

amos  trust
justice and hope for the forgotten

WORDS OF HOPE

A NEWSPAPER FROM AMOS TRUST



WORDS OF HOPE #1 IN THIS ISSUE

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>3 BRAND NEW, YOU'RE RETRO
Amos Director Chris Rose introduces our new newspaper and some of our up-coming projects.</p> <p>4 CHANGE THE RECORD
And they're off! Read about the Just Walk and why we're walking 2,000-miles to Jerusalem.</p> <p>6 FULL LEGAL RIGHTS
An update from New Generation, our Street Child partner in Burundi.</p> <p>8 HOPE TASTES LIKE CONCRETE
Read about how photographer Tom Merillion met Ana at Cheka Sana Tanzania.</p> <p>10 MAKING THE INVISIBLE, VISIBLE
A Jewish reflection on the Just Walk to Jerusalem from Amos trustee Robert Cohen.</p> | <p>17 NICARAGUA ADVENTURE 2018
Join us in Nicaragua as we visit the country described as "the threat of a good idea".</p> <p>18 A HUMAN RIGHTS APPROACH
Karunalaya, our street child partner in India is creative, resilient and hopeful. Find out more.</p> <p>19 SPRINGTIME IN PALESTINE
Two trips and more than 60 people answering the call to "Come & see!"</p> <p>21 DIARY LISTINGS
Events, fundraising activities and trips abroad to visit our partners — all you need to know is here.</p> <p>22 TEUSTEPE: BEGINNING TO FLOURISH
Read an update about the seven communities in Nicaragua that Amos supports with your help.</p> |
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FRONT COVER

A young girl and her baby brother waiting outside Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City — June 2016.
© Amos Trust/Nick Welsh

BELOW

47Soul performing at Amos Trust's 'Change The Record' event on London's South Bank — June 2017. You can see more pictures from the day on pages 12 — 15. © Amos Trust/Mark Kensett



WELCOME BRAND NEW, YOU'RE RETRO

WORDS Chris Rose

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WORDS OF HOPE

WELCOME to our brand new retro newspaper. As the work of AMOS has grown, so it has become increasingly difficult to squeeze everything we do into a traditional newsletter, so welcome to a NEW FORMAT in an OLD STYLE.

I was asked last week whether all of Amos' activism had to be quite so, active — and so while you will read here about home rebuilds, adventures in Nicaragua, Skydives, Amos Road Club's London-Paris bike ride next May, running challenges and of course, walking — please rest assured, we will also still be heavily involved at GREENBELT FESTIVAL running CAFÉ PALESTINIA and on our stall in the newly-named Greenbelt Takeaway. AMOS DAY is on 23rd September, and we are delighted to welcome PAUL SUNDER SINGH from our partner KARUNALAYA in Chennai, plus we have carol services, talks, concerts etc.

JUST WALK TO JERUSALEM

JUST WALK was launched on the 10th June (the 50th anniversary of the Occupation of Palestine), on the South Bank of the Thames. It was a fantastic celebration led by Palestinian band 47SOUL, comedian and activist MARK THOMAS and the Palestinian Ambassador to the UK. The day before we were told that we could not use the original venue due to security concerns and fears over possible protests.

While the decision, if not the timing, was understandable and a natural reaction to the attack at Borough Market the week before, it was also very concerning and in my view, wrong. The best challenge we have to extremism is not to limit free speech and our right to protest against human rights violations. Nor is it to restrict people from coming together, to fence them in and to prevent interaction with those who are curious. Our biggest challenge to extremism is to celebrate all that we have in common, to join together, to be even more outspoken about the urgent need for a JUST PEACE for Palestinians, as it is this which will be at the core of any future peace in the Middle East.

JUST WALK is an act of solidarity, penance and hope and over the next few pages, you can read more about this, as we invite you to join us and CHANGE THE RECORD. But you will see much more — you can learn about exciting developments in our STREET CHILD work, in challenging the impact of climate change in NICARAGUA and our different projects in PALESTINE, none of which would happen without your support and involvement.

One of Amos' goals is to BUILD HOPE, to BUILD INVOLVEMENT and it is such a pleasure to see so many people engaged in our work.



“YOU MAY THINK
IT’S BONKERS,
WALKING TO
JERUSALEM.
AND IT IS — IT
IS BONKERS.”

CHANGE THE RECORD

JUST WALK TO JERUSALEM

With the JUST WALK now well underway, Amos Trust Director CHRIS ROSE reflects on why we’re doing it and just how BONKERS it really is.

“When you read this, we might be in France. Or possibly Switzerland. Perhaps Italy. And if you don’t manage to read this until September, we’ll hopefully be in Albania, Macedonia, Greece or Turkey — before heading off to PALESTINE. 147 nights, over 3,000 km with well over 100 people taking part.”

A few days before we set off on the JUST WALK TO JERUSALEM, Jim Stewart (without whom none of the walk would have been possible), sent me a link to a BBC documentary about modern-day pilgrims. The presenter, having interviewed one of the people who provided essential advice to us on how to do the Walk, casually turned to the camera and said, “YOU MAY THINK IT’S BONKERS, WALKING TO JERUSALEM”. And it is — it is bonkers, so welcome to the Bonkers Walk.

When you read this, we might be in France. Or possibly Switzerland. Perhaps Italy. And if you don’t manage to read this until September, we’ll hopefully be in Albania, Macedonia, Greece or Turkey — before heading off to PALESTINE. 147 nights, over 3,000 km with well over 100 people taking part. Beds, meals, support vehicles to ferry luggage and take people to and from accommodation, borders to cross, first aid, heat, flights and routes to find/follow... I could go on. It’s a massive logistical challenge — every day has been a new learning opportunity, and it is all too apparent why people don’t do this as a group walk. But is it also absolutely fantastic, and despite very sore feet, it’s a privilege to be involved, and if nothing else, I am certain that it will change all of us who are doing it. There have already been numerous highlights. To get a flavour of what’s going on, please visit our Facebook page — there’s a link at the end of this article.

FULL EQUAL RIGHTS

Each time I am interviewed or speak about JUST WALK, I am asked what we seek to achieve by doing it. The Walk is an act of solidarity with Palestinians, who are denied freedom of movement, and with Israeli and Palestinian peace activists on the long road to justice and reconciliation. It is an act of penance for our government (and governments around the world), for their broken promises to Palestinians and quick political fixes. It is in the hope that one day, everyone who calls the Holy Land home will have full equal rights.

Measuring solidarity is tough — there are often no discernable outcomes, but it has the potential to transform, consume and overwhelm us. At its heart, it is us choosing or feeling compelled to take a stand (or to walk), alongside those who suffer injustice on a daily basis. It is not an act of charity, but of courage. Its value is not in the column inches and coverage in the UK press, but in the testimonies of the victims of injustice and whether they feel that support. The challenge for us is to ensure coverage and involvement in the Middle East.

Measuring penance is even harder — we are not making the pilgrimage in medieval sackcloth or on our knees. Penance is not something I’m very good at, while I desperately hope that I learn and am changed by the times I have hurt others. A walk of penance is virgin territory to me but as we identify with Britain’s broken promises and continued failings to the Palestinian people, the Walk itself becomes a prayer. As we read our daily liturgy and lift aching feet, these are our offerings — in contrition and longing for a better, fairer world.

CHANGE THE RECORD

And what is our hope? It’s really simple, it’s to ask this government, which seems hell-bent on celebrating the Balfour Declaration and Britain’s role in creating the modern state of Israel — to at least really celebrate it — by changing the record and committing themselves to peace, justice and full equal rights. Whether they do it for the sake of Palestinians or the good of Israel’s Jewish population, let there be an end to endless rhetoric, to an ever-increasing aid bill that breeds dependency and to our complicit support of Israel’s military machine. Let’s really go for it and encourage them to be part of the solution, so we can all help Boris Johnson to blow up the balloons and hang out the bunting.

Two of our newest Trustees were heavily involved in the Just Walk launch. ROBERT COHEN kicked off the event by talking about a century of Jewish protest and how proud he was to be involved in an organisation named after the “wrong kind of Jew”, who like us, spoke out against his people’s injustice. AHMED MASOUD compered the event but also talked of why the walk matters to him. He is unable to join because he is from Gaza and so not allowed into the West Bank.

MARK THOMAS, while celebrating the General Election result and a re-invigorated sense of solidarity, warned us of the dangers of “Palestinian hospitality”, and whether we will ever finish our walk, due to the size of our waistbands. MANUEL HASSASIN, the Palestinian ambassador to the UK gave us thanks and pledged support, while BEN JAMAL the Director of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign asked us to join with them on 4th November at a rally at Whitehall to mark the Balfour centenary and the home-coming of some of our walkers.

...AND THEY’RE OFF

Amos Founder GARTH HEWITT concluded the event by sending the walkers off on the second, and by far the shortest of the three legs they were doing that day — a walk along the South Bank to Southwark Cathedral. It took 10 minutes for over 100 of us to assemble there before we had a two-minute silence in memory of those who had lost their lives at Borough Market a week earlier.

We then said our goodbyes and for the first time, joined in the daily liturgy that the walkers are saying each day before they set off. The words begin with a reminder that a new world is possible, and that on a quiet day, we can hear her breathe. We then state why we are walking, before committing ourselves to walking lightly on the earth. It concludes with some Latin words that were thrust into my hand in church the Sunday before we left: *Ambulando Solvitur* — “it will be solved by walking.” That would be alright by me.

To follow the progress of JUST WALK, please visit our Facebook Page at [facebook.com/amosjusticeandhope](https://www.facebook.com/amosjusticeandhope). To read the JUST WALK DAILY LITURGY, please visit amostrust.org/just-walk-liturgy and to pledge support to the JUST WALK, please visit amostrust.org/just-give

FULL LEGAL RIGHTS

AN UPDATE FROM BURUNDI

CHRIS ROSE recently met DIEUDONNÉ NAHIMANA,
Director of Amos' partner in Burundi, New Generation.
HERE'S AN UPDATE ABOUT THEIR WORK.

WORDS Chris Rose PHOTOGRAPHY Rebekah McKay-Smith



BIRTH CERTIFICATES FOR BURUNDI

In June I was able to squeeze in a quick meeting with DIEUDONNÉ NAHIMANA, the director of our partner NEW GENERATION BURUNDI, who was in London on route to speak in Belfast at a Tearfund conference on reconciliation. A year before to the day I had landed in Bujumbura for a far too brief visit and was immediately taken into their celebration to mark the AFRICA DAY OF THE CHILD on the 40th anniversary of the Soweto Massacre.

This marked the launch of New Generation's campaign to secure birth certificates for children on the streets. These are so desperately important as without them, children cannot be registered at secondary schools, cannot get free health care, cannot gain an ID and cannot become a citizen of their own country.

A year later, and 32 of these children were for the first time, being awarded birth certificates at a special press conference in Bujumbura.

The impact on 8-year old INNOCENT's life will be vast. He has never had a birth certificate and was not registered at birth. He never knew his father, and his mother would take him to beg with her on the streets. When he was 6, and old enough to beg on his own, she abandoned him.

New Generation has worked with Innocent for the last 18 months, and he now leads their outreach work. Innocent himself only received his ID when he was given a passport to represent Burundi at the Street Child World Cup 2014 in Rio; now his younger namesake has the full legal rights that any other child can have and has a real future.

Burundi continues to face many challenges, not least regular fuel shortages and frequent power cuts

“The impact on 8-year old Innocent's life will be vast. He has never had a birth certificate and was not registered at birth. He never knew his father, and his mother would take him to beg with her on the streets. When he was 6, and old enough to beg on his own, she abandoned him.”

BELOW LEFT
Dieudonné Nahimana, former street child and now Director of New Generation, Amos' partner in Burundi.

BELOW
New Generation allows the children to reach their full potential and become leaders of a new Burundi.

as the progress made before the 2014 political crisis has halted. Despite this, there is more good news for New Generation.

MORE GOOD NEWS

Last week they had confirmation that the purchase of the land for their new centre has been completed six months ahead of schedule. Last year we received a very generous donation from a supporting church which together with money raised by STREET ACTION whom we work very closely with on Burundi, meant we were able to secure the funds needed to purchase their centre and give a permanent home to New Generation and the church community that shares the site with them. This purchase will also massively reduce their running costs.

Twelve of the girls involved in the project have now set up a singing group which is hired out to perform at weddings and church rallies. They sing a combination of traditional and modern songs and are trained by one of the New Generation staff.

A team of 8 musicians and technicians drawn from the project and the church, supports them. The impact on the girls' self-esteem and sense of worth and value has been huge as each of these girls had been on the streets.

In June/July 2018 we are hoping to take a small group from the UK to visit New Generation, to see life in Burundi first hand. If you would like to be kept informed about this trip, please email katie@amostrust.org

To read more about New Generation and their work, please visit amostrust.org/new-generation





HOPE TASTES LIKE CONCRETE CHEKA SANA TANZANIA

WORDS Azey Bennetts
PHOTOGRAPHY Tom Merilion

“Anastazia was different; she took a confident stand, raised her hands to her heart showing her burnt arm and looked away from the camera. In this moment she showed me strength and dignity.”

TOM MERILION — PHOTOGRAPHER

Amos’ Street Child partner CHEKA SANA TANZANIA works with street girls, turning hope into something concrete. Their work makes street girls visible so that they, and their rights, cannot be ignored anymore. They challenge the injustices they face from adults who should protect them and build hope.

Home is what children long for the most and their hope is that it will be a place of love, acceptance and safety, but as one young person said, “Hope tastes of metal, every time I hope, I become scared that I will be let down again or that I will let myself down.”

ANA came to Cheka Sana Tanzania aged 11. When she first came to the girls’ shelter, her trauma was so severe from her experiences on the street that staff were concerned they were not going to be able to give her what she needed. Exploitation and abuse had made her angry, violent and suicidal.

HOPE MUST BE CONCRETE FOR STREET CHILDREN LIKE ANA

Earlier this year, I took the opportunity to visit the Annual Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait exhibition at THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY in London and was delighted to see the portrait of Ana taken by filmmaker and photographer TOM MERILION. On his recent visit, he had created a makeshift studio at the shelter so he could take pictures of the young people. The children smiled for the camera, as they believed they were supposed to. He said, “Anastazia was different; she took a confident stand, raised her hands to her heart showing her burnt arm and looked away from the camera. In this moment she showed me strength and dignity.”

Cheka Sana’s work with girls starts very

gradually, building trust, using play, art and games so Ana and girls like her can learn to recognise why they experience certain emotions and how they can control them. Through art, they can express themselves, and through meditation they can be still — children on the streets are always moving: to find food, running away from police or violent gangs, from abusers, towards petty crime and ‘safe’ places to sleep. Cheka Sana’s later work with Ana and her father was to build a relationship between them. A vital step is to teach them to interact in a different way. Games like ‘PICK UP STICKS’ show the parent what it is to be a primary caregiver. Ana has since returned home, and with on-going family work she and her father are continuing to develop their relationship, and she is thriving.

Imara had giggled during the martial arts and dance sessions — practising throwing her punches and shouting “HABANA” — ‘no’ in Swahili. It teaches girls self-confidence and to be assertive in saying ‘No’ to protect themselves against sexual abuse and violence. Imara told her social workers that she wanted to leave street life, she developed closeness with the Cheka Sana staff, but in spite of this, she ran away from the girls’ shelter returning to street life.

We are tired that stories like Ana’s are the exception and not the norm, as most girls on the streets never find a way back home.

THAT MUST CHANGE. THAT CAN CHANGE.

If you are interested in visiting Cheka Sana Tanzania or would simply like to get to know more about their work, please email azey@amostrust.org or visit amostrust.org/cheka-sana-tanzania



PHOTOGRAPHY
With grateful thanks to Tom Merilion for allowing us to use his images for this article. To see more of Tom's work, please visit tommerilion.co.uk

MAKING THE INVISIBLE, VISIBLE

A Jewish reflection on the JUST WALK TO JERUSALEM
from Amos trustee ROBERT COHEN.

WORDS Robert Cohen PHOTOGRAPHY Nick Welsh



“And yet THERESA MAY has insisted that our nation will mark the centenary “with pride”. The failure of a century ago is being repeated today. You can only believe that pride is an appropriate response to BALFOUR if you allow the PALESTINIAN PEOPLE to remain invisible. Because BALFOUR IS NOT HISTORY. It’s current affairs.”

HOW TO MARK THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BALFOUR DECLARATION IN NOVEMBER? YOU CAN BE SURE THERE’S GOING TO BE NO END OF BAD WAYS.

They’ll be bad because they will make the same mistake as the Declaration itself. They will make the PALESTINIAN people invisible, just as Balfour himself did by describing the indigenous majority living in the Holy Land in 1917 as merely the “existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine”.

From that British failure to recognise the right of Arab Palestinians to self-determination and by offering promises it had no right to make and, for the Palestinians, couldn’t keep, has flowed a hundred years of conflict and pain.

And yet THERESA MAY has insisted that our nation will mark the centenary “with pride”. The failure of a century ago is being repeated today. You can only believe that pride is an appropriate response to BALFOUR if you allow the PALESTINIAN PEOPLE to remain invisible. Because Balfour is not history. It’s current affairs. The consequences of those 67 words of British imperial realpolitik are still playing themselves out everyday in JERUSALEM, GAZA and HEBRON, in fact everywhere west of the Jordan river.

Remembering Balfour, both yesterday and today, crystallises the on-going tragedy of Israel/Palestine. The document which created the possibility of a Jewish State for the most oppressed people on earth, inevitably led to the dispossession of another people. The ambitious project of Jewish national renewal could not have played out in any other way.

So how should Balfour be remembered? What’s an honest way to mark this centenary? One that carries with it not only a rounded understanding of history and politics (likely to be in short supply) but one that includes a degree of humility and an outlook for peace that does not lose touch with justice?

EQUAL RIGHTS AND VISIBILITY

There is no pre-Balfour world to return to. The clock cannot, and should not, be turned back. Whatever the rights and wrongs of Zionism, the Holy Land is now home to six million Jews who have rights as well as obligations and responsibilities. When we say, “Palestine must be free, from the river to the sea” that cannot mean a Palestine free of Jews.

The commemoration of Balfour must acknowledge all that has taken place since 1917 but it must also look to the next 100 years. And that’s what the JUST WALK TO JERUSALEM is doing through its simple call for EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL WHO CALL THE HOLY LAND HOME.

This is the appropriate way to commemorate Balfour. Everyone becomes visible. Everyone is honoured, respected and protected. It’s a clear and simple call. But it’s surprisingly controversial. The JUST WALK is about making that call for equal rights an idea that sounds as normal and reasonable as it does for any other part of the world.

THE PROPHETIC TRADITION

Last autumn I became the first Jew to become a Trustee on the Board of Amos Trust. I’m glad to have found a spiritual home in an incredible organisation that draws its courage and inspiration from a Hebrew prophet.

3,000 years ago it was the prophet AMOS who cut through the hypocrisy and denial of his own community with a passionate, raging and poetic call for justice. He too set out to make the invisible, visible. His call was also clear and simple: justice and righteousness.

Amos and his fellow Hebrew Prophets certainly have a lot to answer for. They created a tradition. A tradition of principled, radical criticism of oppressive power. A tradition that I, and a great many other Jews, think of as our primary Jewish inheritance. It’s the values of the prophetic tradition that remain true when so much else has become corrupted.

It’s not widely understood, but there are many Jews in Britain deeply troubled by the actions of the State of Israel. Sometimes it feels like we are the last remnant of that prophetic tradition of Amos.

Many of those ‘bad ways’ to remember BALFOUR will be led by my own Jewish community in Britain. And some will be led by Christian groups too. They will all fail to find room for a single Palestinian.

By contrast, as our Amos Pilgrims complete the final stage of their journey they will be joined by our LONG-TERM PALESTINIAN PARTNERS IN JUSTICE. And they will be more than just visible. Hearing and sharing their story, and providing a platform for their daily experience of the politics of ‘Balfour’ in 2017, is one of the primary objectives of the JUST WALK.

Making the Palestinian people visible, in the full richness of their history and culture, will be good news for the Jewish community too, both in the State of Israel and around the world. Because for me the most profound legacy of Balfour is that the future for Jews and Judaism is now entirely bound up with the success or failure of our relationship with the Palestinian people. I’m in no doubt that full visibility and equal rights for all would put us on a better road for the SECOND 100 YEARS OF BALFOUR.

Robert Cohen is Head of Executive External Communication for the Co-op Group. He began his career in broadcast journalism and spent nearly 10 years with the BBC working in local radio and Radio 5 Live. Robert has become well known for his Jewish advocacy for Palestine through his blog MICAH’S PARADIGM SHIFT and his public speaking. Robert and his wife Anne first travelled to Israel/Palestine with Amos Trust in 2011.

For more information about the JUST WALK TO JERUSALEM, please visit amostrust.org/just-walk and to find out more about travelling to Palestine with Amos Trust, please visit amostrust.org/travel



PHOTOGRAPH
With thanks to Mark Kensett for joining us on the South Bank (in the boiling heat), to shoot the CHANGE THE RECORD event for us. To see more of Mark's work, please visit markkensett.com



*For more great images from the Change The Record event,
please visit amostrust.org/change-the-record-gallery*





CHANGE THE RECORD

OPPOSITE PAGE
47Soul were the perfect band to headline Change The Record with their mix of Electro and Arabic Dabke — or *Shamstep*. Also on the bill were Kareem Samara, Beatboxer Hobbit and DJ Luma.

TOP
Comedian, activist, writer, campaigner and T-shirt model — Mark Thomas was inspiring at Change The Record, with just the right mix of politics, humour and bad language. Thanks Mark!

BOTTOM LEFT
There was a great crowd of people on London's South Bank who came to listen to the music, get inspired by the speakers and send off the walkers on the 2,000-mile Just Walk to Jerusalem.

BOTTOM RIGHT
One of the reasons we're undertaking the Just Walk to Jerusalem project is to bring back messages from the children of Palestine to the British government.

ABOVE: **CHANGE THE RECORD** launch event — South Bank, London. Saturday 10th June 2017

© Amos Trust/Mark Kensett

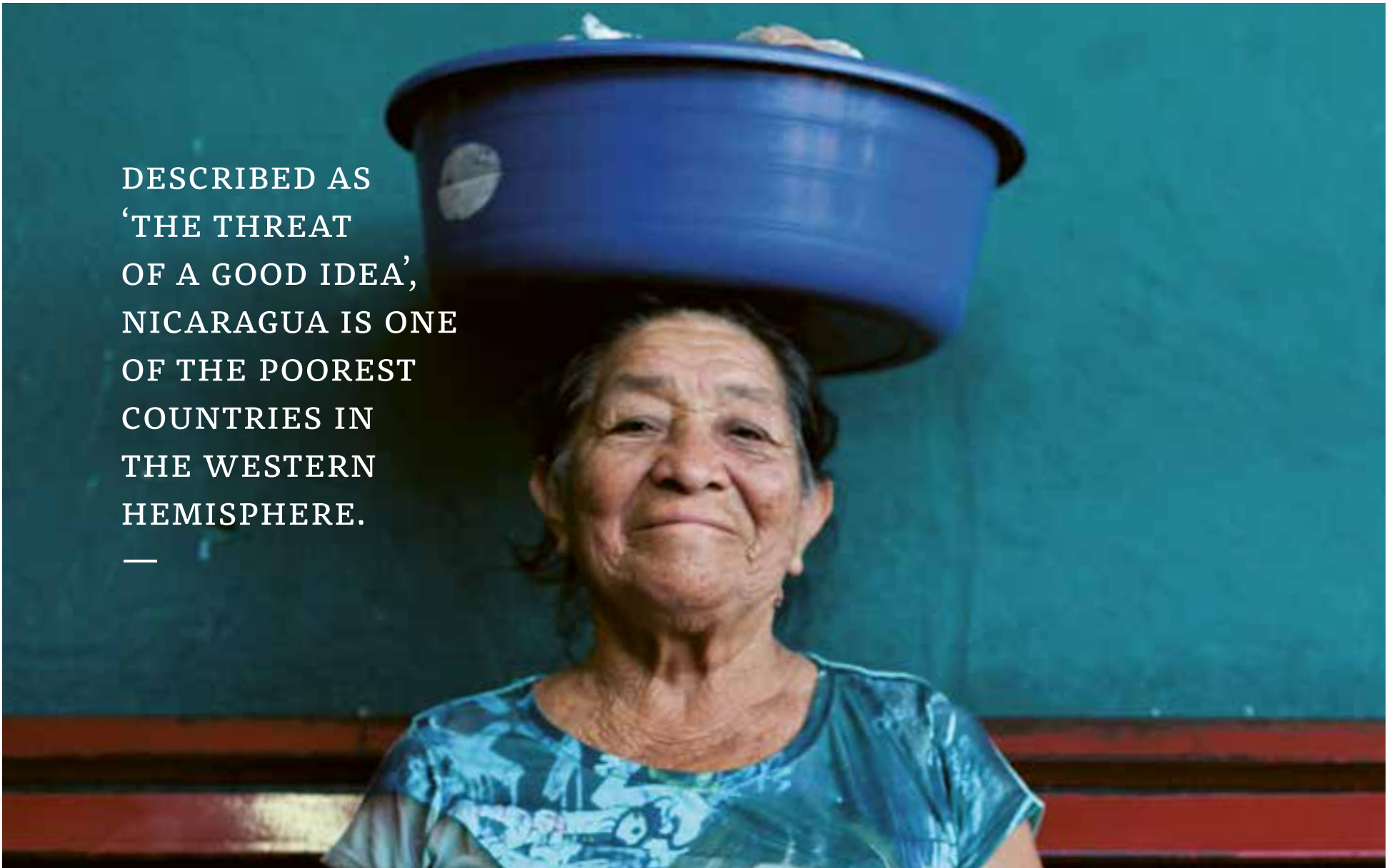
CHANGE THE RECORD TEE'S AVAILABLE TO ORDER NOW

AMOSTRUST.ORG/CHANGE-THE-RECORD-T-SHIRTS

Buy one in solidarity with our intrepid Just Walk walkers. Buy one because they look great. Or buy one because you can never have enough T-shirts with records on. Made from 70% bamboo viscose and 30% organic cotton, the shirts are available online now in white and black.

ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS AMOS TRUST'S JUST WALK TO JERUSALEM APPEAL
#CHANGETHERECORD

DESCRIBED AS
'THE THREAT
OF A GOOD IDEA',
NICARAGUA IS ONE
OF THE POOREST
COUNTRIES IN
THE WESTERN
HEMISPHERE.



19 FEBRUARY — 5 MARCH 2018

NICARAGUA ADVENTURE

WORDS Katie Hagley
PHOTOGRAPHY Laura Cook

PRICE:
£1,500 INCLUDING RETURN FLIGHTS
amostrust.org/nicaragua-adventure-2018

Join us for a Nicaraguan Adventure. Enjoy the vibrancy and colours of Nicaragua, savour the food, hear its music and poetry, visit its markets, volcanoes, lagoons and beaches. But more importantly roll up your sleeves and get your hands dirty as we help build much needed microdams and nurseries alongside the communities we support.

Described as 'THE THREAT OF A GOOD IDEA', Nicaragua is one of the most beautiful, yet poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere — a country experiencing the onslaught of climate change, whose past has been dominated by its neighbours and whose future seems outside its control.

Throughout its history, NICARAGUA has struggled with natural disasters, climate change, deforestation and political upheaval. But with the emergence of small grass-roots organisations, its people are becoming empowered, championing equality, developing inclusive theology, and maintaining a culture that sees art and poetry as the norm for everyone.

AMOS TRUST has worked with our partner CEPAD for over 25 years and we are currently partnering with them over a 5-year period to empower seven communities in TEUSTEPE. Working closely with each community, CEPAD teaches them new skills and facilitates the development of community resilience, by helping them to begin to identify and address their own problems. By the time we visit in 2018, they will be 3 years into the 5-year cycle presenting a wonderful opportunity to see the difference your support is making, to see hope in action and to work alongside these communities.

So join us and see how local communities are challenging climate change, one community at a time. Meet young people learning to lead the change, inspirational women setting up micro-enterprises, families transforming ruined land and local leaders whose faith leads to action.

Join us as we walk with CEPAD and the communities they work alongside — as we're taken to the heart of what it means to 'be' community, seeing liberation theology lived out on a daily basis and learning the power of hope teamed with determination. You will have the chance to:

- experience day-to-day life, staying with the communities we support
- roll up your sleeves and get your hands' dirty building micro dams and nurseries alongside village members
- savour the food, cook and eat within the community
- enjoy the vibrancy and colours of this beautiful country
- hear its music and poetry
- visit its markets, volcanoes, lagoons and beaches.

This trip is half board and includes return flights from LONDON HEATHROW to MANAGUA, NICARAGUA. Prices are based on two people sharing. Single rooms are available on payment of a supplement.

We ask that all participants raise £500 towards the costs of implementing the community projects that we will be working on. You will be given support and resources to help you fundraise.

To find out more about this amazing trip and to book your place, please visit amostrust.org/nicaragua-adventure-2018 — but please hurry, we only have 18 places available. For further details, please contact katie@amostrust.org

KARUNALAYA A HUMAN RIGHTS APPROACH

WORDS Azey Bennetts

“The trouble is that once you see it, you can’t unsee it. And once you’ve seen it, keeping quiet, saying nothing, becomes as political an act as speaking out. There’s no innocence. Either way, you’re accountable.”

ARUNDHATI ROY

Summer and early Autumn will be all about INDIA for AMOS TRUST, (well among other things!) particularly for me — with a supporter trip to CHENNAI in August and a visit to the UK from Karunalaya’s Director PAUL SUNDER-SINGH who will be joining us for AMOS DAY ON SATURDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER.

This will be my second visit to KARUNALAYA and just as Arundhati Roy says, “...once you see it, you can’t unsee it.”

Now that I’ve experienced first-hand Karunalaya’s work with street children, vulnerable girls and women, pavement dwelling communities, and child labourers in the harsh steel factories and fishing communities, there is no way I can ‘unsee’ what I have seen. This is why I was so passionate about going back to Chennai, but this time to take Amos supporters with me.

Karunalaya’s human rights-based approach means their responses to street children speak of creativity and encourage resilience, hope and perseverance against the odds, with children’s rights at their core.

Their philosophy is based on supporting the most marginalised and vulnerable, empowering them to CHALLENGE INJUSTICE AND CREATE CHANGE.

Karunalaya’s work includes outreach at the railway station, and on the streets. They run a girls’ and a boys’ shelter and carry out family reintegration work. The team uses football and arts including traditional TAMIL dance and drumming, to engage with children and build their confidence.

When I see USHA aged 18, one of Karunalaya’s beneficiaries, speaking passionately at Chennai Police training events about child rights and protecting street children, I am blown away by how she is challenging injustice.

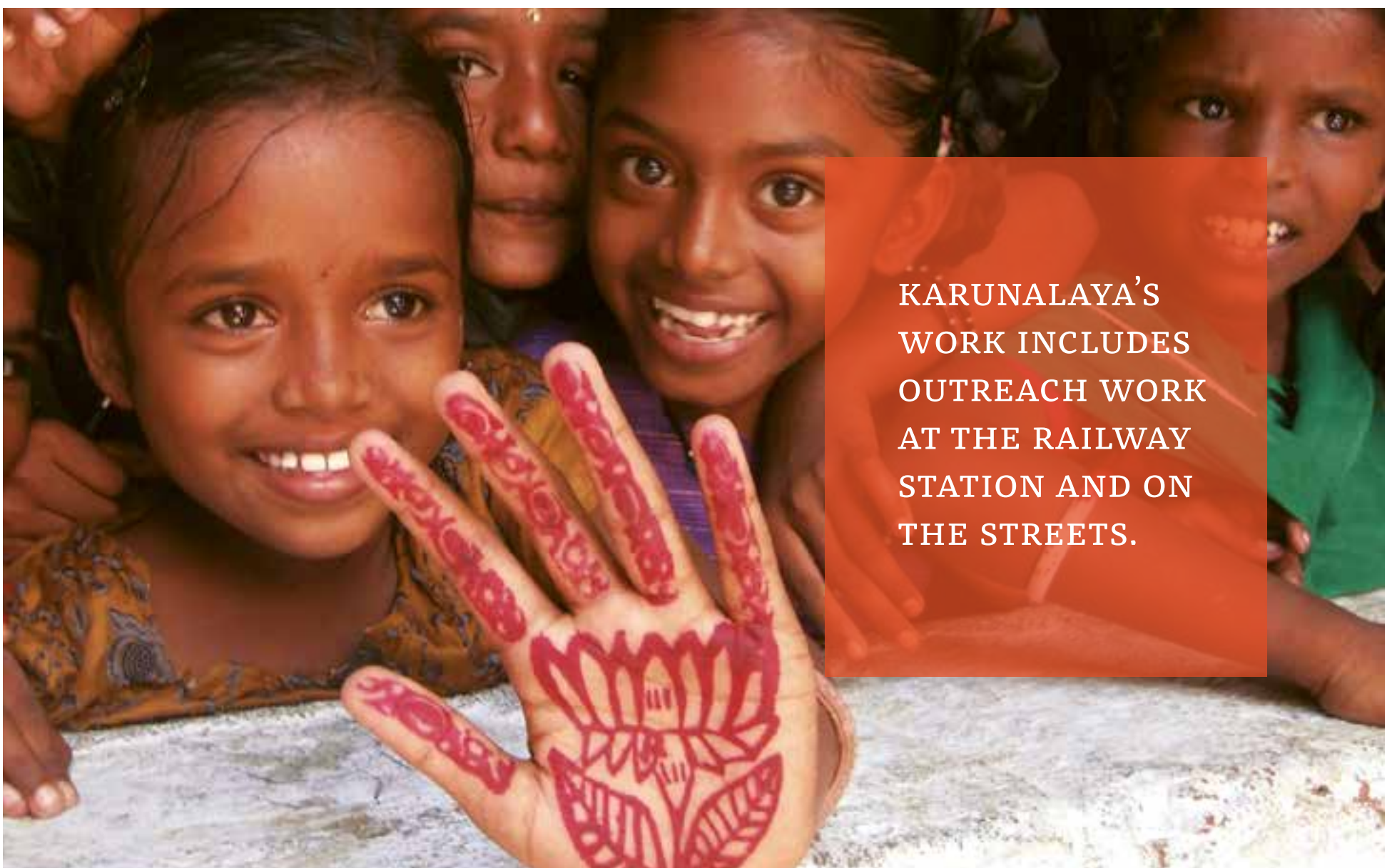
Pavement dwelling communities look like makeshift homes precariously built on the side of a road. These communities have been living here for generations now. KARUNALAYA campaigns for these communities to be formally recognised so they can be provided with basic amenities like lighting and washing facilities so families can live safely and thrive.

Their work builds self-confidence and self-worth in the poorest people who are mainly from the lower Indian castes and therefore not traditionally seen as important by wider society. Underpinning all of their work is their campaign for street children to have the right to a legal identity.

KANNADAS is an Outreach worker at the railway station and a football coach. He’s a former street child himself. When we were at the station, he showed me the platform where he was found by the stationmaster. Aged 8, the stationmaster contacted Paul Sunder-Singh at Karunalaya, and Kannadas began the process of leaving street life.

Today he dreams of playing for Chennai Football Club! He is most proud of the fact that he has his TUK-TUK driving license — it has his name on it — it is a legal document that says he exists and marks his achievement.

Paul will be visiting the UK for AMOS DAY in London on SATURDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER. Please book your free ticket at amostrust.org/amos-day-2017. For further details about Paul’s up-coming Freedom Street Autumn tour with events in Cambridge, Oxford, Central and West London the following week, please visit amostrust.org/freedom-street



KARUNALAYA’S
WORK INCLUDES
OUTREACH WORK
AT THE RAILWAY
STATION AND ON
THE STREETS.

SPRINGTIME IN PALESTINE

WORDS Nive Hall & Martyn Joseph

Two trips, more than 60 people answering the call to “Come and see!” A kaleidoscope of building blocks and bar chords, protest songs and concrete trucks, profound joy and bitter tears, renewed hope and demolished dreams. And always the welcome... the unquenchable humanity... the beautiful resistance.

NIVE HALL & MARTYN JOSPEH WRITE

SCENE ONE:

A small village, just outside Bethlehem

We've nearly finished helping to rebuild a home. MAHMOUD and INAS will soon be married, and these four walls will be where they will live and where their future will unfold.

They don't have the words to thank us, and we don't have the words to explain that they do not need to. It has been a profound privilege to share this experience with them. Mahmoud's family had worked for ten years to help him build his future home. Ten years of scrimping and saving, building a bit here, a bit there. Undone in one night of shouting soldiers, bulldozers, terror and anguish.

This home, alongside the other three that Amos Trust has helped to rebuild, stands against the injustice of home demolitions, of occupation, separation and fear. They are symbols of hope and the right to live in peace. They are acts of BEAUTIFUL RESISTANCE.

SCENE TWO:

The concrete theatre next to the Separation Wall in Aida refugee camp

I'm leading a group from LET YOURSELF TRUST, the non-profit foundation started by singer-songwriter MARTYN JOSEPH and his wife, JUSTINE. We are finally doing what we've talked about for years, a concert in the shadow the Wall. Martyn picks up the story.

“I fell in love with the people of Palestine on my first visit there with AMOS TRUST. Haunted by their plight and genuinely outraged by the universal cover-up of the truth of the Occupation, I needed to touch some hope.

We go to AIDA REFUGEE CAMP to see the work of ALROWWAD who, through the arts, give young people a positive means of expression in such a negative place. I questioned Dr Abed, their director, about how he finds hope, he tells me, while holding his four-year-old daughter, that for her sake he does not have the 'LUXURY OF DESPAIR'.

Those words were the catalyst for me to start LET YOURSELF TRUST. As part of the trip, we did a concert by the Separation Wall in Aida Camp. Myself and artists GRACE PETRIE and ANTJE DUVEKOT performed alongside the young people from Alrowwad. I have had the good fortune to play thousands of shows worldwide, but never have I stood and played my music in a more poignant place.

It was a blessed mixture of chaos, dancing children, clapping adults, tears and songs, hopes and dreams. We brought thirty-three people with us to view the reality of life for Palestinians — that they too might go and tell the story their way, of what they saw. We were inspired by the grace, resilience and love of these beautiful people.”

SCENE THREE:

Back in the village

Only days until the wedding, furniture is being delivered but a shadow hangs over everything. Mahmoud's Aunt's house, just 20m from his rebuilt home, was demolished three days ago. Hope is fragile, and injustice is stubborn. Our struggle for the rights of the forgotten, the oppressed and the marginalised is hard, long and slow. But we will take inspiration from our partners who never give up. We will continue. WE ASK YOU TO STAND WITH US.



ABOVE LEFT

Singer-songwriter Martyn Joseph performs at an outdoor concert in the shadow of the Separation Wall while Alrowwad Director Abdelfattah Abusrour looks on in Aida Refugee Camp — May 2017.
© Justine Joseph

ABOVE RIGHT

A make-shift ladder built from an old pallet to access the roof of the home that Amos Trust supporters helped to rebuild. West Bank — April 2017.
© Amos Trust/Nick Welsh

LEFT

The 'Elephant' delivers concrete to Amos' fourth West Bank home rebuild — April 2017.
© Amos Trust/Nive hall



To watch our short film about Amos Home Rebuilds in Palestine, please visit vimeo.com/amostrust/rebuilding-home-rebuilding-hope



JUST WALK 2017 FINAL STAGE

23 OCTOBER – 3 NOVEMBER

THIS 12-DAY TRIP TO PALESTINE will begin by exploring the sights, sounds, tastes and politics of JERUSALEM. You will then join the JUST WALK and travel through the West Bank on foot, taking in Jericho, Ramallah, Bethlehem, and Hebron before the culmination of the Walk in Jerusalem on 2nd November. PLEASE JOIN US.

#CHANGETHERECORD

COST: £1,500/£400 DEPOSIT

DURATION: 11 NIGHTS | 10 DAYS WALKING

FOR FULL DETAILS OF THE FINAL JUST WALK STAGE, PLEASE VISIT
AMOSTRUST.ORG/JUST-WALK-FINAL-STAGE

AMOS TRUST DIARY

2017/18

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

For further details please visit our website at amostrust.org/diary

20 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2017

FREEDOM STREET TOUR

amostrust.org/freedom-street

Karunlaya's Director Paul Sunder-Singh speaks in Cambridge, Oxford & London.

23 SEPTEMBER 2017

AMOS DAY 2017

amostrust.org/amos-day-2017

Join us as we focus on Gaza and our street child partners and projects in India.

1 – 31 OCTOBER 2017

WOMEN 4 WOMEN

amostrust.org/women-4-women

Will you organise an event to support women in Gaza living with breast cancer?

10 – 19 OCTOBER 2017

ALTERNATIVE PILGRIMAGE

amostrust.org/alternative-pilgrimage-2017

Visit the historic sights and experience the situation on the ground in Palestine.

19 FEBRUARY – 5 MARCH 2018

NICARAGUA ADVENTURE

amostrust.org/nicaragua-adventure-2018

Enjoy the vibrancy and colours of this beautiful country on this unique trip.

20 – 25 MARCH 2018

PALESTINE MARATHON

amostrust.org/palestine-marathon-2018

Run 26 miles through the 'Little Town' in solidarity with Palestinians.

26 – 29 MAY 2018

TEAM AMOS CYCLE RIDE LONDON – PARIS

amostrust.org/london-paris-2018

Cycle from London to Paris over four days with the Amos Road Club.

23 SEPTEMBER 2017

AMOS DAY, LONDON

10.00am – 16.00pm
St Mary-at-Hill Church,
London EC3R 8EE

Join us for AMOS DAY in LONDON on SATURDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER when we'll be thinking about GAZA, STREET CHILDREN in INDIA and where we'll be getting an update on JUST WALK TO JERUSALEM.

The day will feature a panel discussion led by GARTH HEWITT, Charlotte Marshall from KAIROS BRITAIN and author, Amos Trustee and Gazan, AHMED MASOUD entitled 'What can we do about Gaza?'

We'll also welcome back Amos' Director Chris Rose who will fly in from Thessaloniki to give us an update on the JUST WALK.

And we are delighted to welcome as our special guest PAUL SUNDER-SINGH from our partners KARUNALAYA in Chennai, India, to hear of their work with girls on the streets and the pavement-dwelling communities and get an update on their campaign to secure legal identities for children on the streets.

PLEASE JOIN US.

TICKETS ARE FREE BUT YOU NEED TO REGISTER

For tickets and more information, please visit amostrust.org/amos-day-2017



4 DECEMBER 2017

AMOS ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

From 7.00pm (*no earlier please*)
St James's Church, Piccadilly,
London W1J 9LL

We're delighted that once again, HOLY LAND TRUST Executive Director and Amos friend SAMI AWAD will be joining us for our annual Bethlehem carol service at ST JAMES'S PICCADILLY in London on MONDAY 4TH DECEMBER.

The evening will also feature music from:

- VOX HOLLOWAY CHOIR with Justin Butcher and Harvey Brough
- Extracts from 'Longing Belonging' and 'Balfour', a musical by members of the BRISTOL EUROPEAN JAZZ ENSEMBLE
- JULIA KATARINA (Oud and Palestinian lament)
- HAWIYA DABKE dance group
- plus a celebration of JUST WALK TO JERUSALEM.

"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness."

DESMOND TUTU

All donations will go to Amos Trust's 2017 Christmas appeal supporting AL AHLI ARAB HOSPITAL in Gaza and HOLY LAND TRUST in Bethlehem.

TICKETS £7/5 CONCS.

To book, please visit the Amos website at amostrust.org/carol-service-2017



“WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU AS WE WAIT FOR THE RAINS IN MAY.”

These words greeted us as we traipsed into the crowded ‘village hall’ after a bumpy journey past dried up streams across scorched-looking terrain.

It was February 2015, we were here to meet the people of LOS RANCHOS, one of the seven communities in TEUSTEPE, NICARAGUA that AMOS would support over the next five years. The words have stuck with me. The verb ‘ESPERAR’, ‘to wait’, also means ‘to hope’ in Spanish, and the people of Los Ranchos really were full of hope and determination.

Women and men of all ages told us what they hoped to achieve: better roads, patio gardens, improved diets, an income, their children in school, better irrigation systems, more livestock. It all made sense, everyone was full of energy and determination and so well organised but everywhere was so dry and the rains were not due to come anytime soon. If I’m honest, I was struggling to imagine anything growing in the hard, stony dirt, let alone enough to feed their families and provide incomes.

FAST FORWARD TWO YEARS, and it’s wonderful to hear about the progress made by the communities we support in Teustepe, despite continued drought. Stories of women like EUSEBIA, ROSA and OLGA who with training and better irrigation systems, have learned to improve their plots of land, producing more and better food for their family to eat and sell and who now train others to do the same.

The news from CEPAD is of transformation in La Concepcion, which was so desperate when we first visited with no children in school, no road or access to medical care and few people working.

TEUSTEPE: BEGINNING TO FLOURISH

“All the NICARAGUANS I’ve ever met are warm, generous, lively and hospitable and love to talk politics.

Not surprising really, given their country’s history. And when they’re done with politics, they’ll talk about RAIN, the lack of, the need for, El Niño and drought. This was definitely the case in Teustepe in ‘THE DRY CORRIDOR’ of Nicaragua.”

KATIE HAGLEY WRITES

WORDS Katie Hagley
PHOTOGRAPHY Laura Cook

BELOW

Despite climate change and drought, the communities of Teustepe are beginning to flourish thanks to simple water saving techniques and your support.

Now after only 18 months working with CEPAD, the community has identified its needs and raised their voices together to secure a road and daily bus service. Many men and women are trained as producers and are generating income and 54 children are in school and that’s just the beginning.

Areas of hard, rocky soil have been transformed by simple water-saving methods: old drinks bottles providing drip irrigation, the planting of merengue trees with their long roots drawing water to the surface for other plants and the introduction of micro-dams. The rains have still not come in Nicaragua. However, the communities that you’re supporting are beginning to FLOURISH. In 2018 Amos supporters will travel to TEUSTEPE and help build micro-dams to help farmers like Erasmo.

ERASMO’S STORY

ERASMO lives with his family in one of the driest parts of Nicaragua. He struggled for years to grow the most basic food for his family; beans, corn, sorghum, in the surrounding rocky, dry soil because the changing climate made it harder each year.

However, one year later, thanks to a water capture system built with CEPAD’s help, he has a small garden with fruits and vegetables including mango, orange and lime trees and his family has enough to eat.

Micro-dams are made by digging and lining a hole 3 feet deep and 23 feet long which can hold 2,641 gallons of water. They’re filled with rainwater and positioned to take advantage of run-off from roofs.

Join us on our NICARAGUA ADVENTURE (*please see page 17*), and support our WATER FOR LIFE summer appeal (*opposite*) and help the communities of Teustepe to FLOURISH.



PLEASE SUPPORT
OUR ‘WATER FOR
LIFE’ APPEAL BY
SIMPLY VISITING
[AMOSTRUST.ORG/
WATER-FOR-LIFE](http://AMOSTRUST.ORG/WATER-FOR-LIFE)

WATER FOR LIFE APPEAL

HELP THE COMMUNITIES OF TEUSTEPE TO FLOURISH

“I USED TO WORRY. IF WE COULDN’T GROW BASIC GRAINS WHAT WAS OUR ALTERNATIVE? LEAVE THE COUNTRY? NOW WE HAVE AN ALTERNATIVE; ALL IS NOT LOST.” ERASMO (*You can read Erasmos’s story at the end of page 22*).

In 2018 Amos supporters will travel to TEUSTEPE in NICARAGUA to see how CEPAD is helping rural communities to realise their rights and to transform the land.

We will help set up nurseries and micro-dams in the communities we’re supporting, providing water, improved diets, income and hope.

AMOS TRUST supports seven communities in Teustepe:

- each community needs twenty four micro-dams and one nursery
- one nursery costs £280
- one micro-dam costs £235
- training and materials cost £85 per farmer (there are twenty four farmers).

We hope to supply at least one community with all they need at a cost of £7,960

We cannot do this without you — please donate today. GIVE WATER, GIVE HOPE and help the communities of Teustepe to flourish. Please fill in and send back the form on this page or visit amostrust.org/water-for-life

“WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU AS WE WAIT FOR THE RAINS IN MAY.”

THANK YOU

WATER FOR LIFE APPEAL

DONATION & STANDING ORDER FORM

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 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



AMOS AT GREENBELT

CHANGE THE RECORD

A highlight of our summer is always meeting so many friends and supporters at the annual GREENBELT FESTIVAL. This year we'll be in the re-named GREENBELT TAKEAWAY (or G-Source as it used to be known), sharing our work with you, but with a particular focus on our CHANGE THE RECORD campaign and the JUST WALK TO JERUSALEM.

On Saturday lunchtime we'll be hosting our cabaret show, CAFE PALESTINA in the PLAYHOUSE with some great music, speakers and very special guests. Then on Monday afternoon, we have a special CHANGE THE RECORD edition of 'WORDS OF HOPE' in THE SHELTER.

If you're going to the Festival, do drop by and say hello and join us in asking the British government to CHANGE THE RECORD on Palestine.

#CHANGETHERECORD

