to drill a water borehole at the Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre



Mutemwa is a very special place situated in Mashonaland, in the Eastern Province of Zimbabwe where Secular Franciscan from United Kingdom [John Bradburne OFS](#) lived for the last 10 years of his life, caring for the community there who were living with the devastating effects of leprosy. John was killed during Zimbabwe independence war in 1979 and was immediately considered a saint. His beatification cause is in the process and his spiritual journey is described in the book “Strange Vagabond of God”.

The situation in [Zimbabwe](#) is dire and people are suffering greatly all over the country. Water is a high priority right now with all the droughts they have been having in that part of Africa. Zimbabwe faces hotter summers and increased water shortages every year.

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[The Mutemwa Care Centre](#) is home to 62 patients with mixed illnesses ranging from leprosy to mental and physical disabilities. Each patient has his/her living quarter and is cared for by individual caregivers and nurses at the centre. Surrounding the Care Centre are homes belonging to the families of the patients. Within the settlement, there is a managerial group of Franciscans with trained careers and nurses on site. Fr. Linous Mkumbuzi who joined Mutemwa in February 2020, leads the team at the Mutemwa Care Centre.



Sadly, leprosy is on the increase in Zimbabwe again. Although it is curable with the right medication, it is important to detect the disease as early as possible to treat it before it becomes debilitating for the patient.

The Care Centre is sustained by the support of “The John Bradburne Memorial Society” (JBMS) founded in 1995 by John Bradburne's niece, Celia Brigstocke, to carry on the great work her uncle did with the leprosy patients at The Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre.

There is a great need for funds to help sustain the community, for basic running expenses, also for supporting various income-generating projects, the profit of which can be put back into the welfare of the community. JBMS supports the Care Centre monthly paying for salaries, medicines, food, etc. from donations received.

Recently JBMS announced the severe situation of Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre regarding water. The social initiative “Well4Africa” founded by Secular Franciscans whose spiritual father St. Francis of Assisi loved and cared for lepers dearly, decided to fund the water project within the Centre and to ensure a stable supply of clean water to the community.

You can support “Well4Africa” and this particular project by donating to your Local/Regional Council for this social initiative writing the purpose “to the water project of Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre”. They will forward all these donations to our National Treasurer. Our campaign ends in November 2020.



Thank you for your generosity! May God reward you a hundred times for every dollar given for the sake of the poor.

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