

# Isaiah 44 Project Newsletter

Summer 2023



I will pour water on the  
thirsty land and streams  
on the dry ground...and  
people will come to say  
'I belong to the LORD.'

## Contact Information:

**Fr. Robert Holet - Coordinator**  
434-987-8170  
[fr.r.holet@uocusa.net](mailto:fr.r.holet@uocusa.net)

**Pani Christine Holet - Administrator**  
434-960-4566  
[panichristine@yahoo.com](mailto:panichristine@yahoo.com)

129 South Keswick Drive  
Troy, Virginia 22974

## Funding Account:

**Send checks directly to:**  
**Greater Horizons**  
Attn. Donor Services

**St. Nicholas Charity Legacy Fund:**  
Account SN-00  
1055 Broadway Blvd., Suite 130  
Kansas City, MO 64105  
Check Notation : **Is. 44 Project - Wells**

Greater Horizons Help-Information  
Phone: 866.627.3440  
Email: [support@greaterhorizons.org](mailto:support@greaterhorizons.org)

**To Donate ONLINE**  
<https://greaterhorizons.kimbia.com/gh>

## Facebook Page:

[www.tinyurl.com/bdfdm587](https://www.tinyurl.com/bdfdm587)  
or on Facebook search -'Isaiah 44 Project'

## Website:

[www.Orthodoxsteward.com/](http://www.Orthodoxsteward.com/)

**Interested in a parish presentation?**  
**Contact Fr. Robert (info above)!**

## Emergency Funds - Food Distribution in Malawi

**In response to the devastating effects of Cyclone (Hurricane) Freddie in Malawi, the Isaiah 44 Project is happy to announce completion of the first phase of food distribution for emergency needs.**

In response to this need, through the generous offerings of God's people and friends of the Isaiah 44 Project, **\$4500** was collected and distributed from the St. Nicholas Charity Legacy Fund to the Orthodox Church of Malawi. These funds have been used in an initial purchase 50kg bags of maize (corn), dry milk (for children) and other supplies. These simple provisions will not only meet critical food needs but, because crops were destroyed, some seed can possibly be used for replanting and restoration. Maize is a staple for Malawians that sustains the people year-around.

The funds were received directly by the Orthodox Church of Malawi, and the food and supplies were acquired locally and distributed to some of the areas most desperately in need as a result of the cyclone. Fr. Chrysanthos, as the Bishop's representative, helped to coordinate the effort while Fr. Nicodemos traveled to various parishes bringing the much-needed supplies.



Needed supplies arrive in the villages.



As always, the people sing in thanksgiving to  
God for His blessings!

The priests in Malawi have also mentioned that enough Project funds remain so that they can acquire and distribute another 27 sacks of maize to an isolated, impoverished area which is specially in need, hopefully before the end of July.

You may recall from the previous newsletter that in March 2023, Cyclone Freddie struck Malawi with horrific force, causing mass flooding, destroying critical roads and infrastructure, killing over a thousand people and destroying

***Continued, next page***

## Emergency Aid (cont. from p.1)

the homes of tens of thousands. Orthodox parishes - including the parish where the most recent Project well was installed - became places of refuge for some of the homeless. Supplies of every kind are desperately needed. While immediate aid is always welcomed, often the need for *sustaining* assistance is even greater as these people and their needs may be soon forgotten.

We give thanks to all of our Isaiah 44 Project supporters and donors for your continuing, prayerful efforts to keep these communities of God's people in your thoughts and prayers - and where possible, providing this emergency relief. *We are also especially grateful to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, including their Eminences Met. Antony and Archbishop Daniel, Fr. Steve Hutnick (Treasurer), and Natalia Honcharenko (Asst. Treasurer) for providing the means to transfer these funds directly, expediting the process.* May God see the Malawians through these difficult times, and enable them to experience His Grace and Presence through their challenges.

## Future Borehole Projects

While the Cyclone emergency required a temporary refocus of the needs to be addressed through the Isaiah 44 Project, we received news that the Orthodox Church of Malawi was able to provide a borehole for another of their parishes. We may, in the future, be able to address ongoing borehole needs by working with a variety of teams in the region. Working directly with the Orthodox Church of Malawi, we hope to continue our efforts to dedicate new boreholes where clean, fresh water is so desperately needed.

Through the gracious donations of our supporters, we now have sufficient funds for a new borehole!

Soon, once the final emergency food distributions are on their way to completion, we will be forwarding the funds for this borehole. As the donations continue to rise, we will be able to follow up quickly thereafter with additional boreholes to be provided for the people of villages in need.

We hope to provide a one year summary report on the Isaiah 44 Project in September. Financial information will be summarized in the January 2024 Newsletter. Feel free to call or message at any time to get updates.

## Intercession of St. Donatus

As Orthodox Christians, we are taught a vision of Christianity that encompasses everyone in the Church - the living and the departed - all sanctified for lives of holiness. As a recognition that this holiness touches the very body and soul of the Christian, and transforms us, so we view the bodies of the saints as holy, and recognize how the grace of God transfigures our world, our souls and bodies. Recently I was able to acquire a small reliquary that has relics from three saints - including Saint Valentine (yes, *that one!*), St. Boniface (evangelizer of the Germans) and St. Donatus. So who is the third saint?



Donatus was a fourth century defender of the Faith, martyred during the era of Julian the Apostate on Aug. 7th, 362. He was known for a number of miracles during his life as a bishop. Notably, in one story a well which was contaminated by a large, evil, dragon-like serpent was exorcised. A woman entrapped by the dragon was released, and the well restored to its purity.

I thought it appropriate to seek St. Donatus as an intercessor for the Isaiah 44 Project. We ask for his intercession that the work of providing pure sources of water might be accomplished in Malawi, and that the Evil Forces which would attempt to compromise, pollute or undo the holy work of the Church in Malawi, or of the Isaiah 44 Project would be overwhelmed by the grace and light of Christ, through the intercession of St. Donatus.

*In the future, when we have public events, we will offer the opportunity to venerate the relic of St. Donatus, that the purity of the Faith may fill us all!*

## Please Join Us in Prayer ...

- ♦ For the people of Malawi who continue to struggle as a result of Cyclone Freddie.
- ♦ For the people of the Orthodox Church of Malawi, for their Bishop and Clergy, that their ministry and witness to Christ might be strong and effective.
- ♦ *In thanksgiving* - for God's blessing to Rev. Don Ward, our key contact with the ELI ministry who helped us to begin this project a year ago. Don has been struggling with some health issues, but has received some good reports. Please pray for his continued recovery that he might be fully healed by our loving God.