

New DWG Project: Tabor home for the sick and dying in Gode (Somali region of Ethiopia)

On 12 June DWG members committed to paying for the furnishing of this home - in effect a mini hospital -which has just been built by a small Catholic "mission of mercy" based in the town of Gode. Gode is a garrison town located in a former war zone in the Ethiopian desert, 100km from the border with Somalia. Currently, there is a pervasive atmosphere of suffering in the town because of the lack of water owing to the severe regional drought, as well as because of the acute watery diarrhoea which is an ever-increasing problem. As of May 2017, between 5 – 9 people were being buried each day in the town, having succumbed to the infections, which seem to take old and young alike.

Funds raised in the UK to support this mission are channelled through the registered charity "The Mission of Hope" whose website has a link to a video showing the conditions in Gode: see <http://missionofhope.co.uk/>

The mission was founded by Father Christopher Hartley Sartorius, a Fide Donum priest of the diocese of Toledo, Spain. Last year he was joined by Sister Mary Joachim (of Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity) who was brought up in Hertfordshire; she gave a very moving talk about the Gode mission to DWG members when she was recently here on leave.

The Gode mission (through its Tamara project, pictured below) offers shelter, food and work, as well as nursery care, to women who want to find a new way of life, having suffered greatly through warfare.



The mission also brings water and medical aid to the very poorest of the poor within the regional community. It already runs a small hospital and, in addition, Tabor (pictured below) will be a place of refuge for the sick or dying who have nothing and no-one else to help them.



Recent generous donations, including Standing Orders, together with the proceeds of the DWG Open Garden event on 10 June, have already raised most of the sum of £3,400 needed to furnish 'Tabor' with tables, chairs, medicine cupboards/trolleys etc.

As a future project for the Group to consider, we have invited Sister Joachim to submit costings for an oxygen concentrator and examination table, which are needed to complete the installation of Tabor's treatment room.