

amos  trust
justice and hope for the forgotten

WORDS OF HOPE

A NEWSPAPER FROM AMOS TRUST

SUMMER 2018



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LET IT RAIN

The heavens open momentarily on the rain-starved community of Aguas Calientes in Teustepe, Nicaragua — February 2018.
Photograph: © Amos Trust/Clive Horsman



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Photograph: © Mark Kensett

BUILDING HOPE... BUILDING INVOLVEMENT

WORDS Chris Rose

RIDING INTO PARIS, past the Palace of Versailles, is one of the great experiences in life. Unfortunately building work to the Eiffel Tower slightly took the edge off our ending, but arriving there with 40 other riders was fantastic. Amos Road Club is unlike most road clubs, it's not very macho for starters — it's all about involvement, enjoying each other's company and the ride.

Bike riding provides great lessons in solidarity. For Nive and I this annual ride provides a much-needed space to get our heads together with a fantastic group of people.

We are committed to challenging injustice, building hope and creating change by working with our local partners. A basic part of building hope is building involvement. As a creative organisation one of the key things we seek to do is to make space for people; for you to get involved in ways that suit you and allow you to contribute. We know that people are busy and there are limits to this, but we believe it is so important as it breaks the myth that there is nothing we can do.

One of the most popular readings in our 'Words of Hope' book is this one by Howard Zinn, "To be hopeful in bad times is not just foolishly romantic... And, if we do act, in however small a way, we don't have to wait for some grand utopian future. The future is an infinite succession of presents, and to live now as we think human beings should live in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvellous victory."

At this time when there is so much which is bad around us, when the situation in Nicaragua is so difficult, when Palestinian aspirations seem further away than ever and when children's rights, especially girls rights, are so routinely ignored, it is easy to despair. We believe that it is essential that we have a spirituality of resistance and hope at such times that can feed and equip us. And, that we are called to act, otherwise the end will be all that we fear it will be.

Cycling to Paris may not, in one sense, achieve that much — although thank you so much to all who so generously sponsored the riders, but it is a glorious celebration of life and all we long to see. To be joined by Mpendulo Nyembe, the director of Umthombo, was fantastic and gave an opportunity for people to meet him and hear from him.

The cycle rides, the Marathon (and any other run people are doing), the home rebuilds, the walking trips, Women 4 Women events, the culinary tours, plays and concerts are all part of our Active'ism — just as much as going to protests and writing to our MP's. This is because there is an intentionality to it, and when we come back we tell the stories of the people we met and why we got up and did something, and these stories are so often transformative.

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ACTIVE'ISM ⚡



ABOVE
At the Karunalaya girl's centre, young women can access in-depth psychosocial support to address trauma they experience on the streets.
© Amos Trust/Tom Merilion

WHEN DISTANCE DOESN'T MATTER

Karin Joseph talks about some of the reasons why Amos' ON HER TERMS campaign is so important.

WORDS Karin Joseph PHOTOGRAPHY Tom Merilion



“Sometimes we are scared to try new things out. We may feel girls are too delicate. And we hold the issues faced by girls so close to us, as we can relate so much. It often gets overwhelming.”

LIZ — KENYA

LEFT
A young woman who runs her own clothes-altering micro-business in Mwanza, Tanzania as part of Cheka Sana's long-term group work with teenage girls and young women. © Amos Trust/Tom Merilion

ON HER TERMS

What can a group of women, from cities thousands of miles apart, almost all of whom don't speak the same language, hope to gain from spending a week together in the UK?

Sofia sighs slightly on the phone as she describes some of the challenges of their work in Mexico City. As the director of an organisation working with children and young people on the streets, she oversees a number of projects in the sprawling Mexican capital. Their outreach work with girls is particularly challenging; the realities of street life for girls in the city are changing and becoming ever more complex.

Girls in Mexico City are increasingly being drawn into involvement in violent crimes. They live in cramped hotel rooms, several to a room, hidden from the view or access of outreach workers in dangerous, inaccessible conditions. The hidden nature of many girls' lives is one of the greatest risks to their safety, and one of the greatest obstacles to them being able to access help from the organisations which Amos supports. Girls are often on the streets for a very short time before being offered shelter by someone looking to exploit them for domestic labour or commercial sex work. They become collateral for gangs, pimps, 'boyfriends' or employers, meaning that outreach workers have to navigate another layer of obstacles as they try to build a relationship to help a girl to change her situation.

Mexico is one of eight countries that will be represented in October this year at a conference Amos is hosting, for women dedicating their lives to working with girls on the streets. Joining Mexico and Amos' four partners from Burundi, Tanzania, South Africa and India, will be project workers from Kenya, Egypt and the USA. Amos has been building links and relationships with these four additional organisations to widen this conversation — drawing upon women workers' knowledge from many cities around the world.

It can be tempting to imagine that these injustices are only experienced by girls on the streets of poorer countries. In San Francisco, the team at the Young Women's Freedom Center support girls and young women surviving on the streets, going through the US criminal justice system or involved in commercial sex work. Despite being in a supposed 'land of

opportunity' such as America — a country which appears worlds away from the streets of Mwanza in Tanzania — girls on the streets share the same realities and injustices worldwide.

From San Francisco to South Africa, girls who find themselves with nowhere to turn but the streets are routinely blamed for their circumstances and shame defines their self-identity. Society largely depicts these girls as liars, manipulators, addicts and prostitutes, as being 'other than us', to be looked down upon; it is their own fault they are where they are. The immediate response is to ignore and belittle their voices and those of the women who stand up for them. Liz, from Kenya, shared that: "sometimes we are scared to try new things out. We may feel girls are too delicate. And we hold the issues faced by girls so close to us, as we can relate so much. It often gets overwhelming."

We are tired of the narratives that define girls on the street as "too hard to reach", that dismiss their pain and experiences.

Although the situations that girls on the streets face are often universal, many of the responses need to be more culturally specific. Learning from others' work often sharpens focus on our own, and encouragement builds when we step away from our daily challenges and can see that others, all over the world, are facing the same challenges with us.

The women coming to the conference are women who lead work with girls in juvenile prisons in Kenya; who are the only female outreach worker in a team of men; who support girls through the night when they arrive at the transitional shelter in Cairo; who fight for the rights and dignity of young mothers on the streets in San Francisco; who teach self-defence to sex workers in Tanzania and who champion an Indian girl's right to her education instead of an illegal early marriage. These women are rallying daily against the injustices experienced by girls on the streets. We believe that small movements can lead to big transformations and that the conversations that will happen between these women in October are just the beginning.

Amos will be journeying with them, the organisations they work with and the girls they support over the coming years. Looking beyond our conference in October, we will be investing in

developing the work that will have the biggest impact on the lives of girls on the streets. This will mean continuing to support peer-learning between women workers, encouraging them as they try out new approaches, and ensuring that the girls themselves are equal partners with the women in this work. This will be complicated given the complexities of girls' lives and the reasons they have come to the streets. But it is important for us to remember, as Arundhati Roy put it, "to never simplify what is complicated or complicate what is simple. To respect strength, never power. Above all, to watch. To try and understand. To never look away. And never, never to forget."

In lots of ways, this year is a great one to kick off a campaign for girls' and women's rights. The centenary of women's suffrage in the UK has amplified discussions of women's equality. But ON HER TERMS is a road stretching out beyond 2018, and there is hope ahead. Women like Sofia in Mexico City, though sometimes overwhelmed with the enormity of the challenges they face in their work, remain resilient and hopeful too. Hope is found in the small successes, the steps girls take towards building trusting relationships after so much trauma, and the way that the women's commitment models a new reality to them, where love and trust can be a part of their futures.

Get to know these women better at Amos Day: Remain in Light, on Saturday 29th September, when they will all be in the UK with us. And get behind ON HER TERMS in other ways. We are delighted that people here in the UK are already getting involved and showing their support. One woman is hosting a dinner party to share stories of the campaign, another is all set to run the Royal Parks Half Marathon to raise vital funds. So whether you would like to run a marathon, host a dinner, have a book or clothes swap, a quiz night or an art exhibition, we would love you to get creative and work together to get more people involved. Please email katie@amostrust.org to chat through your ideas.

If you would like to know more about the campaign, please email me at karin@amostrust.org — and to sign up to our monthly 'On Her Terms' e-news, simply visit amostrust.org/on-her-terms

HOPE IN DARK PLACES

Umthombo's MPENDULO NYEMBE visited the UK from South Africa back in May. Karin Joseph caught up with him.

INTERVIEW Karin Joseph PHOTOGRAPHY Ben Harvey



In May, Mpendulo Nyembe from Amos partner Umthombo visited the UK from Durban. Here, Mpendulo updates Karin about Umthombo's programmes, their work with girls and plans for the future.

Where does Umthombo's work with a young person begin?

"Umthombo's aim is to assist children who find themselves stranded on the streets. We have an outreach team identifying new children and working with those who have been on the street for a longer time. Our outreach requires being intentional — building sustainable relationships in a fun, play-based way.

We have our drop-in centre, providing basic services: meals, bathing and washing facilities. It is a space for social workers to start engaging, and build trust with children. How long this takes will depend on each child. Through group and one-to-one sessions, sport and play, we find out their story and how we can support [them]. Once a child is ready, we may then start the process of reintegration. Our home assessments are so important to determine how safe a child would be going back into the care of loved ones. If both the child and the family are ready to receive each other back, we will facilitate this. We try to deal with the issues that led the child to the street and find ways to mediate.

It's not about us merely offering services, but about a reciprocal relationship-building process. We know that if we have that foundation right, the next building block will be easier."

What happens after a child or young person has returned home?

"If reintegration is possible, it doesn't end there, we continue to monitor and mentor the child and family. Aftercare is crucial, many children exposed to street life have a tendency to relapse. We continue monitoring however we can: phone calls, home visits, even social media — with parents, and the child — maintaining consistency of contact, and supporting them to rebuild relationships.

As part of this we run camps during school holidays. Most come from very poor communities where there are no recreational facilities and the school holidays are when it becomes most tempting to go back to the streets. These camps have become something to look forward to, to meet with other young people who've been in similar circumstances. They've become a wonderful time of peer support."

What about for those who cannot return home?

"For those whom it may be difficult to reintegrate, we have our post-16 programme: an 8-12 week programme. They can't go back to school and lack life skills or any useful educational background which would prepare them for independent living. So we look at how we can really empower these over-16's. We start with the trauma they've faced and how to deal with that: issues of identity, self-esteem, life skills, relationships. Then we look at how they can give back in their own communities. We run courses on money management, preparing for employment, internships with companies, help with CVs."

"We are looking at how to journey with girls in a way that will benefit them most."

MPENDULO NYEMBE, DIRECTOR —
UMTHOMBO, SOUTH AFRICA

What are your current priorities at Umthombo?

"About 4 years ago, we did a mapping exercise to look at high-risk communities around Durban that we see kids coming from. We started to identify who had key roles in the community and to partner with churches and schools. They helped us to identify who may be at risk. It's proven to be a good model and is key to prevention work.

One of the most interesting pieces of evolving work has been with girls. We have been fortunate in the past 18 months to find Hlonphile, our girls' outreach worker, who has the passion, love and zeal to engage with girls. Since Hlonphile took up her role, we have seen a huge increase in the number of girls we work with. She has managed to go to places where most of the previous field-workers were afraid to go, to build relationships with not only the girls, but the people who surround them who are often hiding them and preventing them coming for help. We are looking at how to journey with girls in a way that will benefit them the most."

What are the biggest challenges you encounter in the lives of children on the streets?

"For many young people in Durban that we work with, drugs are the main issue. There has been a shift from glue towards stronger drugs that are heroin or nicotine-based, mixed with various concoctions of antiretrovirals [for HIV], housing detergents and rat poison, and then smoked with cannabis. Umthombo has seen a decrease in younger children coming onto the streets, but an increase of older young people who've just finished or dropped out of high school and are facing unemployment or insurmountable problems at home. These substances are readily available once they arrive on the streets, and they soon get hooked."

Do these issues differ for girls on the streets?

"Girls also tend to be hooked on highly addictive substances, and added to this, form dependence on the boyfriends or the pimps that get hold of them early and use them for commercial sex work. Worst of all, most of the girls are suffering multiple traumas. The circumstances that may have led them to the street include sexual or physical abuse and harassment at home, and then they find themselves in a similar situation on the street. There are many health issues too — the majority of the girls we work with are HIV-positive.

When we first engage with girls on the street, they share minimal information with us because we've not yet built that trust.

By being available to them on a consistent basis, they start opening up. In many cases there is such a lack of self-esteem — they have withdrawn into themselves, and express deep shame and guilt. They normally see their situation as their own fault. Our work is about enabling them to re-envision themselves as people who can come out of their victimhood and express what really happened to them, and find release."

What are you learning, in your work with girls?

"What we are reflecting on is the need to accept that girls' work is an intense work. It's not about outreach, reintegration — job done! We need to listen to the girls and find out how we can best journey with them. Their situation is quite unique because of the level of traumas they have faced. What is important is to listen with our heart, and do the things girls direct us to do.

This means being there when they are ill; listening to them when they come in having been gang-raped and beaten up the previous night, yet they don't want to report it to the police; assisting them to access healthcare, highlighting possibilities of seeking redress for what happened, when they feel ready. It is about providing a safe space for them to come and not feel judged, accepting them as they are. It is about saying 'we are here, even while you are on the street. Home may not be an option right now but what can we do to journey with you?'"

Do you have hope in your work?

"There is plenty of hope in the work that we do. The hope comes from the little stories of success, for me. We are working with human pain. And if one person out of a whole group finds hope, it gives us hope for the next. If one person takes one or two little steps towards empowering themselves, it gives us hope that others can too.

One girl has been on the street for over three years; through us journeying with her she has found hope, and today, she will have finished her first week in training as a supermarket cashier, doing something that she wants. She's seen people doing this, when she's gone into shops with the minimal money she had; she can now see herself sitting there serving customers. There's hope in that.

There's hope with families. We receive calls from parents and caregivers to say 'our child is doing well'. But there is hope too when families know that they can come to us about the struggles they may still be facing, but they haven't just given up on their children — they say 'can you further assist?'. There is hope in that. It is exciting.

There is even hope with young people that are hardened on the street — who, when things become difficult — still come to us and say, 'can you assist us? We know that you are here for us.' They can come to us, look for our workers, reach out to them. There is hope in that. Just to know that there is somebody there to journey with you."

To find out more about Umthombo in South Africa and how you can support their amazing work, please visit amostrust.org/umthombo

LEFT

MPENDULO from Umthombo, our partner project in South Africa, visiting us in London — May 2018. Here he is with Amos fundraiser Azey and our Street Child lead worker, Karin, outside the Amos office. Photograph: © Ben Harvey, Watering Can Media



To download our new Nicaragua resource pack, please visit amostrust.org/nicaragua-resource-pack

NICARAGUA: KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

WORDS Peter Bone
PHOTOGRAPHY Clive Horsman

UPDATE:

At the moment CEPAD can still get through to the communities of Teustepe but their finances have been severely affected by cancellations of supporter trips and an increase in their costs. You can read more about the current crisis on our website at amostrust.org/nicaragua-may-2018 and you can donate to CEPAD at this difficult time — simply visit page 23.

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

Rosa's new vegetable garden is thriving — there's enough for her family and enough to sell, thanks to training, seeds and equipment from CEPAD. Photographs: © Amos Trust/Clive Horsman

"When I come into Nicaraguan airspace I can feel my soul re-enter my body." Those of you who've been there will resonate with those words of Nicaraguan author Gioconda Belli. I felt something similar when I returned there in March, co-leading the recent Amos trip with Katie Hagley.

Since I first heard about NICARAGUA back in the 1980's, I've been fascinated by this little country that somehow overthrew 3 generations of brutal dictators and replaced them with a government of poets and priests. Hearing Gustavo Parajon, founder of (Amos partner) CEPAD, speak at Greenbelt, only furthered my resolve to go.

I went on the first Amos trip to Nicaragua in 2000. By then the political climate had changed, and the revolutionary Sandinistas were out of power. Yet the joyous mixture of creativity, practicality and theology I was hoping to see was clearly visible in the work that CEPAD was doing. On the last day of the trip we were supposed to go on a brief tour of a couple of their projects, but that's not how Nicaraguan time works: from bottle recycling projects to micro banking, and half a dozen brilliant projects in-between, we were still going five hours later. We only just caught our flight.

The work we support in Nicaragua is Amos through and through. Creative? Grass roots? Liberation Theology? Check. But nonetheless it's always been challenging to describe. Perhaps, like Palestine, you just have to go - then you'll get it.

So it was a real pleasure to be back in Nicaragua this year with a great group of Amos supporters. We were visiting every community in the Teutsepe region, to get to know how CEPAD's 5-year community empowerment projects work on the ground.

With every new place we went, every new conversation we had, we started to get it. We started to get how radical it is to try to live out Gustavo Parajon's mission statement in one of the poorest countries in the world: "We walk with a community until it has the skills to claim the rights it did not know existed."

To visit these isolated rural communities we drove on roads that simply didn't exist before. We ate Rosa's sumptuous home grown vegetables, sitting in her bountiful garden, lit by newly-connected electricity.

Previously, to feed her family, she'd have to travel to the nearest town to buy food in the market twice a week. She'd have to walk most of the way because the road wasn't good enough for the bus to drive on.

Nowadays the bus can drive through her community, and she takes it to the same market every month to sell her surplus vegetables. This is what can happen when a community claims its rights.

It's been heartbreaking to see the slow unfolding of terrible news from Nicaragua since we returned home. The government's violent crackdown and killing of peaceful protesters has ushered in a new, uncertain chapter for the country.

We at Amos, like CEPAD, have always been broadly supportive of the Sandinistas. But CEPAD has always remained fiercely independent of any government. They've kept on working for the poorest in their country, regardless of who is in power and whether the country was at war or at peace.

So right now they continue working to empower the communities they serve, despite the new economic turmoil, road blocks and violence.

Please support them and please keep them in your prayers.

"We say to girls, 'you can have ambition.'" In the pavement-dwelling communities that Amos partner KARUNALAYA works in, child marriage from as young as 12 is the norm, with over 50% of girls married before the legal age of 18. Extreme poverty and lack of aspiration means most children drop out of school to work as child labourers, beg or look after younger siblings and parents will marry their daughters off in exchange for money.

"We teach girls to shrink themselves, to make themselves smaller. We say to girls, 'you can have ambition, but not too much. You should aim to be successful, but not too successful. Otherwise, you would threaten the man.'" (Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie). These are messages given to teenage girls limiting their choices, focusing their goal on marriage. Karunalaya seeks to challenge this view, held by girls and mothers from pavement-dwelling communities (and the streets), to create opportunities where they can realise their self-worth.

For parents, they want them to value their daughters, rather than be burdened by them. To not marry them off before they turn 18 out of fear of rape or of [her] running away and being labelled 'unsuitable for marriage.'

Mali had been involved in Karunalaya's programmes for a number of years. I met her in the summer of 2017, she was excited she had passed her exams at 16 making her the first in her family to get a certificate. She had spoken about women's rights as part of Karunalaya's advocacy events. However, in spite of the interventions, her family (with Mali's permission), arranged her marriage at 17. This came as a blow to the project workers who had spent years working with Mali, her family and her community

KARUNALAYA: TEACHING AMBITION

WORDS Azey Bennetts
PHOTOGRAPHY Tom Merilion

Azey Bennetts on the importance of small victories when working with girls on the streets of India.

"YOU CAN HAVE AMBITION"
Karunalaya wants parents to value their daughters, rather than be burdened by them.
Photographs: © Amos Trust/Tom Merilion

— her application to college never fulfilled. College represented an unknown future and posed the old question — what opportunities are available to a lower caste, pavement-dwelling young woman anyway?

In spite of our heartbreak over Mali's decision, we can recognise the small victory that is Mali's choice in this, her completion of exams at 16 and her knowledge of women's rights. It is a reminder that small successes must be acknowledged and of how precarious working with girls is.

Karunalaya educates parents about children's rights and to believe in their futures through education. They are working with children and young people through their sports, dance and advocacy programmes so that they can become the agents that change child marriage and other issues that limit children's rights.

Sangeetha has become a role model to other girls at Karunalaya and in her community. Her football scholarship to college marks a major achievement and having captained the Indian girls' team at the recent Street Child World Cup in Moscow, she wants to see Karunalaya develop a football league for children in slums, pavement communities and at Karunalaya's centre. To realise this, she wants to undertake a formal football coaching qualification. We are proud that young people, like Sangeetha, are involved in shaping programmes with us to create change. This gives me hope in the work Amos is doing with Karunalaya to end child marriage and in emphasising the message that girls can have ambition.

Join the next trip to visit Karunalaya in Chennai, India in August 2019. For full details, please visit amostrust.org/india-encounter-2019



IN THIS LAND

THE CONTINUING JOURNEY OF SOLIDARITY IN PALESTINE

An update from CHRIS ROSE on our partners and projects
in the WEST BANK and GAZA STRIP.

WORDS Chris Rose PHOTOGRAPHY Mark Kensett



LEFT
STANDING IN SOLIDARITY
At the Sumud Peace Camp in
the South Hebron Hills where
we were honoured with our very
own rock during Just Walk.
© Amos Trust/Mark Kensett

“On 12th June the UN reported that 135 Gazans had been killed (118 in protests) and 14,605 injured, (7,802 of whom were hospitalised and of these 3,895 were a result of live ammunition) — whilst in the corresponding period there were 5 Israeli injuries.”

CHRIS ROSE, AMOS DIRECTOR

I have longed to proclaim good news from PALESTINE. To stand, like the watch person in Isaiah, on the highest peak and shout in joy. I have been at Amos for 12 years — I count the years in World Cups, and, like England, the story in Palestine has been a long and depressing one, (although didn't we get close!)

After last year's Just Walk I was not due to go back until the end of the year and yet I have been there three times now: for the Palestine Marathon, the Giro della Palestina protest ride and for a failed attempt to visit our partners in Gaza. Each of these visits has been sobering and inspiring.

I, like other road cyclists who have visited Palestine, had desperately wanted to cycle through the West Bank. I find it so hard to explain why cycling gives such a different perspective, but it does. So when it was suggested that we carried out a protest ride to highlight the 'sports wash' that was the Giro d'Italia Grand Depart in Jerusalem, it was something we couldn't resist.

On the first day we cycled from Tel Aviv to Jericho and it reminded all of us of just how small this land is. We started at sea level, then after a long morning climbing we had a breath-taking, world class decent finishing 300 m below sea level at Jericho.

In the following days, as we cycled from Jenin to Taybeh, from Bethlehem to the Sumud Camp in the South Hebron hills, Marmoud Darwish's words: 'What makes life worth living is here in this land', spun through my head. As we experienced the beauty of the land we also saw the totality of the occupation; the permanence of the ever-expanding settlement blocks and the settler bypass roads that cut through the West bank. Palestinians can be denied access to these in seconds and the difference in quality between these and Palestinian-only roads, could be felt with each pedal stroke.

In the South Hebron Hills the military presence dominates the area. We felt this acutely as we cycled through Checkpoint 300 at Bethlehem, where the soldiers were outraged that we were going through a border crossing on bikes, (even though it is not a recognised border!)

Alongside this were the inspirational people we met at Alrowwad, at Jenin Freedom theatre, with Siraaj in Jericho where we launched the ride, and at Holy Land Trust's Sumud camp. Because of these, and the numerous other people who cheered us on, offered us drinks and lifts, the ride was full of joy.

The Marathon race day, like the first day of the ride, was blisteringly hot. We describe the course as 'technical' or 'lumpy' — and normally forget to mention the altitude. When it is as hot as it was — the hills feel really steep (which the ride confirmed) and the air is hard to breathe. Our runners were incredible, individually, and as a group.

Most local runners decided to drop from full to half marathons, ours persevered in temperatures that would have seriously worried the organisers of the London Marathon! But what stood out, as ever, was the atmosphere in Bethlehem. The town's creativity and celebration in the face of so many hardships is incredible.

Both trips ended at Banksy's WALLED OFF HOTEL. For our groups it has become a place of Pilgrimage that rivals the Church of the Nativity — and it's a bit easier to get into in cycling shorts! It is great to have such close links to the hotel and to projects such as the PALESTINE MUSIC EXPO (see our back cover). The creativity at the heart of both of these undertakings is inspirational and is so needed when things are bleak.

My third trip was meant to be to Gaza, but problems over visas meant that despite having a valid permit, I was not allowed in at the Erez crossing. We will all, by now, have witnessed Israel's response to the peaceful protests at the Gaza borders. The March of Return, which was originally to be held each Friday from Land Day (30th March) to the 70th anniversary of the Nakba (May 15th), has continued beyond this.

On 12th June the UN reported that 135 Gazans had been killed (118 in protests) and 14,605 injured, (7,802 of whom were hospitalised and of these 3,895 were a result of live ammunition) — whilst in the corresponding period there were 5 Israeli injuries.

We need to remember that this is happening in a context of power cuts lasting up to 20 hours a day, where hospitals have zero stocks of essential drugs and that the Palestinian Authority isn't helping by inflicting massive hardship on the people of Gaza in an attempt to crush the Hamas regime.

Gaza is fast becoming unliveable and there is growing concern that a new conflict will break out. This represents another formidable chapter in the on-going struggle faced by our partners NECC and AL AHLI HOSPITAL.

At the hospital, 35 people have been treated for gunshot injuries, mainly to their legs. The Al Ahli and NECC infant and maternal health clinics and psychosocial support programmes are under huge strain. This latest round of conflict can only increase the sense of overwhelming loss and trauma which is being heaped onto these young lives.

The Israeli actions in Gaza, Jerusalem and throughout the rest of the West Bank are moving forward with seeming impunity. Our own government's failure to condemn the killings and injuries inflicted by the Israeli Defence force, (there is strong evidence that sniper rifles bought from the UK were used), is deplorable.

When I could not enter Gaza — I went to Bethlehem to join up with Nive who was running a trip with Let Yourself Trust. We spent time with Holy Land Trust, and Zoughbi, Lucy and Tarek from Wi'am (all of whom are coming over in December). Our conversations were dominated by their concerns over the 'Deal of the Century', a forthcoming announcement on Israel & Palestine to be made by Donald Trump.

It looks likely, and not surprisingly, that this will be a one-sided deal favouring Israel that will be backed, not necessarily in words, but certainly in actions, by some of the most powerful states in the region. Moreover, Trump's intention is that this will be a final status resolution.

It is hard to know yet what the response will be from a highly demoralised Palestinian population. What is for certain is that we will continue to journey with our friends and partners in Palestine and Israel as they seek to respond to this, and as we campaign for their rights and aspirations to be realised.

We believe it is particularly important, at this time, that we continue to ramp up our efforts. Elsewhere in this edition of WORDS OF HOPE you will be able to read about our forthcoming trips, the new INVESTING FOR PEACE resource and our future plans.

For more information about our work in Palestine and Gaza, including how you can get involved in our CHANGE THE RECORD campaign, please visit amostrust.org/palestine



Francisco was eager to talk about the difference CEPAD had made to the community of La Joya — February 2018.

NICARAGUA... THE THREAT OF A GOOD IDEA

PHOTOGRAPH Clive Horsman



WATER FOR LIFE... HELPING THE COMMUNITIES OF TEUSTEPE TO FLOURISH



#WATERFORLIFE

OPPOSITE PAGE
DIGGING — Amos supporters help a community in La Joya to dig a micro-dam to store water running from the roof.

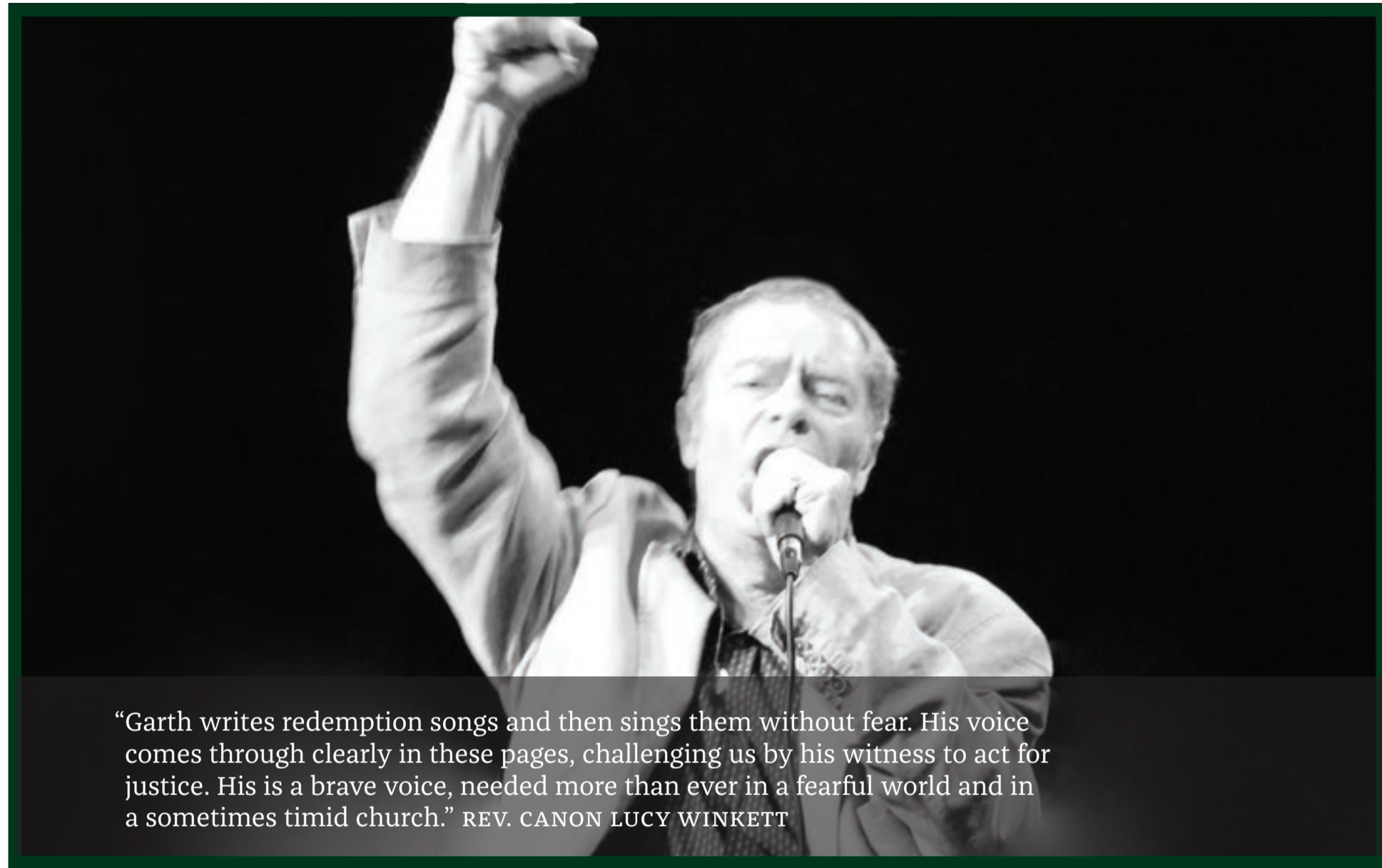
ABOVE LEFT
FLOURISHING — Seedlings ready for the family gardens in La Concepción, one of the communities that Amos supports.

ABOVE RIGHT
COOKING — Securro teaches Amos supporters to cook the sweets that she sells thanks to training from CEPAD.

ABOVE
PAINTING — a mural depicting campesino life as a nativity scene including political and cultural figures from Latin America.

PHOTOGRAPHY:
© Amos Trust/Clive Horsman

To learn more about our work in Nicaragua and to download our free resource pack, please visit amostrust.org/nicaragua-resource-pack



“Garth writes redemption songs and then sings them without fear. His voice comes through clearly in these pages, challenging us by his witness to act for justice. His is a brave voice, needed more than ever in a fearful world and in a sometimes timid church.” REV. CANON LUCY WINKETT

Garth Hewitt's autobiography 'AGAINST THE GRAIN' includes a chapter on Palestine entitled 'From St Jerome to Banksy', and of course, a chapter on AMOS TRUST.

Image: © Amos Trust/Nive Hall

AGAINST THE GRAIN

GARTH HEWITT'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY AVAILABLE NOW

amostrust.org/against-the-grain-book

The story of singer, songwriter, priest, author and activist — in his own words. A mixture of stories and humour — all building together to say something really important... but gently. Garth's new autobiography 'AGAINST THE GRAIN' covers stories about his music, his theology, and why he made the choices that he did.

The companion double CD to the book, also called 'AGAINST THE GRAIN', represents more than 40 albums released by Garth over 45 years, including eight never-before-released tracks and is also available to buy online now. Please visit amostrust.org/against-the-grain-cd

REMAIN IN LIGHT

FREE

#REMAININLIGHT

PHOEBE RISON — SABEL-KAIROS UK

ROBERT COHEN — WRITER/BLOGGER

RYVKA BARNARD — WAR ON WANT

GARTH HEWITT — AMOS FOUNDER

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CENTRE 29.09.18

17 – 25 NEW INN ROAD, LONDON EC2A 3EA

29 SEPTEMBER

REMAIN IN LIGHT AMOS DAY 2018

Amos Day will have a new look and a new venue for 2018. This year we'll be at the Amnesty International Centre at 17-25 New Inn Road, London EC2A 3EA. amostrust.org/remain_in_light

Join us as we share some of what we've been working on in 2018 and some of what we have planned for 2019 and beyond.

This year we'll be splitting the day into two halves so you'll be able to register for the whole day, or just the morning or afternoon sessions.

ON HER TERMS 10.30 - 13.00
Amos Street Child
 In the morning, we'll be sharing plans for our street child work in 2018 and beyond — On Her Terms. With films, presentations and conversations with the women workers from Amos' partners in Burundi, India, South Africa and Tanzania.

Listen as our guests share new pioneering responses to working with teenage girls and young women who live on the streets. Hear their stories — the hurdles they have to overcome and what they have learnt from young women living on the streets.

APARTHEID @ 70 14.00 - 15.00
Amos Palestine
 Seventy years after the birth of the Apartheid regime in South Africa, the apartheid policies of the Israeli government are becoming ever more entrenched. How do walls become bridges? Amos Trustee Robert Cohen will host this session with further special guests.

WORDS OF HOPE 15.00 - 16.00
Amos Communities — Reflection
 Introducing a spirituality of climate justice with words and images from Teustepe, Nicaragua.



Tickets for REMAIN IN LIGHT: AMOS DAY 2018 are free but we would ask you to register. You can book for the morning, the afternoon, or the whole day. Simply visit amostrust.org/remain_in_light PLEASE JOIN US.

INVESTING IN PEACE A GUIDE FOR LOCAL CHURCH ACTIVISTS

WORDS Chris Rose
BOOK DESIGN Nick Welsh

INVESTING FOR PEACE
Sabeel-Kairos' new book which is available now as a free download.
Please visit amostrust.org/sabeel-kairos
© Amos Trust

“We learned in South Africa that the only way to end apartheid peacefully was to force the powerful to the table through economic pressure.”
ARCHBISHOP DESMOND TUTU — JUNE 2014

“We learned in South Africa that the only way to end apartheid peacefully was to force the powerful to the table through economic pressure.” Archbishop Desmond Tutu's call to the Presbyterian Church (USA), June 2014

A group of Christian charities, including Amos Trust, has produced 'INVESTING FOR PEACE', a simple booklet which outlines the need for morally responsible investment as a powerful tool churches can use to support a just peace for Palestine and Israel. Its production has been led by SABEEL-KAIROS and supported by WAR ON WANT.

“We believe that all of us have a critical role to play in the quest for a just peace.” Members of the British Christian community responded to 'Kairos Palestine' with 'Time for Action' (2012). In it, they stated their commitment to support and promote strategies to bring about the end of the occupation of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the blockade on the Gaza Strip.

We are asking churches in the UK to join a growing movement worldwide, to implement morally responsible investment policies. To ensure that

companies that they procure from and invest in, do not profit from or advance the occupation.

Several churches globally have already applied policies which have resulted in them removing companies from their investments who are profiting from the occupation of the Palestinian territory.

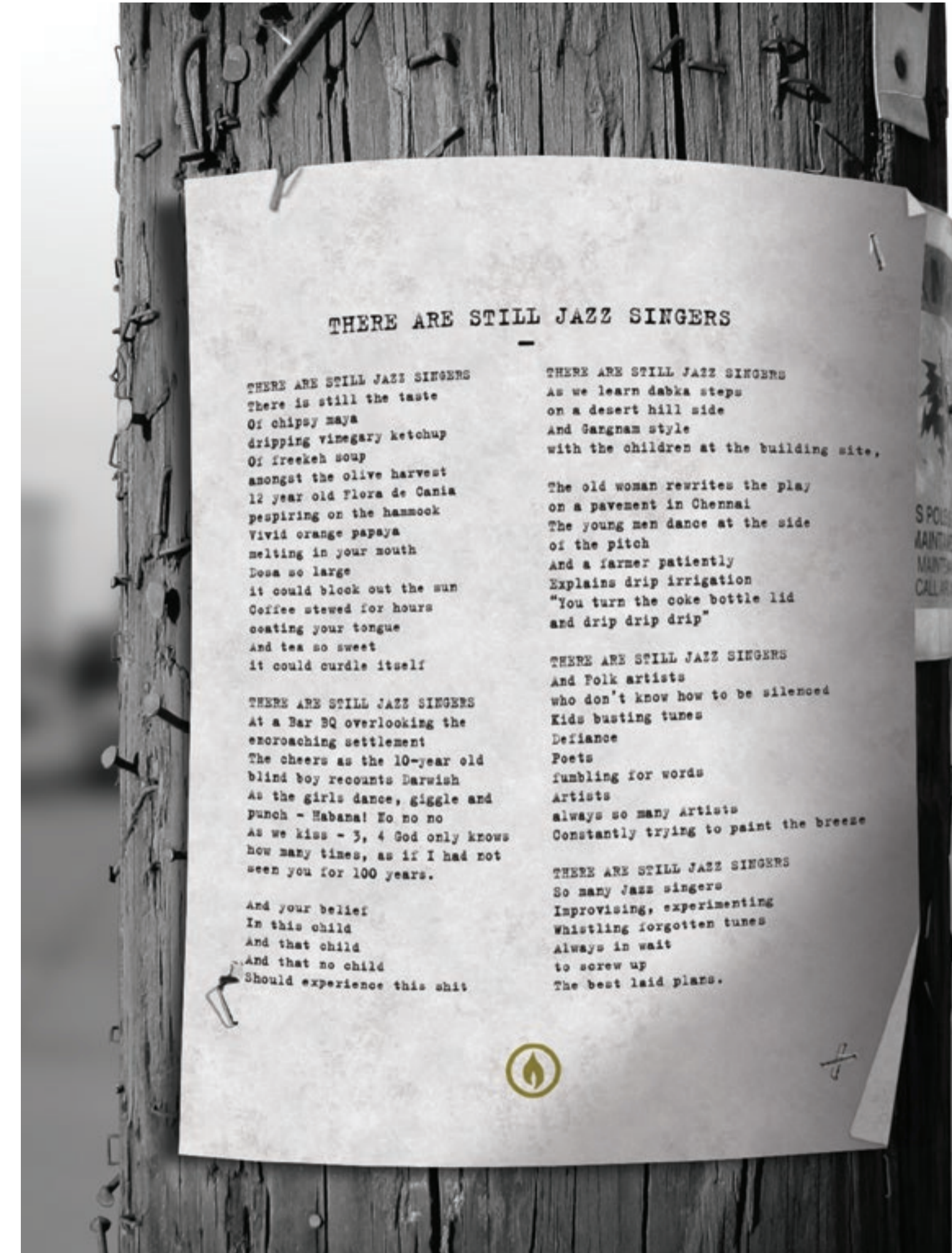
“We as Christian Palestinians, and especially Christian women, call on people to stop supporting companies who profit from the occupation of Palestine and the dispossession of the Palestinian people.” Mira Rizek, General Secretary, YWCA Palestine.

The booklet outlines simple, practical steps you can take to begin to look at the issue within your own church setting.

To download your free copy of 'INVESTING IN PEACE', please visit amostrust.org/sabeel-kairos or order direct from Sabeel- Kairos by emailing info@friendsofsabeel.org.uk or by writing to Sabeel-Kairos, CMS House, Watlington Road, Oxford, OX4 6BZ



To download your free copy of 'INVESTING FOR PEACE', please visit amostrust.org/sabeel-kairos



© CHRIS ROSE 2018

THERE ARE STILL JAZZ SINGERS

INSPIRED BY THE POEM 'THOUGH THERE ARE TORTURERS'
BY MICHAEL COADY

**WOMEN 4 WOMEN**

Join other amazing women around the country this October as they stand in solidarity with the women of Gaza.

Image: © Amos Trust/Nick Welsh

WOMAN 4 WOMAN OCTOBER 2018

“When women support each other, incredible things happen.”

To mark breast cancer awareness month this October, we're inviting women across the UK to get together to support the women of Gaza by raising awareness and vital funds for the breast cancer screening programme at AL AHLI HOSPITAL in Gaza. Over the last 2 years, women have held coffee mornings, art exhibitions, gin nights, Palestinian meals and run marathons — all for WOMEN 4 WOMEN. We hope that this year even more events will happen — join us.

For more information on WOMEN4WOMEN and to download your free resource pack, please visit amostrust.org/women-4-women

AMOS LISTINGS 2018/19

AMOS TRUST events and trips are open to everyone. Join us as we challenge injustice, build hope and create positive change. #ACTIVEISM

29 SEPTEMBER 2018

AMOS DAY REMAIN IN LIGHT

amostrust.org/remain_in_light
With updates from our On Her Terms and Change The Record campaigns, plus 'Words Of Hope'. Please note the new venue for 2018.

3 – 10 DECEMBER 2018

AMOS AT CHRISTMAS

amostrust.org/christmas-2018
We know it's only August but please join us this December at one of our Amos Christmas carol services in London, Bristol, Cheltenham, Canterbury, Cambridge, Bradford and Manchester.

19 – 24 MARCH 2019

PALESTINE MARATHON

amostrust.org/palestine-marathon-2019
Join Team Amos and run the seventh annual Palestine Marathon in Bethlehem, in the shadow of the Wall. The marathon was set up to raise awareness of the fact that you can't run 26 miles in the 'Little Town' without going through a checkpoint.

7 – 18 APRIL 2019

AMOS HOME REBUILD

amostrust.org/rebuilding-home-2019
Amos Home Rebuild trips are an opportunity to bring hope to a Palestinian family and community by helping them to rebuild their demolished home. Join us in Palestine in April 2019.

24 – 27 MAY 2019

AMOS ROAD CLUB RIDE HITS THE PEAKS

amostrust.org/amos-road-club-2019
The annual Amos Road Club ride is open to all ages and abilities. Next year's ride will take place in the Peak District.

8 – 15 JUNE 2019

WOMEN OF THE WEST BANK

This new women-only tour led by Amos Chair Jenny Baker and Bethlehemite and activist Lucy Talgiegh will give you a unique chance to understand more about issues facing women in Jerusalem and on the West Bank and how we can stand in solidarity with them.

You will stay in the Alrowwad Cultural Centre's new accommodation block in Aida refugee camp in Bethlehem for 4 nights, one night will be a home-stay and two nights will be in a hotel in Ramallah.

Please note that this trip is limited to 16 places. If you would like to subsidise the costs of a women activist and particularly a younger participant who could not afford to take part, please contact jill@amostrust.org

amostrust.org/women-of-the-west-bank-2019

5 – 14 AUGUST 2019

AMOS INDIA ENCOUNTER

This trip will enable you to meet children on the streets and their families, to discover for yourself the issues they face, and to learn about the solutions they are exploring with Karunalaya; solutions that speak of creativity, resilience, hope, and perseverance against the odds.

You will have the chance to watch as the children use theatre to engage and educate local communities about children's rights; take part in yoga sessions and football training with the children; encounter the children's traditional drumming and dance, and start to understand why Amos' ON HER TERMS campaign is so necessary for girls living on the streets of Chennai. Full details can be found on our website.

amostrust.org/india-encounter-2019



TEA FOR THREE: HAWIYYA DABKA GROUP AT GREENBELT LAST YEAR

Join us at GREENBELT 2018 (24th-27th August near Kettering), where we'll be hosting food demos and talking about our work in Palestine and with street children in a new venue called THE TABLE. Please visit greenbelt.org.uk Photograph: © José Farinha

In spring 2018 Amos supporters spent 2 weeks in NICARAGUA learning how Amos partner CEPAD is changing lives in the 7 communities we support in Teustepe. The group helped build wells and water capture systems, heard stories of change, learned about an urgent need and came back determined to do more.

On day one in Teustepe we visited the community of Aguas Calientes. Everything was new, the sights, the sounds, the smells and the incredible welcome. We drove as far as we could, before gingerly making our way across a small river to reach the community. We were met by lots of women and children and wondered where the men were, we were soon informed that most of the men have to go away to work.

As we gathered in the school room, the heavens opened and rain pounded down on the corrugated roof causing much excitement. After months without rain, the women had to shout above the noise to tell us about the training they've received from CEPAD; showing us the piñatas and hair ribbons they now sell; and telling us about their new vegetable gardens and improved diets. They got excited about their plans to create a vegetable garden at the school (which we were able to help with.)

Olga was particularly keen to tell us how her family has benefitted from CEPAD's family garden programme. She told us, with the help of CEPAD in the last year, she has been able to harvest a much wider variety of vegetables and the health of her 2 children has visibly improved. "Vegetables are expensive, and now we can just go outside and pick what we need for our meal."

WATER FOR LIFE APPEAL 2018

WORDS Katie Hagley
PHOTOGRAPHY Clive Horsman

WATER FOR LIFE
The long-awaited rain finally falls on the rained-starved community of Aguas Calientes in Teustepe, Nicaragua — February 2018.
Photograph: © Amos Trust/Clive Horsman

But despite all the positive changes in Aguas Calientes, Olga told us of one basic problem they still struggle with — access to clean, safe drinking water. The only drinking water available to them runs down from a thermal spring, which contains traces of arsenic. The arsenic causes numerous health issues with many people suffering from kidney problems.

We heard this same need again and again in the communities we visited. Determined to do something about it, the group questioned Harold (from CEPAD) about what was needed.

Harold explained that CEPAD planned to supply the 7 communities in Teustepe with 20 very simple, easy-to-maintain water filters alongside training. The filters are made up of a tube layered with materials that people can access easily and which is then placed in a bucket.

Later in the week we saw how the filters are made at CEPAD's training farm. Wilfredo explained:

"For the first-layer, we take pebbles from the river and wash and dry them in the sun. It takes 3-6 days of UV radiation to clean them. For the second and third layers, we take progressively smaller pebbles and wash and dry them as before. Then we add charcoal, which can be bought in the local market for \$1 a pound. Again, it is washed and left to dry in sunlight. We then put in a layer of sand and then a sponge." As he said later, "This is special because it changes people's health and people's lives."

To help provide safe drinking water to the people of Teustepe, please read our appeal on the following page or visit amostrust.org/water-for-life

APPEAL FOR NICARAGUA

WHAT IF WE TOLD YOU THAT A DONATION OF £35 MEANS A FAMILY IN NICARAGUA WILL HAVE CLEAN AND SAFE DRINKING WATER FOR 3 YEARS?

Olga lives in Aguas Calientes in Nicaragua, one of the seven communities that Amos Trust supports. Her family has benefitted from CEPAD's family garden programme which you can read about on page 8.

Despite all the positive changes in Aguas Calientes, Olga told us they still desperately need clean, safe drinking water. The water that runs down from the thermal spring contains traces of arsenic but they still drink it because it's all they have. As a result, many people have kidney problems.

CEPAD plans to supply 20 very simple and easy-to-maintain water filters alongside training to all 7 communities at a cost of just £35 per filter.

"You can see how happy the families are because they trust the water — so this is a huge help for their homes. We see that with a small cost we can save lives. Before we installed filters we had people with e-coli because of dirty water." Dalila — member of a community which now has water tanks thanks to CEPAD. "People living in houses that have the water filters don't get sick." Francisco — member of a community which now has water filters thanks to CEPAD.

WE WANT TO PROVIDE 20 WATER FILTERS TO EACH OF THE 7 COMMUNITIES WE SUPPORT THROUGH CEPAD. WILL YOU HELP US?

- £35 provides 1 water filter for a family
- £700 provides enough water filters for 1 community
- £4,900 provides 140 water filters to 7 communities

To make your donation please use this form or visit amostrust.org/water-for-life

THANK YOU

WATER FOR LIFE APPEAL 2018 WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF AMOS TRUST

- I / We enclose a one-off contribution of £
 I / We would like to give regularly to Amos Trust and have completed the Standing Order form

PLEASE USE THESE FUNDS FOR

- Water For Life Appeal 2018 Amos Trust General Funds Amos Street Child
 Amos Palestine Amos Communities I / We would like a receipt
 I / We would like to receive WORDS OF HOPE E-news

ABOUT YOU

TITLE _____ NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____
TELEPHONE _____
EMAIL _____

STANDING ORDER FORM

TO THE BANK MANAGER _____ YOUR BANK _____
POSTCODE _____
Please debit my/our account
ACCOUNT NO. _____ SORT CODE _____
WITH THE SUM OF £ _____ EACH MONTH / QUARTER / YEAR (delete as applicable)
STARTING ON DD / MM / YYYY _____

And pay this sum to Amos Trust

ACCOUNT NO. 10939419 SORT CODE 16-20-30 BANK RBS, 10 NORTH ST, GUILDFORD, GU1 4AF
SIGNATURE _____ DATE DD / MM / YYYY _____

PAYMENT METHODS

CHEQUES (payable to Amos Trust). We also accept charity vouchers.
CREDIT / DEBIT CARD To donate by card, please visit amostrust.org/give
STANDING ORDER To give a regular gift, please complete the standing order form above or visit amostrust.org/give — or if you would prefer to talk to us about making a donation, please call the office on 020 7588 2638 during normal office hours.

GIFT AID DECLARATION — DONATIONS TO AMOS TRUST

Please GIFT AID this donation and any I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years

I confirm I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income tax and/or Capital Gains Tax then the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE DD / MM / YYYY _____

PLEASE NOTIFY AMOS TRUST IF YOU:

Want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address; no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains. If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM AND DONATION TO:

Amos Trust, St Clement's, 1 St Clement's Court TELEPHONE: +44 (0) 20 7588 2638
London EC4N 7HB, United Kingdom EMAIL: office@amostrust.org
Registered charity no. 1164234 WEBSITE: amostrust.org



To support our WATER FOR LIFE APPEAL 2018, please visit amostrust.org/water-for-life





AL RASEEF



MAYSA DAW



FISHSAMAK



Amos Trust is proud to support PALESTINE MUSIC EXPO. For full details, please visit palestinemusicexpo.com

PHOTOGRAPHY: Nayef Hammouri & Tarek Zinati



MOODY KABLAWI



FARAJ SULEIMAN



SYNAPTİK



RAMALLAH, PALESTINE — APRIL 2018