



The Link



Fireman Nicholas Gabriel Receives A Life Saving Award



Above: Left, Fireman Nicholas Gabriel with his award. Right: Miracle baby Abigail with her adoptive mother, Anne-Marie.

A year ago, fire officials in the Caribbean island of the Commonwealth of Dominica, were alerted that a baby's cries had been heard coming from a public pit latrine. Fireman Nicholas Gabriel was 23 years old at the time and had joined the fire service just 8 months before. He was lowered into the pit latrine and rescued the newly born baby girl who was immediately rushed to hospital. Any knowledge of the baby's mother has not been forthcoming.

On 23rd May 2007, Fireman Gabriel received the Order's Life Saving Award in Bronze during a presentation ceremony held in Roseau, Dominica's capital and organised by the St John Association of Dominica. He was joined by his family and colleagues from the Fire Service alongside many St John members; officials and the media. The baby girl,

Abigail, was also there.

After receiving his medal, Fireman Gabriel acknowledged the importance of the honour and stressed that good teamwork had played a vital role in saving the child's life.

Abigail is now one year old and lives with her adoptive mother Anne Marie. Fireman Nicholas Gabriel has given the child his name during her baptism service and continues to provide both financial and emotional support to the "miracle baby".

This is the first time that the Order's Life Saving Award has been given to an associate of a St John Association. Dominica is proud of Fireman Nicholas Gabriel and with good reason.

**Does anyone have anything they wish to write about, or let people know about for the next issue of The Link? All items welcome. Just contact estherbloom@orderofstjohn.org
Please note that PDF versions of each new Link can be found on the Order of St John website**

Diamond Jubilee of St John Association of Mauritius

by Naushad Ally



We are organizing a lot of activities for the Diamond Jubilee celebration of St John Mauritius. We intended to launch the activities on the 1st of April (not as an April fool) with a Carnival Walk with all members, relatives, friends and all supporters of the St John family. We intend also to organise a training and management seminar, camping for all members and an annual first aid competition. I am the Secretary of the organising committee. At regional level, we have already started some activities. We are organising talks on HIV/AIDS with the help of the AIDS Unit (Governmental Organisation responsible for anti-AIDS

campaign) whereby members gained a lot and also a lunch pack was sponsored for this activity by the AIDS Unit.

Visit to Africa

Pippa Hoyland, International Development Officer, Order Secretariat



Above: The new young trainers in first aid and home based care in Uganda. Below: St John Zambia peer educators on HIV and AIDS. Right: A map of Tanzania with the railway lines tracing the history of St John in the country



Zambia/Wales

By Rhodri Jones, Priory for Wales



The Priory for Wales has recently embarked on a five year operational support plan for St John Zambia within the new framework of the STAPLE programme. Rhodri Jones who is the Headquarters Staff Officer (Operations) for St John Cymru Wales recently spent a week in Zambia investigating the support required and identifying areas where the Priory for Wales may assist. He is used to providing help to others as his normal day job is the Helpdesk Manager for Wales Council for Voluntary Action, the umbrella organisation for the third sector in Wales. Whilst in Zambia, he met with key stakeholders and especially the new Council members, participated in

a workshop on capacity building, visited community based projects, provided first aid at an international football match and even managed to be interviewed on national television! He has developed a suggested support plan to assist in Zambia's development of first aid and ambulance services and to forge a partnership between both countries. Benefits of this visit have already started to show and the Order Secretariat has been able to secure funding for a second hand ambulance for Lusaka - this will be the first ambulance to be owned by St John in Zambia.

Trainers sans Frontiers!

Frederick Otieno, Training Manager - St John Ambulance - Kenya

In a bid to establish itself as the preferred first aid training organization in the region, St. John Kenya has ventured into Sudan. The client is the UK-based Registered Engineers for Development - International Health Exchange (RedR-IHE). This was in response to a request for a quotation for first aid training in Sudan, which was forwarded to St John Kenya and other Associations by the Order Secretariat. In the successful proposal, the Training Department of St John Kenya developed a tailor-made 2-day course which would give participants the skills to handle injuries and conditions commonly found in the war-torn Darfur region of Sudan. A lot of emphasis was laid on CPR, trauma and prolonged casualty care since hospitals in the area are few and far between.

The training took place in March 2007 and the trainers were Frederick Otieno (Training Manager) and Ronald Wamutu (Trainer). The training covered El-Genina, Nyala and El-Fasher (though the El-Fasher training was cancelled by the Sudanese Government due to administrative issues.) Courses were attended by Sudanese nationals and other staff of various NGOs operating in Darfur. The success of the Darfur courses has led to more courses in Khartoum - for the World Food Program (WFP) Sudan, and others.

The two trainers worked round the clock to train a total of

100 new first aiders over a period of 1 month.

The main challenge was the language barrier. Most of the Sudanese participants were Arabic speaking, with very little understanding of English, so to overcome this, the training sessions focused more on practical skills. A few participants who spoke both English and Arabic helped with translation. There may be a need to develop course material in as many languages as possible, definitely Arabic being one of them.

In the course of training, we learnt that another organization in Khartoum was providing a 3-day First Aid course that included giving injections and administration of drugs. In fact over 60% of the participants indicated in their course critiques that they expected to learn how to give drugs and injections! We found this unacceptable.

As a refreshment after the training, the two trainers toured the River Nile Bridge in Khartoum, where the Blue Nile meets the White Nile on its way to Egypt. Unfortunately, photography in Sudan is strictly forbidden, so there are no pictures to show the spectacular view.

Our participation in this training gave us exposure and new experiences which will help us to make first aid training in Kenya stronger.

Capacity Building Column

Pippa Hoyland, International Development Officer, Order Secretariat

A good range of new initiatives have been taking place through the Capacity Building Programme over the past 6 months.

Needs assessment and planning workshops were held with a range of stakeholders from St John Associations in Sri Lanka (November 2006); Zambia (February 2007) which combined with the launch of the new Council for the Association and Tanzania (April 2007).

A strategic planning process was launched by St John Zimbabwe (February 2007) and the St John Uganda capacity building action plan was reviewed with St John in Uganda (April 2007). Over the same period St John

Uganda has been assisted with staff training in Information Technology.

The importance of having full time paid staff members to carry forward Association business resulted in a new initiative to assist St John Associations in the Caribbean region to recruit full time staff members for their Associations. St John Malawi was able to recruit their first full time coordinator with a grant made available through the Secretariat.

If you would like any information about the above, please contact pippahoyland@orderofstjohn.org

Appeal for Ambulance Bears Fruit

Fred Otieno, Training Manager, St John Ambulance - Kenya

In 2006/7, St John Kenya, whose fleet of ambulances was growing old, appealed to a number of organisations for support. Johanniter International (JOIN) responded by donating a Toyota Land cruiser ambulance and vital equipment, including a defibrillator (which we had sought for many years), Suction Unit, Pulse Oximetre and Intubation Set. The ambulance was officially handed over to St John Kenya by Count Wilhelm V. Schwerin, the President of Johanniter on 18th January. It was an honour to have the Count travel all the way from Germany for this ceremony. The equipment will be helpful to people with heart problems.

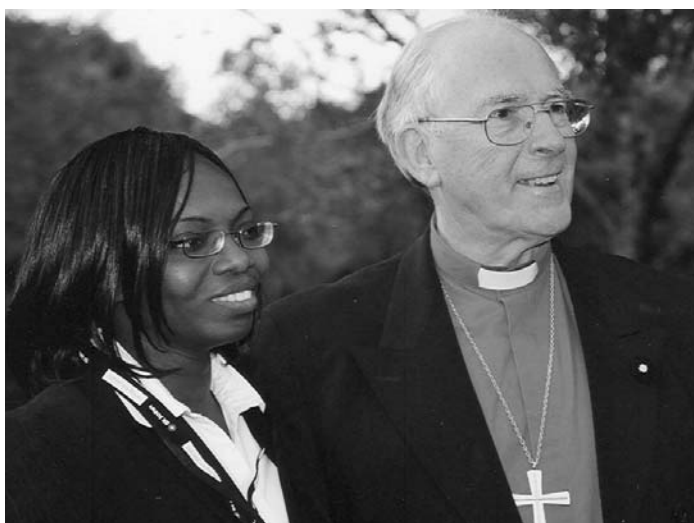
An appeal was also sent to Safaricom Foundation, the largest mobile phone service provider in Kenya, who responded by donating a Toyota Land cruiser ambulance

for Nyanza and Western Region in May 2007.

The ambulance was officially handed over to the National Council Chairman, Hon. Maj. (Rtd) Marsden Madoka, EGH, MP., C.St.J during a fundraising Golf Tournament supported by Safaricom on 11th May 2007. St. John Kenya will forever be grateful to the two donors, many lives will be saved through their kind gesture.



Grand Council 2007



Above: Emefa Toppar and Bishop John Waine at the Grand Council in Cape Town earlier this month

St John in Sri Lanka is interested in learning about any experiences within St John relating to working with people in prisons. if you have anything to share please contact Akalanka, the training manager, at stjohnservice@slt.net.lk. The Secretariat would also be interested in learning from your experiences in this area.

St John Ambulance International Pen Pals

Hello

I'm a Youth Leader from Ontario, Canada and my Juniors and Cadets are entering the Communication section of their training.

Part of their training is to have a pen pal from another country that they can communicate with to learn about the other country and St John Ambulance in other countries.

I have 17 children in my program. If any of you are interested or know who else I could contact to become pen pals with my cadets I would love to hear from you.

This could be a great learning experience for all our cadets.

Thank you.

Victoria Thomas [hun_y@hotmail.com]

New Kenya Website

The Deputy Prime Minister of Kenya was present at the launch of Kenya's new website in late February.

The website is: www.st.johnkenya.org