

Solace International

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The 2021 Solace International Trustees Annual Report

('Solace')





Solace

Trustees Annual Report

(2021)



S.T.A.R. '21



The 2021 Solace International Trustees Annual Report



*Owing to current coronavirus-related restrictions this Report
has been prepared for presentation online in lieu of the
Organisation's Annual General Meeting (AGM)*





**In line with established *Solace* organisational practice,
this document also serves as
*Solace International's Annual General Report for the
Year of our Lord, 2021***





*What Marvels the LORD Worked for
us; indeed, we are glad! - Ps 126:3 CJB*





All We See Is Beauty

The way by which we've come
Seems onerous to some
But as we look now back
Along that winding track
All that we can see
Is beauty and more beauty...

It never was once easy
We felt strained and stressed and queasy
But on and on we pressed
Though we'd been sorely pressed
Knowing that our duty
Was one of love and beauty...

Solace International
So brave and strong and rational



We fight in the Name of Perfection
 God our True Protection
 Who Gives us the True Booty
 Of boundless lovely Beauty!

- Joseph Dos Santos

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¹ This unique style of laying out a Table of Contents is the brainchild of Joseph E.G.D. Dos Santos (2019) and therefore duly acknowledged.



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Our Mission Statement

With the Lord Jesus Christ as our Flawless Role Model, *Solace's* Mission is to provide an excellent service positively impacting lives and always glorifying to God.





Foreword

Welcome to S.T.A.R. '21, the 2021 Trustees Annual Report for *Solace International* ('Solace'²). In this report we have by the Grace of God, outlined the progress of *Solace International* ('Solace') in achieving its aims and objectives. As is our wont, despite being a standalone document, S.T.A.R. '21 is presented as distinct from – and yet in continuation of (therefore building upon), previous annual reports of the Organisation. As such, to the Glory of God Who Alone is the Perfect, All-Transcending and Eternal Solace of all Creation – by His Love and in His Wisdom, this report uses in part or in whole at various points throughout, portions and sections which can also be found in previous reports, including but not only, last year's and that of the year before. We in fact hope in Him, that this shall continually be the case, for as long as *Solace International* abides. May it Please the LORD that this Organisation shall

² The name 'Solace' is generic – the aim being to serve as an umbrella name for the Organisation wherever it may be found. At present, Solace is registered in the United Kingdom, as **Solace International** and in the Republic of Kenya, as **InterSolace Organisation**.



long outlive its Founder and his contemporaries by as many generations as the Second Coming³ tarries by.

Long live *Solace*...long live *Solace International*!



In His Footsteps

Like our Unfailing Role Model Jesus, the Only Christ, we aim to be – but positively so, different things to different people. Each of our actions will mainly seek to enhance the holistic advancement of any communities wherein as it Pleases the LORD, *Solace* is engaged – whether directly or otherwise. As was the Wont of our Lord Jesus Christ in Whose Footsteps we follow, *Solace* will always put the service user/client/customer ('needy') first; the needy will always be who, as well as what, drives us on and our services will generally be moulded around the needy as Guided by the Holy Spirit, Who alone Understands to Perfection our every need

³ See Matthew 25:31-46; Lk 1:9-11, etc.



as individuals and as people. As our Unfailing Role Model Christ also Did, *Solace* will always aim for the highest standards with God the Highest Standard, our Guide and Focus. We want to be unique in everything we are engaged in; we want to be well-known for our overall excellent quality of service and marvellous personnel; we want to maintain an unassailable position among the best in our chosen fields of endeavour. Simply put, we just want to be the best.

By the Grace of God, we will be the best.

Resolution

Following its Quarterly Meeting for Autumn 2021, the *Solace International* Board of Trustees (hereinafter referred to as 'The Solace Board', 'The Board' or 'The Trustees') resolved as follows:

- 1.) The Report covered by this resolution and contained in this document shall form the main body of the Organisation's Annual Report for 2021;
- 2.) The Report shall be designated and known as 'The 2021 Solace International Trustees Annual Report' or S.T.A.R. '21;
- 3.) The Report shall be presented at the Organisation's next Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be held online;



- 4.) The 2021 AGM is to be held before Christmas Day, 2021;
- 5.) In keeping with *Solace International* ('Solace') convention established in the Year of our Lord 2017, S.T.A.R. '21 shall be deemed officially complete and therefore closed, after Christmas Day, 2021;
- 6.) Official completion and closure shall include insertion of the accompanying report from *InterSolace Organisation* ('Solace Kenya') and any other Solace branch or affiliate in other countries as the case may be;
- 7.) It shall only be declared complete and closed also, once there is no possibility of updates as requested or mandated by the Governments (or relevant departments) of the countries where *Solace* actively operates.

Signed..... D.N. Mnyasa

Dephrose N. Mnyasa (for: Board of Trustees, *Solace International*)

SOLACE INTERNATIONAL: *Solace* in brief

Here in ten bullet-points, are a few things to know about *Solace International*...

- 1.) The term 'solace' is roughly synonymous with words like: *calm, comfort, consolation, encouragement, help, peace, relief, soothing, succour and support*.
- 2.) In that light, the word 'solace' reflects our chief purpose: to bring the effect of these synonyms to bear in the lives of many.
- 3.) *Solace* was conceptualised in the United Kingdom (UK), but began operating first in Kenya, in 2012, securing both UK and Kenya registration two years later.



- 4.) In Kenya, *Solace* operates as 'InterSolace Organisation'. In the UK, it is 'Solace International'. Solace is not registered anywhere else at present.
- 5.) *Solace* operates by the Grace of God, using Holy Bible Principles, although we are not part of any church. Nonetheless (in the UK and to a lesser extent, Kenya), we conduct our own (Christian) religious services and activities.
- 6.) We also believe in collaboration and so continue to work with others (individuals/organisations/groups).
- 7.) We aim to further the Christian Faith and to alleviate poverty.
- 8.) We also seek to touch at least one life in every nation and territory on Earth.
- 9.) There are over two hundred nations and territories in the world. So far, *Solace International* has supported individuals and groups in only thirty-nine (39) countries.⁴ We therefore, still have a long way to go.
- 10.) By the Grace of God, once we are sure we have touched at least one life in every nation and territory on Earth, we shall start the cycle again.

The Organisation's charitable objects

The objects of *Solace* are:

- a.) To benefit the public;
- b.) The advancement of the Christian Faith and
- c.) The prevention or relief of poverty.

⁴ See Appendix B.



Its aims and activities

We seek to honour God the Almighty Creator of All Life and Owner of Everything. We also seek to and testify of His Greatness and Goodness through our actions and activities in that light – and hoping to work in collaboration with other similar-minded groups or individuals, the aims of *Solace International* are chiefly to:

- Be and remain, an international organisation operating across several continents of the world;
- Further the Christian Faith through the use of apostolic and deaconate means;
- Empower people and groups against poverty in all its forms, using a prudent but radical understanding of ‘poverty’.

Activities (What the charity does)

Solace in furtherance of its aims, engages in general charitable purposes as well as the following:

- a.) Education and training;
- b.) Prevention and relief of poverty;
- c.) Religious activities;
- d.) Economic/community development;
- e.) Promotion and support of diversity, equality, human rights, racial harmony, and religious tolerance.



Who the charity helps

Solace International helps the general public and Mankind. In other words, we are not particular or discriminatory about who we help. The help we give is however subject to variables, such as:

- (1.) The availability of relevant human, financial and other resources;
- (2.) Strict criteria as set forth in the Organisation's Constitution, Beneficiaries Policy and/or other governing documents;
- (3.) Any other criteria laid down by the *Solace International* Board of Trustees.

How the charity works

There are several ways by which we work to achieve the above, the main one being that:

- a.) *Solace International* makes grants to individuals and to organisations;⁵
- b.) We also develop and provide human resources;
- c.) *Solace International* offers governance and capacity-building support;

⁵ We do not offer loans. We have experimented with doing so (offering interest-free loans in support of small businesses and serious family challenges), but discovered that lending money although potentially of greater value/benefit to those who receive them, generates levels of dishonesty and ill-will almost impossible to describe – or even understand. Lending is in our opinion, for a small charity such as this, more trouble than it is worth and so the decision has been made to ditch the idea.



- d.) We are engaged in community-relevant training delivery, business support, as well as the facilitation of seminars and workshops;
- e.) Finally, *Solace* provides advocacy and advice/information as well as other services relevant to individuals in need and to communities.

In keeping with practice established in the original *Solace* Trustees Annual Report and maintained thereafter, as well as for ease of communication, this report uses the information bulleted under *Activities: What the Charity does* as subheadings in the two sections ('Successes', 'Failures') below. Also, in line with established *Solace* convention, the information under the other subheadings (e.g. 'Who the charity helps', 'How the charity works' and 'The Organisation's charitable objects', etc.) contributes to fleshing out the report in the relevant sections.

The Solace journey thus far: Reasons to smile

God Honours us with the Favour of Letting us experience success in a range of areas, as we improve on strides already made in years gone by. Even so, the below-stated successes are presented keeping in mind the Undying Words of our Lord Jesus Christ, as Recorded in the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke:



LIKEWISE, WHEN YE SHALL HAVE DONE ALL THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE COMMANDED YOU, SAY: "WE ARE UNPROFITABLE SERVANTS: WE HAVE DONE THAT WHICH WAS OUR DUTY TO DO"⁶

As noted in last year's Report, the vastness of what by the Ever-Bountiful Hand of God, we have so far achieved, is reflected in the Organisation's continued lack of corporate funding, regular donations or high publicity. We can never appreciate the LORD Almighty enough regarding His Goodness as Demonstrated through this charity in in the following pages. As continually we have pointed out, the key barometer by which *Solace International* evaluates achievements, regrets and areas for improvement is the list of what we set out to achieve.

Area 1:⁷ Education and training	
Activity	Details

⁶ Lk 17:10

⁷ These areas are marked with numbers for purposes of making the list easier to read. They do not reflect any kind of order or priority list.



**Seminars
and
workshops**

We believe that it is the Will of God, for people to be well educated, better informed and more empowered. “My People perish” He Says, “from lack of knowledge”.⁸ Thus, it is the position of *Solace International* that the more educated one is, the better able they would be to serve God optimally by among other things, contributing to the community and doing their best for their loved ones. *Solace* also holds, that the most effective antidote to the maladies of corruption, poverty and wanton violence (be it domestic, political, religious, ethnic or other) is through education. For this reason, *Solace* regularly puts on free training programmes. Depending on the topic and space, the programmes last from half a day (e.g. ‘Helping children settle in their new surroundings’) to twelve weeks (e.g. ‘*Solace* Enterprise Empowerment Programme’).

As part of the training programmes we deliver (usually completely free of charge⁹) *Solace* uses the Christian Sacred Scriptures (commonly known as ‘the Holy Bible’), together with a creative mix of written and non-written sources. The training we offer especially in business support and set-up will from next year, focus less on Christian principles and more on generally applicable ones. We aim in doing so, to make the training more attractive and accessible to a wider clientele. A full list of what programmes we offer accompanies this report (see: ‘Appendix D: The *Solace*’s

⁸ Hos 4:6

⁹ Where fees are applied, these are usually nominal and generally waived or reduced if the debtor so requests.



	Training Programme’).
<i>Books</i>	<p><i>Solace</i> has collected and distributed since 2014, close to five thousand books. These have come from a myriad of sources including Joseph Dos Santos (the Organisation’s Founder), members of the public, abandoned publications, donated misprints, <i>Solace International</i> purchases, etc. The books tend to be mainly educational with a heavy bias for primary school-age readers. However, we have also distributed a good number of entertainment books such as novels, novellas and periodicals. We believe that reading enhances education, but reading would not be easy if it had to be without entertainment. For this reason, we have not restricted our work in this area to only academic textbooks or Christian religious publications. <i>Solace</i> continues to negotiate with schools and bookshops, both Christian and non-Christian, for more donations. In line with our aim of furthering the Christian Faith, the Organisation has also distributed so far, around a hundred bibles.</p> <p>In 2021, we have also engaged in storytelling and story-writing for children. Next year, <i>Solace International</i> hopes to work with selected parents on supporting children to tell and even write their own stories. Some of these stories will with their permission, be printed and published under the ‘<i>Solace International Publications</i>’ banner.</p>



Area 2: The prevention or relief of poverty (UK)	
Activity	Details
<i>Foodbank</i>	<p>In 2021, mainly due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a rise in manifestations of poverty across the United Kingdom – such as rough-sleeping, dumpster-diving and begging. As previously noted, several reports and research findings share the consensus that many UK families are unable to afford decent meals – even where the families have one or more gainfully employed breadwinners.¹⁰ It has also been noted, that one sign of neglect in child abuse cases is the continuous starvation and/or malnourishment of the child (Dos Santos, 2019). It has also been consistently found, that in a host of cases, families are unable to combine food purchases with paying of rents, utility bills, insurance and other costs.</p> <p>While (thanks to God) there are many food banks and other food provisions (e.g. soup kitchens and food hubs), some families are too embarrassed, ashamed or even afraid to visit food banks or openly express their need for help with food, creating an added vulnerability. In response, <i>Solace International</i> has supported the <i>H2G Food Hub</i> and is negotiating with several parties, to establish in 2022, a soup kitchen which could also serve as a one-stop shop for support in other areas (e.g. CV reviews, benefits advice and signposting). Furthermore,</p>

¹⁰ As the references below demonstrate, there are several reasons for this. *Solace International* will God Willing, issue a report on the matter later this year (2021).



	<p>the Organisation continues to operate its flagship <i>Foodbank With A Difference</i> wherein by means of a floating foodbank we go in search of the needy instead of waiting for them to find us. We are in doing so, walking in the Footsteps of Jesus Christ our Chief Role Model Who did not always Wait for those in need to approach Him: He more often than not, Moved around, Making Himself both available and accessible to those in need of His Goodness.</p>
<p><i>School support</i></p>	<p><i>Solace</i> continues to support schools in Kenya, to educate orphans and children from disadvantaged backgrounds. The level of support has however been scaled down in deference both to the Organisation's lack of resources and the Organisation's decision to reduce its involvement and presence in Kenya, effective 2021.¹¹ <i>Solace's</i> schools support varies, depending on the institution – and can range from supporting children through school by paying for their school fees, school uniforms and other school-related needs, to availing them and/or their families, money for extra tuition, school meals and boarding.</p>
	<p><i>Solace</i> continues to support parents experiencing poverty to deal with their situation by breaking free from the cycle/bondage of poverty. The priority is in light of the current global health situation, no longer on single parents. Instead, we continue to generalise our</p>

¹¹ The *Solace International* Board of Trustees later rescinded this decision as a result of which, Kenya continues to be the main focus of our work and resources. This situation is to be however, regularly reviewed between now and 2025 when by the Grace of God, a final decision on the matter would have been made.



Poverty- busting

support in this area, on a case-by-case basis. Small cash grants have been made (UK and elsewhere), but other forms of support such as the supply of foodstuff, arrangements with restaurants and pharmacists (Kenya), as well as signposting (UK and elsewhere) have become the hallmark of our work in this area as the Organisation adjusts to what has come to be known as 'the new normal' (Maragakis, 2020). Nonetheless, the Organisation's flagship *Solace* Enterprise Empowerment Programme (SEEP) which was temporarily shelved, has resumed since in our opinion, it is important to support as many people as we can, to stand up against COVID, its system, government and religion, by refusing to dwell in manufactured poverty, but instead breaking free through enterprise and self-employment wherever possible. This is to the Glory of God Whose Will it is that we "prosper and be in good health"¹². The SEEP will however as noted hitherto, shortly begin to diversify its content, with the vision of making it more beneficial to a wider populace. In addition, we are working on an online version which hopefully would cost less and reach more: cost us less money and resources to deliver, but reach many more people.

¹² 3Jn: 2



Collaborati on

We are building relationships with other organisations – including corporate, charitable, academic, religious and unregistered community groups both in Kenya and the UK.¹³ This will allow us to help even more people in other areas without having to take on the financial and other costs of registration and opening offices everywhere. It is also a chance to support other organisations towards achieving their own visions, aims and objectives. We are for instance, working with groups and individuals in Uganda, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Nigeria, Nepal, Namibia, Kenya, Ghana, Botswana and elsewhere. In light of current resource realities which the Organisation is currently having to live with, the collaborations have been largely informal and even indirect – such as our arrangements in Botswana, Ivory Coast, Ghana, etc. As with our collaborations in Vietnam, Pakistan, Jamaica, India, Barbados, etc., some of the arrangements are still at a very foetal stage. However, interagency working remains a key aspect of *Solace International's* modus operandi. In the UK and Kenya, *Solace* continues to be a part of and/or engaged with: *ACTS Church, Born Again Revival Tabernacle International, Kenya (BARTI-K), Croydon BME Forum, Croydon Voluntary Association (CVA), Deliverance Church International, Faiths Together in Croydon (FTiC), Groots-Mathare (Kenya), Hope Africa Community, Kingston Voluntary Action (KVA), Lambeth Voluntary Action (LVAC) Restoration*

¹³ Our letterheads reflect this as we tend to include at the bases of the documents, logos of most organisations we have worked or partnered with. Some groups are yet to be added though. They will be inserted as time goes on, subject to approval by the Trustees acting on the advice of the Chief Administrator.



	<p><i>World Revival Church (RWRC) and SOS Children's Village Buruburu (Kenya) among others.</i></p> <p>Sadly however, for a variety of reasons highlighted by single words in the related footnotes, we have had to end or suspend our relationships with the following: <i>Africa Youth Development Association (AYDA),¹⁴ Be Different 365,¹⁵ Born Again Revival Tabernacle International, Malawi (BARTI-M),¹⁶ Born Again Revival Tabernacle International, Croydon (BARTI-UK),¹⁷ Circle of Parents (CoP),¹⁸ Croydon Food Network (CFN),¹⁹ Citizens,²⁰ Full Gospel Churches of Kenya Buruburu,²¹ Heads2Gether (H2G),²² House of Prayer For All Nations,²³ Kenya Assemblies of God,²⁴ Parent Champions²⁵ and Winners Chapel.²⁶ A short report explaining these reasons will be available before S.T.A.R. '22, God Willing.</i></p>
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¹⁴ Self-focus.

¹⁵ Self-focus.

¹⁶ Corruption.

¹⁷ COVID.

¹⁸ Confusion.

¹⁹ Defunct.

²⁰ Ambiguity

²¹ Dishonesty.

²² Corruption.

²³ Defunct.

²⁴ Dishonesty.

²⁵ Confidentiality-breach

²⁶ Achieved.



Area 3: The prevention or relief of poverty (Kenya and elsewhere)

Activity	Details
Street kids	<p>Street children, 'street kids', or <i>chokora</i> as they are known in Kenya, are minors (typically aged between six and fifteen years old) who for a variety of reasons (e.g. abuse, being orphaned, victims of crime, running away from home, drug addiction, etc.) are forced to live on the streets. They can sometimes be spotted moving about the country's urban areas in dishevelled packs of five-to-fifty strong. They are particularly vulnerable to violent criminals and are also usually easy targets for lynch groups when a theft or other petty crime has occurred but the perpetrators are unknown or unclear.²⁷ Criminal and terror gangs also find them easy to aim for. We do not have the capacity for rehabilitating them, but <i>Solace</i> has provided food and money to many <i>chokoras</i>, as well as companionship which in the absence of formal counselling, has proven quite helpful – especially in the cold and lonely – even dangerous hours of the night when most law-abiding adults are home, law</p>

²⁷ This is not to say that the street children are entirely innocent. In their desperation, they have been known to commit serious crimes such as violent robbery, severe assaults and the occasional rape. However, *Solace* takes the position that nonetheless, street children are as a whole (despite the unfortunate and opprobrious actions of a minority within the group), quite vulnerable, being easy targets for every kind of criminal and violent person (which in part explains why street children tend to move in packs...safety in numbers). It must also be remembered, that they are minors.



	<p>enforcement agents are scarce leaving the streets bare, dangerous and lonely.</p> <p>In addition, <i>Solace International</i> has this year, appointed an official whose role is to find more ways of supporting children and parents whose levels of need force them onto the streets to beg or scavenge for sustenance.</p>
<i>Clothes supply</i>	<p>Between 2014 and 2021, <i>Solace International</i> has supplied more than eight thousand free clothes and shoes to those in need. Although in the past, <i>Solace</i> has also arranged for several individuals and groups to visit <i>Solace</i> premises to collect further consignments of clothes, in 2020, the focus was on ensuring that in the face of the current global health situation, no person who needed clothes was turned away empty-handed after coming to us. For the first time since the Organisation began this project in 2014, we have however completely run out of clothes as our stock numbering several thousands of clothes was emptied while we addressed the needs of those who turned to us. The supply of free clothes is a very important aspect of our work in the prevention or relief of poverty in Kenya where a large section of its people live below the poverty line and the buying of clothes is such a mountainous problem for many families. A small percentage of our clothes were given out in the UK as for only the second time in our history, we have had cases of people coming to <i>Solace</i> in England, for help with clothing. The only other time this has happened, was in 2015 when users of our then-static UK foodbank almost routinely made requests for clothes. The key</p>



	<p>difference was that in 2015, <i>Solace International</i> gave out around 45% of its clothes collection in the UK, whereas in 2020, the UK figure stands at around 25%. The UK requests were this time round, also often distinct from rather than connected to, food requests, unlike in 2015, when not a single request for clothes in the UK came from persons who did not also require help with food.</p>
<p>Cash grants</p>	<p>As already indicated, <i>Solace International</i> continues to make cash grants to those in need. The Organisation does not however, give loans. Our reasons for this can be found in the TAR for last year and the year before – although we have added a supplementary-cum-complementary reason in this Report.²⁸ That said, is an inevitable aspect of the Organisation’s work that we make cash grants wherever and whenever we can. The grants are however, usually small and even so, only where there is no other alternative. All grants are subject to the availability of funds as well as strict criteria as laid out in our Beneficiaries Policy and the decision of the Trustees. This year, <i>Solace International</i> has made grants to beneficiaries in Botswana, Ghana, Malawi, Nepal and Nigeria.</p>

Area 4: Religious activities	
Activity	Details
	In spite of the restrictions on movement across the

²⁸ Please, see: *How the charity works*, above. Thank you.



The 'Towards' Reports

world in general and Kenya as well as the UK in general, the Organisation has managed to support a church in Kenya with this unique capacity-building tool. As indicated in previous TARs, every year since 2012, *Solace International* has contributed to the capacity-building of at least one church. The support offered in this regard ranges widely from helping to set up a youth and teens ministry (*Winners Chapel*, Malindi, Kenya), through to observing what could be going wrong in a church and suggesting ways to put it right (*Hope Africa*, Syiokimau, Kenya) to simple church planting (*Born Again Revival Tabernacle International* [BARTI] UK). In all, we have so far provided such support for more than ten churches and Christian ministries. The support usually culminates in a report with a title that begins: 'Towards' (e.g. 'Towards A Better Youth Ministry', 'Towards Clearer Communication', 'Towards A Stronger Church', etc.). The reports allow us to build, maintain and present a colourful portfolio of our work in this unique area of Christian ministry, while furnishing the ministries involved, their leaderships as well as others corporate and individual, who may learn from them, with the unique tool of an interested outsider's keen eye as they seek to glorify God and meet people's expectations through the work they do in His Name, by His Grace and to His Glory.

It must be added here however, that as part of our diversification approach, the 'Towards' reports have not been strictly restricted to supporting churches. For instance, in 2016, we prepared one for *Ashleys Hair and Beauty Academy* (Kenya) and this year, we prepared one



	for <i>Heads2gether</i> aka 'H2G' (UK).
<i>Preaching engagements</i>	Although we are an intrinsic and inextricable part of the Church – the Bride of Jesus Christ, <i>Solace International</i> does not refer to itself as a church and is not affiliated to any church. Our work nonetheless, is centred on furtherance of the Gospel. This has brought us to the attention of several Christian leaders who have been glad to honour our Founder and by extension, <i>Solace International</i> , with the privilege of speaking God's Word from their pulpits, altars, sanctuaries and other exclusive platforms. Since 2020, there have been over a hundred of such engagements. <i>Solace International</i> also has its own Christian fora – such as its <i>WhatsApp</i> -based daily preaching and prayer platforms.
<i>Evangelisation</i>	In the area of evangelisation, <i>Solace</i> continues to work with other entities in reaching out to God's People on the streets of not only Kenya and the United Kingdom, but Botswana, Ghana, India, Nigeria, Nepal, Pakistan, Portugal, Sri Lanka and South Africa. In addition (as already indicated above), our training programmes (especially those to do with leadership, counselling skills and enterprise empowerment) generally contain Bible-based material, although (as also indicated above) we are working on a non-Bible-based alternative.
<i>Bible distribution</i>	<i>Solace</i> continues to acquire through a variety of means including purchase and donations, bibles which are then distributed free of charge, to those who need but cannot afford to buy them. In 2019, <i>Solace</i> received from <i>St Francis Anglican Parish</i> , Monks Hill (Selsdon, Surrey),



<p>n</p>	<p>the generous donation of ten bibles. These wonderful gifts are passed over to those who need them. This year, we have made available, two children's bibles – continuing a practice dating back to 2017, since when we have supplied over fifty children's bibles – especially (though not only) in Kenya. This year, we have managed to supply so far, only one adult bible. Such unique efforts are of course, quite expensive in terms of time and funds, but we are as always, quite glad as well as humbled and honoured, to serve the LORD and His People in this way.</p>
<p>Other support for the wider Church</p>	<p>Although not as part of any formal agreement or arrangement, <i>Solace International</i> continues to support directly and indirectly, with cash and other resources, a variety of Christian charities. We also work hard to sensitise Christians to the fact that giving to other Christian charities is part of the obligation of giving to the Work of God. This year alone, we have made an estimated forty-plus calls via our channels, encouraging our friends to support other charities. While endeavouring not to favour any, we have specifically mentioned <i>Open Doors</i> which supports the persecuted Church around the world – and for which <i>Solace International</i> organised an awareness night a few years ago. As noted in last year's report, since 2019, we have been adding profiles of Christian charities at the backs of our publications. As indicated in last year's TAR, our newsletter, social media platforms and website all reflect this. In addition, <i>Solace</i> continues to support even more ministries across the world with a monthly</p>



	tithe on income generated, as mandated in the <i>Solace Tithe and Tithing Policy</i> .
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Area 5: <i>Economic/community development/employment</i>	
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Details</i>
<i>Collaborations</i>	This year, we have in Kenya mainly, supported around fifteen small-scale businesses. We have backed them with money and other resources. In addition, we are supporting five groups to register formally as charities or charitable organisations in the UK, Nigeria and Kenya. This shows that our range of collaborations has undulated colourfully - even as we have ended certain collaborations and taken on new ones, while continuing a few others. ²⁹ The support we have given includes but does not stop at: free use of our office in Kenya, free secretarial and registration services, professional and semi-professional advice on operating in the voluntary sector, financial support, free or low-priced policy drafting, etc.

<i>Area 6: Human rights, religious or racial harmony,</i>
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²⁹ Please see 'Collaboration' under Area 2 above. Thank you.



<i>equality or diversity</i>	
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Details</i>
<i>Domestic violence</i>	In addition to the contents of this section in last year's Report, we note that the appointment of an official dubbed 'Acting Director of Women's Affairs and Families', ³⁰ will go a long way in supporting people to deal more effectively with domestic violence and its fallout. Much of our work in this area will for now be concentrated in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa (as it has done so far), but it is anticipated that this would soon change – expanding over the coming years, to include Europe and the Americas.
<i>Employee abuse</i>	The abuse or maltreatment of employees is a socioeconomic problem which transcends all races and cultures across the world. We are actively engaged in supporting victims wherever and whenever we can. For reasons of confidentiality and sensitivity however, we regret that we will not give any details in this document, other than to state that this is a problem that has actually resulted in threats to <i>Solace</i> staff, but which irrespective of the dangers involved, we will continue to challenge – and challenge with firmness, to the Glory of God Who has Ruled that all employees must be treated fairly and considerately. ³¹
	One of the aspects of poverty not often viewed as being connected to the problem, is advocacy. Many people are

³⁰ A title which is likely to change slightly, to make it less of a mouthful, in the coming months.

³¹ The Holy Bible's Gospel According to Saint Luke (Lk) 10:7 and Saint Paul's First Letter (possibly) to Timothy col 4:1; 1Tim 5:18; Jas 5:4, etc.



<i>Letters and advocacy</i>	<p>poor because they have no strong voice and no one to speak out/up for them. At <i>Solace</i>, we have continued however, to provide understated but quite effective support in this area for members of the public. We have found though, that the need for this service tends to vary according to country and culture. In addition. <i>Solace</i> continues to help many prospective job seekers in the production of very presentable CVs, cover letters and personal statements. In 2021 alone, we have given written/writing support to over ninety people and groups - most of them from the UK. Since 2014, we have supported close to one thousand - and hope to cross the one-thousand threshold before the end of 2021.</p>
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Area 7: General	
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Details</i>
<i>Family</i>	<p><i>Solace</i> provides a free service in which we bring estranged family members back together. One of our greatest successes was the reconciliation in 2017, of a father and daughter who had not spoken for almost fifteen years, having lost contact with each other during that time. The daughter approached us and through social media as well as other lines of enquiry, we managed to track him down in another part of the country and link them with each other again. Another area covered by this section of our work, is regarding men who deny paternity of children it is reasonable to</p>



	believe they have sired. We work to bring resolution to these situations as this ensures that irrespective of the rancour which may have overshadowed their parents' relationships, the children caught up in such situations can receive the support which as the Holy Bible Makes clear, they are entitled to from their fathers.
Targeting	It is still the case, that <i>Solace</i> works with individuals as well as communities in support of those who though in need, fail to meet specific criteria and so are unable to receive the help they need. We endeavour where possible, to identify such individuals and then provide relevant support within reason and according to our means.
Policies	<p><i>Solace</i> has continued to enhance its capacity-building through the compilation and application of relevant policies. We now have a total of twenty-five policies. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Accounts <input type="checkbox"/> Beneficiaries <input type="checkbox"/> Child Protection and Safeguarding <input type="checkbox"/> Complaints <input type="checkbox"/> Conflict of Interest <input type="checkbox"/> Data Protection <input type="checkbox"/> Enterprise Empowerment <input type="checkbox"/> Equal Opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Food Hygiene and Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Health and Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday <input type="checkbox"/> Invoice <input type="checkbox"/> Office Share <input type="checkbox"/> Tithe and Tithing <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer policies.
	Despite the almost indescribable financial pressures we are under, <i>Solace</i> has refused to cut corners such as



<i>Integrity</i>	engaging in bribery. Bribery has remained an almost immovable issue in Kenya. In the UK, <i>Solace</i> invariably returns or rejects (i.e. refuses to collect or accept) all donations where doubts exist or persist, as to the source and/or motive of the donations in question.
<i>Expanded reach</i>	For the second year running, <i>Solace International</i> has managed to generate revenue from beyond the UK. <i>WoW Sanctuary</i> based in Juja (Kenya), pledged in August this year, to be making regular monthly donations to <i>Solace</i> until February 2022 when this shall be reviewed. A revenue drive across some of the nations we are engaged with is also planned for later this year. This year also, we have supported people in India, Namibia and Pakistan. We are seeking to do the same for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in light of the volcanic eruptions occurring there, as well as Lebanon, Peru and Venezuela, following the near collapse of their economies. As always, <i>Solace International</i> is acting with wisdom rooted in reality. We therefore remain aware, that we cannot do much for any country as a whole, but we can at the very minimum, bring relief – <u><i>solace</i></u> in fact, to at least one person in each country. By the Grace of God our Everlasting Provider and Guide, we hope to find reliable partners in these and other places before the publication of our next Annual Report.



Let us remember...

...that these reasons to smile, are only a selection taken from a beautiful range of many more. *Solace International* remains firm, focused and fired up as we seek by the Grace of God and to His Glory, to keep labouring in the Divine Vineyard, while receiving in all humility, such Victories as it Pleases Him to Grant us. We know that there are – and will always be, many other organisations which as the LORD would Have it – although better-resourced than *Solace International*, have been unable to achieve this much. That realisation is however balanced against the equal Truth, that there are – and will always be, other organisations with even far less resources than God has Granted this Organisation, which have performed far better than *Solace International*. That said, successes are always worth celebrating – no matter what size, shade or shape they come in, since all good things Flow to us on Earth from Heaven Above, to the Glory of God the Father of Lights, with Whom there is no shadow of turning.³² He Guides us to aim for more and for higher, even when we find ourselves looking at some of the mountains before us – and scratching our heads...

³² Jas 1:17



The Solace journey thus far: Scratching our heads

It has Pleased the LORD in His Infinite Wisdom, that we should be humbled by several areas for improvement, some of which are outlined below. The same format as in the case of our reasons to smile above, has been used here.

Area 1: Education and training	
Activity	Details
<i>Books</i>	Despite the huge need for same, we still are unable to acquire enough books for distribution to those in need. The demand far outstrips the supply. Surprisingly, this issue has never made it onto the agenda of any of our Trustees meetings – and the Organisation’s Administrators have not discussed it either. The failure here therefore, is not simply in our inability to acquire more books, but in the fact that we do not have any idea why this situation persists (despite the observations on the matter made in last year’s Report). Clearly, there is room – and need, for improvement if we are to adequately and appropriately address this issue.
<i>Training programmes</i>	This year, the challenges we faced in this area have been not only different from those of last year, but singularly unique. The current global pandemic has led to a rise in online education and training which has in turn generated a greater uptake of online academic and empowerment services. For reasons as yet unclear, <i>Solace International</i> has not taken advantage of this new and truly exciting opening, despite its potential for better publicity, higher revenue generation and greater



	reach.
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Area 2: The prevention or relief of poverty (UK)	
Activity	Details
Material and cash reliefs	<p>The alleviation and ultimate defeat of poverty remain a huge part of our work; it is a job the Organisation takes quite seriously. Thus, as hitherto noted, <i>Solace International</i> provides to those in need, material reliefs such as clothes and financial support in the form of small grants. This it may be argued, is a laudable approach (Blattman, Fiala, and Martinez, 2014; Mora, 2017). Going by expert opinion in some quarters however, this approach is nonetheless, dubitable (Aizenman, 2017). It has in fact been noted, that: “(Although) giving money directly to poor people works surprisingly well...it cannot deal with the deeper causes of poverty” (Orton, 2013). <i>Give Directly</i> is an organisation which simply gives money to the poor (Give Directly, 2020). It has however been suggested that while the <i>Give Directly</i> approach is unique, direct and at least a provider of short-term relief, raw cash gifts cannot on their own solve the problem of poverty. (Starr and Hattendorf, 2014). As noted last year, <i>Solace International</i> is still struggling to formulate an effective poverty alleviation approach – one that would not weigh the Organisation down as we endeavour to support those in need.</p>



Area 3: *Religious activities*

Activity	Details
<i>Pastors' breakfasts and other activities</i>	<p><i>Solace International</i> is still working almost exclusively with mainly Pentecostal churches. This is a poor reflection of our broad outlook in which we seek to favour no denominations and to work with all. We are in addition, unable to recommence <i>Solace</i> Pastors' Breakfasts which we completely stopped shortly after last year's Annual Report. It is true that the COVID-19 situation has had its impact on many religious organisations' activities,, but as an Organisation which prioritises the Law of God Above those of Man, believes firmly in His Promises and trusts totally in the Divine Protection as Highlighted in Sacred Scriptures³³ and beyond, we know that no disease or threat should stand in our way. We refuse therefore to blame anything but ourselves for this shortcoming which at any rate, we intend to address squarely by August, 2022, having failed to reach a decision on the matter at the <i>Solace</i> Trustees' meeting billed for Spring, 2021. Our bible distribution still inadequate and would therefore need improving as well. The policy to govern collection and distribution of bibles is also yet to be drafted, despite assurances given in last year's Annual Report.</p>

³³ For instance, various Psalms (e.g. 1, 34, 91, etc.), Is 54, Jer 29, Jn 19:11, etc.



Area 4: Economic/community development/employment	
Activity	Details
Collaborations	We have long recognised, that working together is an aspect of charitable work which will benefit all stakeholders greatly and so should be encouraged and promoted with gusto. It is also an essential aspect of Christianity which places great emphasis on unity “for there has God Commanded the Blessing”. ³⁴ It is indeed true that <i>Solace</i> continues to see the benefits of collaboration; it is also true however, that we are yet to reach our full potential regarding such engagements, with like-minded organisations in the UK, Kenya and elsewhere. ³⁵ In some cases, negotiations for working together appear to be taking too long. For instance (as noted in our previous annual reports), a collaborative

³⁴ Ps 133:3.

³⁵ As last year’s TAR showed, the feelers we sent out to various groups Christian and otherwise, have yielded mixed outcomes. Even now one year on – probably due to the global pandemic (although this would be too simplistic and sweeping a factor to be accepted as solely responsible), arrangements with potential partners in places such as Barbados, Jamaica, Pakistan, Rwanda, St Lucia, Vietnam and Zambia remain at a germinal stage – although to the Glory of God, our solid relationships with groups and individuals in Ghana, Malawi, Nepal, Nigeria and South Africa are looking good. The orphanage in Uganda which we were supporting, remains under sanction though, following their abiding failure to demonstrate transparency in the use of the financial and other resources we sent them in past years. The Trustees determined last year, on the advice of the Organisation’s Chief Administrator, that sanctions against the orphanage will remain in place until the conclusion of a fact-finding mission which we plan for after the current COVID-19 situation eases.



	<p>effort between <i>Deliverance Church</i>, Kahawa, Kenya, took eighteen months to arrange, while over two years following initial talks, our attempt at collaboration with several corporate bodies in different countries (including but not only, Kenya and the UK) are yet to yield any real fruit. The challenge for <i>Solace</i> here is not simply the stalled, staggered or stopped negotiations, but the very crucial need for gaining a clearer awareness of the collaboration landscape, as this would enable the Organisation to choose prospective partners more carefully, while steering clear of drawn-out negotiations which are often ultimately unnecessary, but a truly frustrating waste of precious (and in some cases – irreplaceable) resources such as confidence, esteem/respect, focus, scarce funds, time, etc.</p>
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Area: General	
Activity	Details
Publicity	<p>Our fully operational website³⁶ is now about one year old – although establishing a viable social media presence continues to be a challenge – despite our presence on several platforms.³⁷ Sadly however, we have had to in some respects, fight to maintain our social media presence – the keyword being <i>surviving</i> rather than</p>

³⁶ www.solace.international

³⁷ We are now on: WhatsApp (+447904027127 – three platforms), Twitter (@a1solace), Telegram, LinkedIn, Instagram, and Facebook (Solace Kimataifa).



	<p><i>thriving</i>. This is chiefly because of the deliberate sabotage we had to endure at the hands of <i>Solace</i> staff who had grievances against the Organisation or its personnel (their colleagues) which were not resolved to their satisfaction. In their ire, they sought to damage or eliminate our internet capacities.³⁸ In addition, we are for these and other reasons under review, still failing to ensure <i>Solace International</i> and the wonderful work we do, receive as much publicity as possible, so the Organisation remains unnoticed by – and/or unattractive to benefactors. We remain optimistic all the same, that by the Grace of God, before S.T.A.R. '23, these issues would have been successfully resolved.</p>
<p>Funding</p>	<p>The point has been made in previous TARs, that <i>Solace International</i> is not in receipt of funding from any source. The Organisation considers this to be a failure because there is always funding available, even if <i>Solace International</i> has neither identified nor applied for any so far. We have also not registered for Gift Aid – a failure which has potentially denied us thousands of Pounds. The matter has unfortunately persisted in the sense that we have not received any funding – although</p>

³⁸ Our Website Administrator chose to disengage with the Organisation and stopped working with the web designer whom we had contracted (part of the Web Administrator's role was to support this person); the web designer on his part, began issuing threats effectively suggesting he could pull our website down; he also tried pitting some of the Organisation's officials against each other, while our Admin for the Facebook page *Intersolace Organization* actually deactivated the page, so that if we had not maintained *Solace Kimataifa* (and under a different Admin), we would have been at least temporarily, without a Facebook presence. Thanks to God, we have dealt with the situation firmly, fully and (we hope) finally by first breaking the hold of all three persons over the Organisation's social media and other potential. We have also re-established our internet presence and firmed up the governance structure to ensure we would never have to face such issues again. The search for a new web designer is however, still on. We are confident that in His Own Time and Way, the LORD will Guide us to a new and highly reliable person. Amen!



	thank God, compared to past years when the Organisation's funds sometimes nosedived steeply, our income for the moment continually shows improvement. ³⁹
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Let us also remember...

...that these points whereupon we are left scratching our heads, are in no way, reasons to be despondent or to lose hope. We take great strength from the stories of other groups and individuals – both in antiquity and in our day, whose lives and times have borne out the Divine Truth in the Question: "...Who has despised the day of small things?". At *Solace International*, we know that although we are not always sprinting, we are at the very least, moving; what is more: we are moving in the right

³⁹ That said, the situation remains, that in the absence of funding, the Founder a freelance writer, donates around ninety-five per cent of all his income to *Solace International*. It is also a failure on the Organisation's part that despite our formal and informal engagements in over thirty countries (see Appendix B), a sizable portion of the Organisation's income continues to be spent on our work and interests in Kenya.



direction – all by the Grace of God, by Whose Love and Wisdom we are Reminded of an old poem which talks of small steps and heavy loads:

*Have you ever seen a tortoise going slowly on its way –
Slowly creeping, slowly crawling – fifty yards in half a day?
Why so slowly – oh so slowly, does it creep from place to
place
With that very – oh so very, tired look upon its face?
It is not because it's lazy – or because it's old and slow:
If you were carrying a house on your back – how quickly
would you go?"*

– Author

unknown

Thus, even as we find ourselves scratching our heads while we stand looking at some of the mountains before us, we shall continually bear in mind, that as long as we keep moving the LORD in Accordance with His Promises – Promises that never fail, will Bless us with so many Favours, including among other things, important updates...

The Solace journey thus far: Important updates

1.

Partnerships and collaborations

Solace International has entered into partnership with several organisations. Most of these partnerships are either informal or semi-formal. We have for instance, worked with Heads2gether (H2G) in Croydon, UK, to support single parents and families on low income towards acquiring their own housing and solving their housing problems. We have also agreed with Great Bridge College in Nairobi, Kenya to



support people who want to go back to school but have passed the 'normal' school age. Some people are above the age of 18 but want to go back to school to complete their grades, whether KCSE or KCPE. The arrangement we have with the Great Bridge College is one in which students who come through us but can't afford the fees will be supported by Solace in collaboration with the particular school. Great Bridge College has also agreed that students who come through us will get a 15% discount on their tuition fees across every academic year.

In addition, the organisation is working very hard with individuals and other groups to achieve its aims. However, this year, a decision has been made not to work very closely with churches especially in Kenya due to flagrant cases of dishonesty. We have had situations where church leaders do not keep to agreements; almost routinely, they do not tell the truth and they tend to be very selfish, as well as very stingy. Many of them want us to do things for them but they never want to do things for us and they want money from organisations even charitable groups like us but wouldn't do anything to help us either raise funds, acquire funds or receive funds from them or through them. We also have found out that many church leaders are not really keen on empowering their members, so when we try to work with them to support congregants towards empowerment in terms of acquiring some of the skills they might need to become better in Life, churches have actively worked against this. For this reason, we have decided that from 2022, we will not be working with Kenyan churches as eagerly as we have been doing in the past. We will continue to work with them as organisations but shall not be giving them priority in anything.

We are also working with *Groots Mathare* in Kenya which has been restructured and so we find that the previous informal arrangement we have with them is no longer valid. Thus, we are working to achieve something new with them. The challenge here is being able to determine



who to speak to and how to flesh out a new arrangement based on a new relationship. *Groots Mathare* and *Solace* at the time of going to press, are still locked in negotiations. We are also trying to develop partnerships with a couple of banks. We have sent feelers out to *Housing Finance, Family Bank and Cooperative Bank*, all of Kenya. We have also sent out feelers to *Barclays Bank* of the UK. Our efforts so far have not yielded much fruit, but we feel that there is hope in these areas if we can push a bit harder. The intention of *Solace* therefore, is to redouble our efforts across the next twelve months.

We are also working in collaboration with the Croydon BME Forum to support people who need help with their CVs and employability skills. We are also hoping from next year, that people who come to us through Croydon BME Forum that are in need of help with their DBS check will be supported by *Solace*. We intend to support at least one person per month on average. That means twelve people in a whole year for the whole of 2022.

2.

Missionaries

We have also continued to work with missionaries. This is different from working with churches. Churches are fixed institutions or fixed buildings or fixed organisations but we also have missionaries who are also doing the work of God but they are working as independent individuals – either as part of an organisation (semi-independently), or on their own (independently). Our engagement with individual missionaries has allowed us to further stretch our arms to different parts of the world. This year for instance, it has Pleased God that we have found ourselves working with missionaries in India, Pakistan, as well as South Africa – in addition to the previous places such as but not only Malawi, Nepal and Sri Lanka. As such, the number of countries that *Solace International* has been working with so far or supported people in any way at all –



including Christianity issues, education, employability, enterprise empowerment and/or poverty alleviation and so on, has stretched to around thirty-nine (39).

It has not always been easy working with people from most of these places – partly because the fact that we are an NGO (nongovernmental organisation) or charity and we are UK based has sometimes led to the impression that we have a lot of money to throw around. Thus, part of working with different organisations has inevitably involved lowering these inordinately high expectations. Doing so is not always simple, given that we have to lower the expectations while at the same time encouraging greater expectations of diligence, transparency and accountability – even though our standards can sometimes be at odds with local traditions and understandings of issues such as bribery, corruption, shortcuts, etc. – often leading to suspicions and allegations that *Solace International* is imposing or seeking to impose British or Western values on others. We are also hoping by the end of this year to be working formally, with groups or organisations in Jamaica and Namibia. God Willing, we are stepping up from next year, our work in Nigeria and Ghana. However, Kenya continues to be our chief priority and so about 80% of our resources continue to flow into Kenya.

3. *Structure and restructure*

Solace is run by a set of Trustees and administrators. The administrators are led by the Chief Administrator below whom are Administrators including: Fieldworker Administrator, Volunteer Administrator, Publicity (and Web) Administrator, etc. This year as we aim for greater efficiency, we have restructured the Organisation and as part of the process, made a few personnel changes. First of all, the *Solace* officials including the Trustees and Administrators have come together in a *WhatsApp* group,



allowing the officials to keep interacting regularly and somewhat less formally. It is anticipated that this shall allow the Organisation's Trustees and other officials to work together seamlessly without having to go through rigid protocols in order to get things done. It will also allow for decisions to be made more quickly and for the officials to understand each other better.

Secondly, we have created two committees that would help us in deciding how to support those in need: the *Solace* Finance Committee (SFC) as well as the Awards and Benefits Committee (ABC). With effect from this year, whenever anybody comes to us with a need, they must now go through the ABC. Prior to that, the *Solace* official whom they speak to will link them up with the officer who is directly involved with what they want. For instance, if it is something to do with volunteering, they would be directed to the Organisation's Volunteer Administrator; if it is something to do with families, women and/or children, we would link them to the Solace Director of Women's Affairs and Families, and so on. Through the relevant official (or their subordinate), the prospective beneficiary would complete an Initial Response Form. Once completed, the official would forward it (or a report based on it – that is, the Initial Response Form) to the Awards and Benefits Committee. The ABC would then meet and consider whether that person's issue can be taken up or what else should be done, for example, ask the person for more information, contact some other people who have been mentioned in the form, or signpost the person in another more productive direction (such as to one of our partner organisations, etc.). If the ABC feels that their matter meets our criteria (based in part or in whole, on the *Solace* Beneficiaries Policy and/or rulings of the Organisation's Trustees Board) and so can be taken up by the Organisation, it will be escalated to the SFC (*Solace* Finance Committee), whose main job in this respect is to look at what finances are available and then decide how much we are



willing as well as able to invest in supporting this person or this group, as well as how long we will give that support.

The *Solace* Finance Committee can also decide to prioritise that person/group, different from what the Awards and Benefits Committee has decided. For example, the ABC might decide that there are ten people who need help but this particular person or group should be Number Two or Three on the list; the SFC could decide instead, that based on how much money would be involved and what financial resources are available to the Organisation at the time, this person/group should drop down to Number Nine or go to Number One. The *Solace* Finance Committee's decision overrides that of the Awards and Benefits Committee. Both committees would then decide on any other terms and conditions where applicable. These terms and conditions will be recommended to the Board of Trustees which will have the final say. The final outcome would then be communicated to the person or group in question through the Organisation's Secretary and/or through the *Solace* official via whom the process originated.

It is anticipated that this new structure would enable us to be more accountable, cut down on beneficiaries' dishonesty and enable us to utilise scarce resources better with minimum loss or waste. It will also mean that there are enough checks and balances in place before we can disburse funds. The new system is such that we can stop giving support at short notice if such a need arises - especially as there are structures in place to make sure that we keep checking from time to time, in effect using the tools of monitoring and reviewing to achieve its goal of supporting people out of poverty.

4. ***Appointments***



This year – for the first time ever, *Solace International* has also appointed an officer to be in charge of matters to do with women and families. We discovered that a lot of work we have been doing in Africa and Asia, particularly in countries like Nigeria, Nepal, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Pakistan India, Tanzania, etc., one of the chief issues is that women are in many ways being suppressed or not empowered. We emphasise here, that this is not necessarily a negative reflection on men in these places, but an encapsulation and presentation of current realities to the best of *Solace International's* current understanding. *Solace International* research and statistics strongly suggest that mostly women are the ones who look after the children in a vast majority of societies where we are engaged. This in turn means that the woman who is suffering is not just suffering on her own; she is suffering with children – or children are suffering with her. Other research to which *Solace* is privy also indicates that children who grow up knowing that kind of life are likely in turn, to reproduce children who would in all likelihood, go through similar kinds of situations, whether they like it that way or they don't. the decision was therefore made by the Organisation this year, to specifically target the women and see how much more we can do for them. Notwithstanding, we have planned programmes also for the men – although this is not expected to be an easy aspect of our work since in our experience, women are compared to men, more forthcoming, or pushier in requesting what support they need and more articulate in presenting the challenges they face. Women come to our offices; they ask questions; they boldly seek for help; they follow up consistently and they give feedback. On the other hand, men are generally so reticent and reluctant to engage that we have to go looking for them. Very rarely do we have men coming in to ask for help, while women come on behalf of themselves, their children and their families. So, we have decided to appoint an officer who is directly going to be working with women, in solving issues affecting not just women but families. *Solace International* also reasons that if the



woman is involved with families, whether or not she has a husband, boyfriend or lover, and/or children – whether she is a single parent or part of a double-parent family, supporting her will benefit the men somehow.

We have also appointed some new Trustees and we are seeking to appoint some others. The new Trustees are Rose Adhiambo and Esther White. They are both Kenyans. We are also likely to be appointing a few other people. In addition, we have changed the signatories in our accounts, both in Kenya and in the United Kingdom. Both changes were forced upon us by circumstances beyond Solace's control. The UK signatory (Lorraine Agang Podiephatshwa) was removed due to issues to do with financial impropriety, dishonesty, conflict of interest and her personality, as well as her inability to remain calm in the face of provocation, and her failure to control vengeful personal feelings while engaged in official duties. Solace International rightly considered therefore, that it would not be safe for the Organisation to have this person as one of our officials and/or bank account signatories. She had earlier been removed as a *Solace* Trustee, but hoping for some positive change in her attitude and overall character – especially in terms of honesty, and not wishing to antagonise her, the Organisation had retained her as a signatory. Lorraine however demonstrated in addition to an unfortunate penchant for corruption, a vengeful and pugnacious personality which left some of her colleagues in the Organisation afraid of her, necessitating the activation of measures to ensure their protection through the termination of her role – and eventually, her expulsion from the Organisation.⁴⁰

⁴⁰ Other measures included ending our support for *Heads2gether* ('H2G') of which Ms Podiephatshwa is the Chair and recalling the *Solace* official whom we had seconded to H2G as Policy and Training Coordinator, since 2018. Ms Podiephatshwa in turn responded by calling an AGM which she turned into an impromptu vote of confidence where the *Solace* official was formally removed from office. She also wrote to the Organisation asking to be removed as a bank account signatory – even though she had been removed from that role a month or so earlier and she had been notified of this. Ms Podiephatshwa who was our liaison officer for Southern Africa, also shut down our Botswana operations,



Her situation was not helped by the discovery that Ms Podiephatshwa stands accused of misusing funds in another organisation, for which her privileges as a signatory in another organisational bank account had been suspended. Given the controversies and complexities surrounding her, it was finally decided that it would make sense for *Solace International* to remove her and replace her with somebody else – especially as in addition to the issues concerning her honesty and temperament, she opted to demonstrate bitterness and truculence rather than try reaching amicable solutions. Clearly therefore, it was not going to be healthy for the Organisation to have a signatory who would be holding the Organisation to ransom. Ms L. A. Podiephatshwa has been replaced as UK bank account signatory, by Margaret Nakasango. Ms Podiephatshwa is from Botswana; Ms Nakasango is from Uganda.

5. ***Finances and the future***

Solace International plans on generating more funds from those countries where it is putting in most of its efforts or resources. In this case, Kenya is the first of these because Kenya is receiving about 60% of all the funding that *Solace* is putting in. The remaining 20% is distributed between the UK and the other countries and we feel that it only makes sense for Kenya to contribute a bit more towards the funds that we are having. We also believe that getting other countries and other people to participate in what we are doing is very helpful because it will give them a sense of commitment. They will be able to take or share ownership of the dream – the vision of *Solace International* but it will also reduce unnecessary dependency because what we have discovered in some countries especially in Kenya is that our generosity gives them the impression that we have so much money to waste. This creating thus, the need for *Solace International* to find a new way of operating in Botswana and its neighbouring nations.



has attracted all manner of negative attitudes towards us. Some of these negative attitudes have included people not keeping their promises, not doing what they ought to do and not supporting us the way that they should. As a result of that, we are planning a fundraising drive for next year. We hope it will be a better one compared to previous ones. We have had some fundraising drives in Kenya and the UK, previously but they have not been successful. We are however hoping to have a better one in the coming year.

Also from next year, we are shall be placing limits on the range and period of support or help that we give to people. The full length of limits is yet to be discussed by the Board of Trustees, but it is anticipated that when they do reach a decision, support for any person or group would become restricted to a limit of months ranging from one month to twelve months and these will be subject to constant review, as well as stricter terms and conditions. This means that even when we are supporting people with school fees for example, we will not be supporting them throughout their academic life but will restrict the support to probably a term of a few months – and then that will be reviewed again. Also, we are going to be stricter in the way we disperse funds. In practical terms, what this means is that we have policies in place and are going to insist on *Solace* officials following the policies to the letter. People and groups seeking our support would also be required to complete Conflict of Interest declarations so that we may know what interest people who come to us have in *Solace* and/or any of its officials. We would especially seek to clarify whether they have anybody in *Solace* who is related to them, whether by blood or otherwise.

The Organisation's Women and Families Coordinator will be supported and encouraged to raise independent funds pursuant to that branch or aspect of *Solace*'s work because supporting women and families is a very challenging task – so challenging that it will require a lot of specially



dedicated resources – including to start with, the building of a team to support the Coordinator. It will also require a lot of moving around, transport as well as the organising of seminars and workshops, besides giving material and emotional support. *Solace International* anticipates however, that this part of our work is going to be built up slowly across the next one to five (1-5) years. We hope that the next 1-5 years will give us a strong foundation for supporting women and families across the world.

6.

Weekly activities

By the Grace of God, with effect from next year, *Solace International* plans to hold weekly activities. They will not always be elaborate and may not be in the same countries – but they will always be beneficial to local communities and to many individuals. We shall update all relevant platforms such as social media and newsletters, with the activities as they happen. More details will appear in our next Report.

7.

Fightback

The point has been made above, that we have struggled to attract funding. It is important to point out here however, that this has not been for want of trying. A review concluded shortly before the completion of this Report has raised some seriously concerning issues which we must deal with if we hope to stand any chance of attracting funding in the United Kingdom. Last year, *Solace International* applied to the *National Lottery's* 'Community Fund'. Our application was supposedly put through 'scrutiny', but when we carefully considered it against those of some other Organisations – at least one of which did not have strong governance structure and clear policies like *Solace* – nor was it able to put together a coherent application, we reached the unpalatable but inescapable conclusion, that sometimes funding is a matter of luck and timing as encapsulated in who is considering your application on behalf



of the funders. The lady who 'liaised' – or rather toyed, with us on behalf of the *National Lottery*, made us go through a mini-hell, answering questions and meeting demands some of which were preposterous and unjustifiable,⁴¹ but which we met nonetheless – only to be told (verbally – without a written update or explanation) that our application “is not likely to succeed”.

This year, we applied for the UK Government's HAF (Holiday And Fun) funding. We put in a very strong application⁴² which was rejected by a person who was either very intoxicated, quite confused or strongly biased against us (which in turn raises issues of corruption). Unlike the *National Lottery* however, the HAF Grants Team at least, wrote back to tell us – not only that we had been unsuccessful in our application, but why. Unfortunately, the reasons they gave for rejecting our application made so little sense that we could only conclude they were talking about someone else's application – and had therefore most probably, awarded another group – knowingly or unknowingly, monies which should in any sane or fair assessment, have been ours. We made this point to them as clearly and as politely as possible, having been given a fortnight to appeal. Our appeal was not even acknowledged – raising the possibility that the Croydon HAF Team had already pre-decided who to award the monies.⁴³

⁴¹ For instance, she wanted to know if we could be contacted late at night and on Sundays; she also wanted to know whether we have plans to make women the majority on our Trustees Board.

⁴² Copies of the application and its associated correspondence are available upon request – subject to the discretion of the Organisation's Trustees.

⁴³ Our review showed that the *Solace International* application like any other application, had its flaws. We were also able to identify what those flaws were. Had the HAF Team based their rejection on those flaws (which being an Organisation which operates in the fear of the LORD, we were honest and brave enough to identify as well as acknowledge), we would have had no serious misgivings about the rejection – even if given the triviality of those flaws, we may still have wondered if the HAF Team was not being too harsh or simply overreacting against us. As it turns out, the HAF Team did not identify any of those



We have taken the decision therefore, not to let this kind of thing happen to us again. Henceforth – and until further notice as decided by the Organisation’s Board of Trustees, *Solace International* will fight back against any perceived bias or corruption in the award of grants or other funding. *Solace International* is especially considering the presentation to Croydon Council, of a Freedom of Information request in pursuance of this goal. The outcome of this request will determine our next move and hopefully, form part of the Organisation’s next Annual Report.

Let us in addition, remember...

The updates here mark a key difference in comparison to previous reports where updates were rarely if ever included. The decision has not yet been made on whether this would be from now on, a permanent or

flaws – or in any manner whatsoever, engage with them. On the contrary they virtually accused us of making errors which in our response we made clear to them, did not exist. In other words, the HAF Team was in effect, lying. They had simply decided not to award us the grant for whatever reason (presumably nepotism, predetermination of favoured awardees or some other kind of corruption). Thus they did not care what excuse for rejecting our application they used. They were in fact, either too careless, too lazy or too malevolent to at the very least, read through our application and find a genuine or at least factual – even if puerile reason, for turning down the *Solace International* application.



common feature of our 'S.T.A.R.s', but it is probably best to let the times decide. In effect, if there is any need in next year's Annual Report, for a section specifically dedicated to updates, such a section shall surely be included.

Conclusion

As this detailed document demonstrates, the year since our last Report has been for *Solace International*, replete with dynamism – even if it has not always been exciting. There can be no doubting the fact however, that *Solace International* is remarkably and laudably punching far above its weight, given the paucity of its resources. At the moment however – even as by the Grace of God we move ever so steadily towards marking our first decade as a registered and official organisation on two continents, *Solace International* has neither the time nor the inclination to engage in self-acclaim. We still have quite a long way to go in attaining our goal of touching at least one life in every nation and territory on



Earth, to the Glory of God our Ever-Giving Lord and Father. By His Grace and Guidance, our achievements and attractiveness will blossom. We will never forget though, that serving the LORD by serving the underprivileged, is an honour. We will therefore always be humble, faithful and thankful to not only our course - and cause, but to most of all, God the Almighty, Who Alone Is - and Provides, Solace.

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Appendix A

Financial report

<i>Month</i>	<i>Money In</i>	<i>Money Out</i>
October (2020)	1532	1423
November (2020)	540	434.26
December (2020)	800	1048.60
January (2021)	1067	1028.08
February (2021)	645	532.65
March (2021)	1101	1188.58
April (2021)	146	577.83
May (2021)	706	663.32
June (2021)	671	695.77
July (2021)	1340	1441.84
August (2021)	1909	1227.22
September (2021)	800	835
<i>Total</i>	11,257	11,096.75
<i>Net total = £160</i>		

Appendix B



**Countries where at least one person has benefited from
*Solace International***

No .	Country	Formal/Informal
1.	<i>Zimbabwe</i>	<i>Informal</i>
2.	<i>Zambia</i>	<i>Informal</i>
3.	<i>Vietnam</i>	<i>Formal</i>
4.	<i>United States</i>	<i>Informal</i>
5.	<i>United Kingdom</i>	<i>Formal/ Informal</i>
6.	<i>Uganda</i>	<i>Formal/ Informal</i>
7.	<i>Trinidad and Tobago</i>	<i>Informal</i>
8.	<i>Tanzania</i>	<i>Informal</i>
9.	<i>Syria</i>	<i>Informal</i>
10.	<i>St Vincent and Grenadines</i>	<i>Informal</i>
11.	<i>St. Lucia</i>	<i>Formal</i>
12.	<i>Sri Lanka</i>	<i>Formal</i>
13.	<i>South Africa</i>	<i>Formal/ Informal</i>
14.	<i>Sierra Leone</i>	<i>Informal</i>
15.	<i>Rwanda</i>	<i>Formal</i>
16.	<i>Romania</i>	<i>Informal</i>
17.	<i>Portugal</i>	<i>Formal/ Informal</i>
18.	<i>Pakistan</i>	<i>Formal/ Informal</i>
19.	<i>Nigeria</i>	<i>Formal/ Informal</i>
20.	<i>Nepal</i>	<i>Formal</i>
21.	<i>Namibia</i>	<i>Informal</i>
22.	<i>Mozambique</i>	<i>Informal</i>



23.	<i>Morocco</i>	<i>Informal</i>
24.	<i>Malawi</i>	<i>Formal/ Informal</i>
25.	<i>Liberia</i>	<i>Informal</i>
26.	<i>Kenya</i>	<i>Formal/ Informal</i>
27.	<i>Jamaica</i>	<i>Informal</i>
28.	<i>India</i>	<i>Informal</i>
29.	<i>Ghana</i>	<i>Formal/ Informal</i>
30.	<i>France</i>	<i>Informal</i>
31.	<i>Equatorial Guinea</i>	<i>Informal</i>
32.	<i>Congo (Kinshasa)</i>	<i>Formal/ Informal</i>
33.	<i>Cote D'Ivoire</i>	
34.	<i>Cameroun</i>	<i>Formal</i>
35.	<i>Bulgaria</i>	<i>Informal</i>
36.	<i>Brazil</i>	<i>Informal</i>
37.	<i>Botswana</i>	<i>Formal/ Informal</i>
38.	<i>Barbados</i>	<i>Formal</i>
39.	<i>Angola</i>	<i>Informal</i>

Appendix C

Statement of Beliefs (the Nicene Creed)⁴⁴

We believe in One God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth, of all that is – seen and unseen.

We believe in One Lord, Jesus Christ, the Only Son of God, Eternally Begotten of the Father: God from God, Light from Light, True God from True God, Begotten, not Made; of One Being with the Father – Through

⁴⁴ This Statement is under curren review.



Him all things were Made. For us and for our Salvation, He Came down from Heaven; by the Power of the Holy Spirit, He Became Incarnate from the Virgin Mary and was Made Man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He Suffered death and was buried. On the third day He Rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He Ascended into Heaven and is Seated at the Right Hand of the Father. He will Come again in Glory, to Judge the living and the dead and His Kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the LORD, the Giver of Life, Who Proceeds from the Father and the Son. with the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified. He has Spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Appendix D

The Solace Training Programme

<i>Topic</i>	<i>What does it cover?</i>
1.	1 What is abuse? 2 Kinds of abuse 3 Signs and symptoms 4 Stereotypes and myths 5 What to do when a child expresses concerns to you 6 Consequences of suspected and/or actual child abuse for children and



Abuse	their families 7 The real victims of abuse 8 Consequences of false allegations 9 Some questions worth asking when deciding whether, when and/or how to report suspected abuse.
2. Behaviour management Basics	1 Factors which influence behaviour of children and young people; 2 Guides to effective behaviour management; 3 Essential skills for effective behaviour management; 4 Some instances of behaviour which may require effective management skills; 5 Issues to consider in dealing with challenging behaviour.
3. Circle Time (CT)	1 What CT is; 2 Advantages, demerits and applications of CT; 3 Where (other than classrooms) can we apply CT? 4 Ways to make CT (even more) exciting; 5 A few things to consider while (or before) making use of CT.
4. Dealing with bullying	1 What really is bullying? 2 Myths and facts 3 Case studies 4 Probable causes 5 Some effects of bullying; 6 Where bullying takes place; 7 Do's and don'ts.
5. Feeling and staying safe on the Internet	1 The greatness of the Internet 2 How it is especially great for our kids 3 What's there to be careful about on the Internet? 4 How we can help our children stay safe on the Internet 5 Some cyber myths and facts.
6. Helping your child settle well into a new environment	1 New environments as capital; 2 Things your child can do; 3 Things your child <i>should</i> do; 4 Where you come in; 5 Myths and facts.
7. The joy of homework (and home [or private] study)	1 Advantages of homework and home study; 2 Disadvantages 3 Some excuses for not doing homework; 4 Some of the <i>real</i> reasons for not doing homework; 5 Ways to help our children study or do their homework and enjoy it; 6 Things to keep <u>strict</u> control of while your child studies; 7 Things to keep close by while your child studies; 8 Key questions parents might ask; 9 Myths and facts.
8. When things go	1 Why it matters to know this; 2 What could possibly go



wrong: How best to deal with your child's school and other authorities**	wrong? 3 The Fifteen-One Method; 4 Getting the facts straight 5 Understanding and working with procedure 6 The Golden Rule Approach 7 The value of thanks and praise.
9. Surviving your placement/apprenticeship	1 Why am I here? 2 What can go wrong? 3 What will go right (no matter what happens)? 4 Forces that matter; 5 The right mien 6 Getting it right; 7 Looking well ahead of here and now.
10. Stress management	1 Who needs stress? You need it. We do - all of us! 2 When stress becomes stressful; 3 How did they manage? 4 How you too can manage; 5 Born to conquer - living above it.
11. Team play: Getting the best out of your team	1 Who needs teams anyway? 2 Identifying your team; 3 Ideal team v your real team; 4 Like clockwork: Making the different parts work; 5 Keeping it that way; 6 What I need to be; 7 And after that?
12. Fussy Eating	1 Who eats fussily? 2 Why people do it; 3 Can it be outgrown, tamed, stopped? 4 Fussy eating myths; 5 Do's and don'ts
13. Get a Job - Keep A Job	1 Why you need a job; 2 What it takes to get one; 3 Is your CV right? 4 Interview tips; 5 Keeping your job; 6 If things get hot; 7 When things go wrong; 8 Looking ahead - "Learn from the wicked servant" 9 Getting fired gracefully; 10 No place for God.
14. Enterprise Empowerment	1 Scriptures on Prosperity; 2 Enterprising Quotes from outside the Scriptures; 3 Networking and what it does for you; 4 Seed-sowing: What it really is and what its role is; 5 Divine Principles of sowing; 6 Prosperity's Divine Keys; 7 Getting noticed: the Role of communication and good interpersonal skills; 8 How to prospect successfully for clients/customers; 9 Personal qualities you need for success in enterprise; 10 Traps and pitfalls to avoid 11 Charting your way:



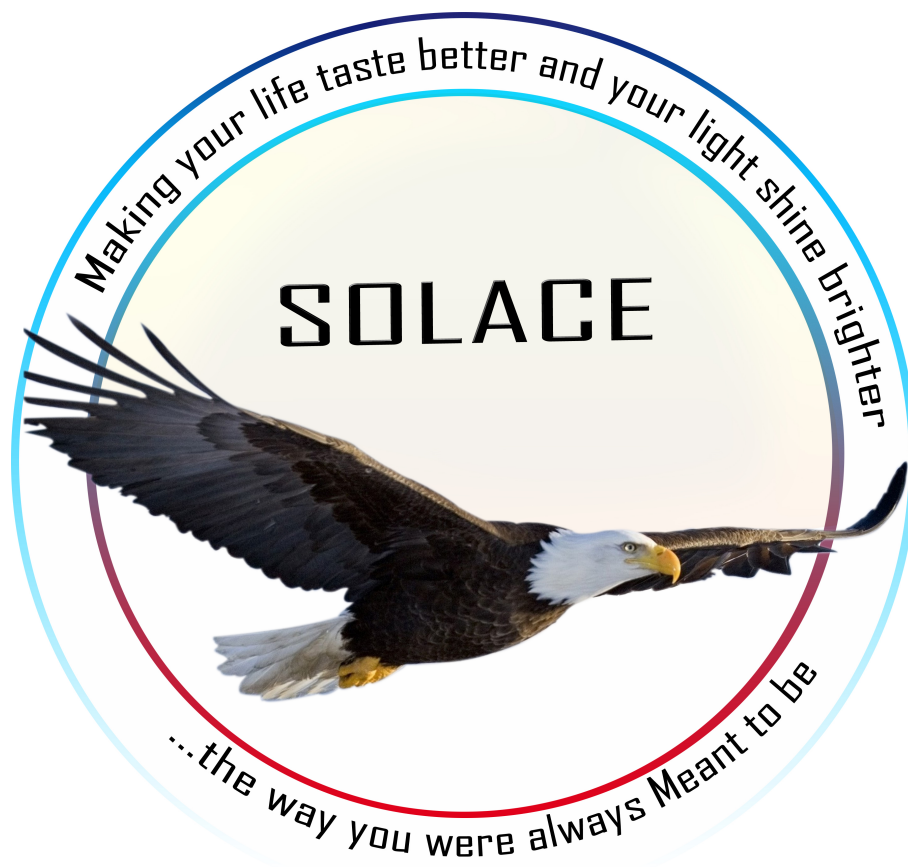
	the value of a (good) Business Plan; 12 How to write a Business Plan 13 Contents of a good or strong Business Plan 14 How best to treat your Business Plan.
15. Dealing with domestic violence (DV)	1 Some definitions of DV 2 Why does DV happen? 3 Challenging the common/popular narrative 4 A matter of values? Considering what different cultures think, say and do about DV 5 Why we mustn't accept DV 6 What can you do about it? 7 Why intervention is not interfering 8 the Bible-based Christian take on DV 9 You are too good for nonsense.



Appendix E

Snapshots from the *Solace International* Gallery





Solace: Walking in the Master's Footsteps



The 2021 Solace International Trustees Annual Report



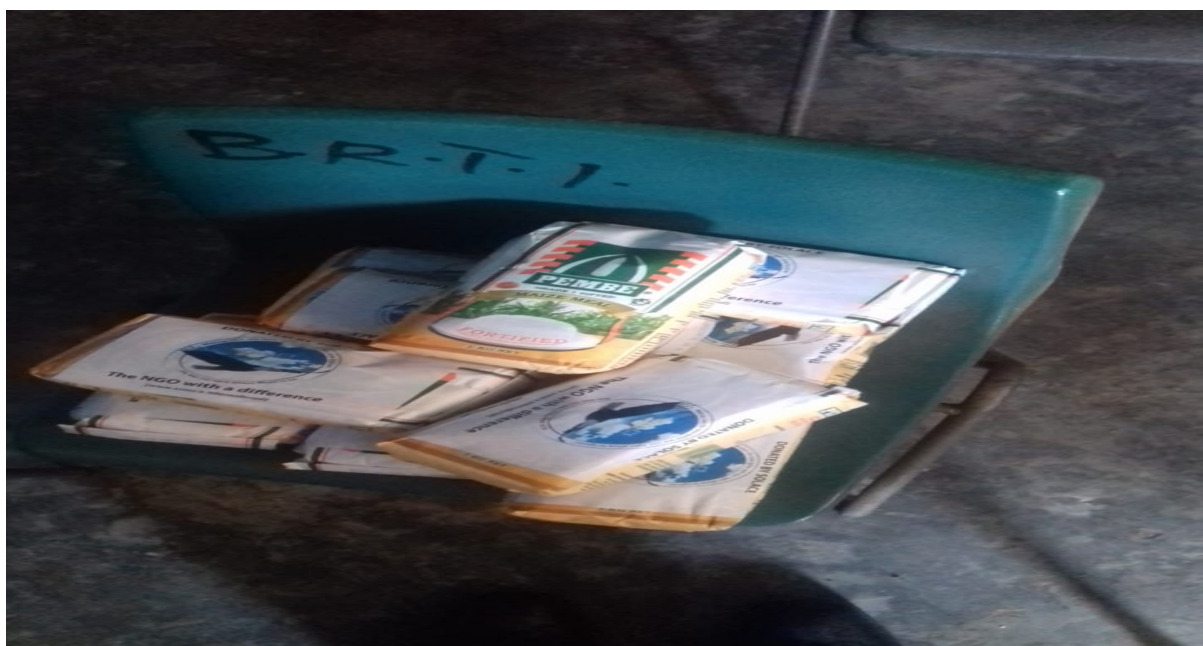
Solace Donations: The fight to defeat COVID-19





Solace donations: Food and clothes parcels for the needy





Specially wrapped longlife food parcels from *Solace*





Do you need help with your CV?

Maybe you need support to write a new one or proofread and/or update an existing one?

Would you like some help with a Cover Letter or Personal Statement?

Have you been asked to address a Job or Person Specification?

Are you in search of other help with finding a job

(e.g. completing an application form, understanding interview techniques, retaining a job beyond probation period, setting up an e-mail address, registering on job websites, etc.)?

*If you have answered 'YES' to one or more of the above, then why not contact us for Solace?
We are an NGO focused on helping you get the best out of Life through defeating poverty. By
God's Grace, we will help you with any of the above – and it's **FREE**. Yes: no charge.*

All you need to do, is call us on:

0 77 33 14 14 7 or 0 71 62 77 21 7

Please note however, that although our services are totally free, terms and conditions may apply.



Solace International: always glad to help with employability





Solace International, good taste and loveliness make a palatable team!



Furthering the Christian Faith: *Solace International* prayer meetings



A Solace training programme



Standard text: This is the SEEP's main textbook (alongside the Holy Bible); it is also used to generate funds for the Organisation



Some of *Solace's* fieldworkers



Faces of the future - faces of hope: Pupils from one of the several schools *Solace* is supporting



Collaboration at work:

The Hub, Solace International, H2G, Croydon Council, Brick by Brick...

Matt 25:21-46

As we said, aside from Solace, there are many other Christ-focused organisations which are not churches, yet doing so much in Jesus' Name to help the needy. Why not think about honouring God and helping more people in need through supporting not just Solace, but one more of these? Here is a short list to choose from (there are others, but this is a good place to start)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>01 CAFOD (Catholic Fund for Overseas Development) Muguga Green Westlands P.O. Box 66300 Nairobi. https://cafod.org.uk/ About us/Where we work/Africa/Kenya. This powerful and remarkable organisation is also contactable via each Roman Catholic diocese in Kenya. CAFOD has many development and anti-poverty projects around the world, including across East Africa. One example is 'Hands On Kilu' which is providing new trees, clean water supply and great opportunities in south-eastern Kenya. Visit https://cafod.org.uk/News/Voices/Hands-on-Kenya for more information.</p> | <p>04 The Life Ministry Kenya (Life Ministry). Rose Avenue, Nairobi. Phone: +254 (0)722 20251 https://lifenkenya.org/what-we-do. Life Ministry has been operating in Kenya for over forty-five years. This resilient and ground-breaking organisation is focused on discharging the Great Commission through a variety of pioneering and creativity including education, sports and film. They also run a school among communities such as the 'Omnia, Manyoye and Somali, where for a variety of reasons such as poverty, nomadism and apathy, it is quite challenging to run a school – especially a Christian school.</p> |
| <p>02 Christian Mission Aid (CMA). P.O. Box 57351. Tel: +254 (020) 2721872. http://www.cmaid.org/mission-mission/. CMA seeks to develop communities, ensuring they are free from spiritual and socio-economic poverty. In addition to work in the areas of drought, HIV/AIDS and drought recovery, this marvellous organisation runs a Girls' Rescue Centre in Olodottikoshu, Kajiado County. CMA has the stated mission of reaching out with Christ's Love through development assistance to desperate communities, emergency relief provision, the raising of church and community leaders, as well as youth mentoring.</p> | <p>05 The Salvation Army International Kenya East Territory (The Salvation Army). Marist Avenue, Karen, Nairobi. Kenya. P.O. Box 24927 Nairobi. 00502. +254 (020) 240 3260. https://www.salvationarmy.org/kenyaeast</p> |
| <p>03 Open Doors Kenya (Open Doors). Life Ministry, 2nd Floor, P.O. Box 30870, Nairobi. http://www.opendoors.org/. This truly intrepid organisation supports Christians facing persecution in different places across the globe – including of course, Africa and Kenya. Open Doors also has a list of countries where it is most dangerous to be a Christian. The work Open Doors does includes things such as: Bible supplies, protection for threatened Christians and financial/material aid to orphans and widows left behind by pastors who have been murdered for their Christian faith.</p> | <p>06 The Salvation Army International Kenya West Territory (The Salvation Army). Mumia Highway Rd, Kakamega, P.O. Box 660. Kakamega 50100. https://www.salvationarmy.org/kenyawest. The Salvation Army has been present informally in Kenya for over 120 years and formally for close to a century. This truly effective organisation is engaged in poverty relief, education, anti-trafficking, etc.</p> |



Do more than just going to church: support a Christian organisation today. . . please.

InterSolace Organisation Epen House Buruburu Phase One, Nairobi
Tel: 254 77 33 14 14 7; E-mail: intersolace@gmail.com
Facebook: [Intersolace Organization](https://www.facebook.com/IntersolaceOrganization)
Website (coming soon): www.solace.international

INTER SOLACE ORGANISATION (Solace)



Three questions for you:

1. What do you think of tithing and giving – do you know your church is not the only place to bring God what you have for His Storehouse?
2. Do you support any Christian organisations other than your church – do you even know of any such groups?
3. Have you heard of InterSolace Organisation (also called Solace)?

Whatever your answer to the above, there are many Christian organisations which are doing so much in the community to help others. InterSolace Organisation ('Solace') is one such organisation



Spreading the word about other organisations: one of our less publicised strengths



Solace International

www.solace.international

Helping God's People – "Salt of the Earth...Light of the World", taste better and shine brighter

Tel: +447 466 379 590, +254 77 33 14 14 7, 56a Mitcham Road CR0 3RG

Email: solaceinternational@yahoo.co.uk; info@solace.international

Friday, September 25, 2020

Reports from the United Kingdom of a police officer killed at the Police Custody Centre located off Whitehorse Road in Croydon Surrey by a man allegedly being questioned although sketchy at the moment, are disconcerting nonetheless. As we await further information on the matter, Solace International wishes to express sadness at this fatal turn of events, solidarity with the victim's colleagues and sympathy for the fallen officer's dear ones. We hope and pray, that the Goodness of God will still Shine through all this, nonetheless and that no matter what happens next, cooler heads will certainly prevail to His Glory.

Solace International is a UK registered charity (No. 1162864)



Solace speaks:

Some official statements issued by the Organisation on issues of the day (A)





Solace International

www.solace.international

Helping God's People – "Salt of the Earth...Light of the World", taste better and shine brighter

Tel: +44 741 742 5958 , +254 77 33 14 14 7 , 56a Mitcham Road CR0 3RG

Email: solaceinternational@yahoo.co.uk; info@solace.international

Tuesday, 23 March 2021

(Evening Standard, 22:03:2021) "We have been threatened or scared by men, say a third of London women".

A reaction

Solace International notes reports regarding the outcome of a recent survey by the *Evening Standard* in which the newspaper states that: "A third of women in London say they have been threatened or frightened by men". Ignoring the fact that this statement in itself is inherently false, definitely (if not deliberately) misleading and basically impossible – given that the newspaper could not have interviewed all, half – or even a tenth, of the women in London within the specified period and therefore was in no position to speak on behalf of the purported 'third', Solace International wishes to state that as an organisation, we do not – and never will, help British society or indeed any other society, commence, continue, condone or in any way contribute to a programme or action which appears to have as its sole or chief purpose, the demonisation of men and/or the fostering of mutual suspicion between the sexes. A society which seeks to solve a problem (whether real or perceived) by creating another (probably worse), based on maligning one group directly or indirectly in favour of another group, will always find itself constantly in trouble as it struggles to clean up its own mess through making another mess.

Solace International is a UK charity focused on poverty alleviation furthering the Christian Faith, thus we take social justice issues indescribably seriously. We understand that newspapers have bills to pay and that free-of-charge ones such as the *Evening Standard* are no exception, despite not charging most of its readers even a penny for the privilege of its daily copies – leaving the newspaper with little choice other than sensational headlines to attract more readers and draw in advertisements which help pay the newspaper's bills. We are also aware of the great work which the *Evening Standard* is doing among the poor and vulnerable of London, helping to address the socioeconomic anomaly and political embarrassment-cum-paradox, of London being capital to one of the world's richest and most powerful countries, but which has an incredibly and inordinately high number people living in abject poverty – forced to sleep 'rough' – outside on the streets and/or to scavenge for food and/or depend on food banks or other oft-humiliating and/or criminalising means to get by. Solace International hails the *Evening Standard* as a trailblazer in poverty alleviation.

Solace International is a UK registered charity (No. 1162864)



Solace speaks:

Some official statements issued by the Organisation on issues of the day (B)



The 2021 Solace International Trustees Annual Report



Solace International

www.solace.international

Helping God's People – "Salt of the Earth...Light of the World", taste better and shine brighter

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Email: solaceinternational@yahoo.co.uk; info@solace.international

Friday, 09 April 2021

Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh (1921-2021)

It is with sincere regret and deep sadness, that *Solace International* notes the news-stopping news regarding the husband and Consort to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, Earl of Merioneth and Baron Greenwich (Né Mountbatten; né Philippos Andreou (Philip Andrew) of Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderberg-Glücksburg, Prince of Greece and Denmark). *Solace International* is of the understanding that Prince Philip sadly passed away aged roughly one hundred years old, having lived by the Matchless Grace of God and to His Eternal Glory, from Friday June 10, 1921 until Friday April 9, 2021. The Duke of Edinburgh was among other things, the United Kingdom's longest-serving consort. The Duke of Edinburgh had a very difficult childhood and upbringing which remain proof that no position or situation in Life is guaranteed – whether for better, or for worse. Colourful, lively and frank, he played a major role in shaping the public concept of the British Monarchy, making it somewhat more accessible, friendly and in effect, human. Avid reader, unheralded author, keen sports enthusiast, profound thinker and fearless speaker, he will be remembered for his exemplary tirelessness, irreverent jocosity, conscientious diligence, gushing confidence and loyalty in royalty. Although God alone Knows the future, it is probably safe to say, that the likes of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh will never be seen again. The entire *Solace* family offers its deepest condolences to Her Majesty the Queen, the Royal Family and the Royal Household in its entirety as well as to the people and Governments of the United Kingdom and nations of the Commonwealth. May God be praised for never ceasing to Bless the world with people in every nation and every sphere who really make a difference. Goodbye, Prince Philip.

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Solace speaks:



The 2021 Solace International Trustees Annual Report

Some official statements issued by the Organisation on issues of the day (C)



**Images from the *Solace International* Administrative
Headquarters in Kenya**





More images from *Solace's* international Administrative Headquarters, Kenya



Some Solace-branded t-shirts



Faces from a Solace general meeting



What we do: In two simple words...Solace helps.

How we do it: We work with individuals, churches and other organisations to empower Christians against poverty. We offer training, small grants, help with education costs, capacity-building services, employability support, etc.

EEP Training Workbook manual by Pastor Joseph E - CA InterSolace

Where we do it: We have been active in several counties, most notably: Busia, Kakamega, Kiambu, Kilifi, Kisii, Machakos, Meru, Nairobi and Uasin Gishu.

Who we help: We help individuals mainly, although we have some areas of support such as capacity-building and training which are tailored specifically for organisations. Although we do not discriminate against anyone, our key beneficiaries include women forced out of education or social circles due to pregnancy, Christians interested in setting up businesses or boosting existing ones, orphans, street children, widows, disabled people and people who have no food to eat.

Why we care: We care because...

a.) God Created all people to have dignity; poverty is no reason to lose that Blessing.

b.) It is not the work of the Kenyan Government alone to improve lives: we all must help.

c.) We want to champion a new Kenya where every person thinks more about being nice and helpful to others.



EEP Trainees

EEP Training Session



How you can support us

There are three ways by which you can support us:

1.) Financially and/or materially. You can make a donation of money and material resources; you could also leave us a legacy; the best option of all though, is for you to make a regular commitment like every week, every month, every quarter, etc. Remember: nothing is too little and nothing is too much. But whatever you give, it's all for a good cause and will surely help us give support to even more people.

You can donate to us using at least one of the following means:

a.) M-Changa Paybill No. **891300** Account No. **24732** (no transaction charges)

b.) By cheque. Please make cheques payable to: Intersolace Organisation

c.) Safaricom Lipa Na Mpesa (Buy Goods) Till Number **778471** (Intersolace Organisation)

d.) If you prefer direct payments our account details are: Name of Bank: Family Bank, Cargem Account Number: **014 000 047 225** Account holder: Intersolace Organisation

e.) Cash. We generally do not accept or encourage cash payments. However, if that is the only means convenient to you, please call our number and we will arrange collection.

We also have donation envelopes which can be delivered to you upon request or picked up from our office, during any of our activities, etc. Please note, when making a donation (except in cash), you must include a reference. This will help us know who gave the money: references are also helpful for accounting purposes. Please use Reference: 'DONATION' followed by your name. Thank you and may your gift speak for you in many places – to God's Glory!

2.) Volunteering. We need volunteers. A volunteer is someone who works or gives their time to a cause or organisation without expecting to be paid for it. There are over one billion volunteers in the world and you could be one of them. Time they say is money – but at Solace we disagree: we believe, time is far greater than money. So, support us with your time. There are many volunteer roles at Solace and you could be just the right person to fill one of them.

3.) Talk about us. We need publicity. You could help us by telling other people about us and/or linking us to donors, sponsors and philanthropists. We are doing so much for those in need, but no one will know and nobody will care if we don't get the message out. So, please talk to others about us. Oh – and that includes God. Talk to Him about Solace and all those other lovely organisations doing great stuff for people in need. Pray for us. Please.

See the list at the back of this brochure for more information about other groups like ours which are doing so much for God's People in Kenya



A Solace publicity flier



Solace International: The Glory is God's - and His Alone.





Final Word

Solace will later in the year publish its business plan outlining what we hope to achieve over the next period of years. It will be split into three, outlining our plan for the next one year, the next three years and the next five years but this plan is not going to be part of the current report. It is going to be part of the next report and will likely take effect from 2022. The plan will demonstrate among other things, our determination to do more in support of men. This should help to address – as well as draw attention, to a looming but barely noticeable catastrophe: a coming disempowered and disgruntled male populace. Today, the emphasis of many charitable and community groups around the world is mainly on women and children. This is we believe, laying the unfortunate and dangerous foundation for a more serious problem in the future. Understandably, the reason why a lot of people have been supporting women and families is their belief that in the past men have benefited most from – and/or dominated, the best of the world’s resources, while women and children have been losing out. Copious as well as consistent historical and statistical data back this belief up and thus justify actions taken as a result. However, *Solace International* does not believe that the best solution to the perceived historical dominance by men of the world’s resources is supporting women and children so much that men in turn begin to lose out – otherwise, in the next few decades – or even years, the world will find itself in a situation where women and children



are quite empowered while men are greatly disempowered – thus forcing Humanity to start again, coming up with a programme to support and (re-)empower men. Thus, the earlier we start on that, the better; as such *Solace* is working on programmes that aim to support men as heads of families and as fathers – as well as in dealing with issues such as anger management, domestic violence, child-rearing, etc.



**Dated Saturday, this twenty-fourth day of September, in the Year
of Our Lord, 2021.**





*"The LORD has Done this, and it is
marvellous in our eyes".*

(Ps 118:23) NIV







CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Solace International
Solace International

No (if any)

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	01-Oct-19 01-Oct-20	To	Period end date 30-Sep-21
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Oct-20	1,532	-	-	1,532	565
Nov-20	540	-	-	540	1,315
Dec-20	800	-	-	800	1,278
Jan-21	1,067	-	-	1,067	1,505
Feb-21	645	-	-	645	680
Mar-21	1,101	-	-	1,101	845
Apr-21	146	-	-	146	2,195
May-21	706	-	-	706	1,135
Jun-21	671	-	-	671	885
Jul-21	1,340	-	-	1,340	1,065
Aug-21	1,909	-	-	1,909	495
Sep-21	800	-	-	800	190
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	11,257	-	-	11,257	12,153
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	11,257	-	-	11,257	12,153
A3 Payments					
Oct-Dec 20	2,906	-	-	2,906	2,953
Jan-20	1,028	-	-	1,028	1,530
Feb-20	533	-	-	533	695
Mar-20	1,189	-	-	1,189	835
Apr-20	578	-	-	578	2,194
May-20	663	-	-	663	1,130
Jun-20	696	-	-	696	880
Jul-20	1,442	-	-	1,442	1,055
Aug-Sep 2020	2,062	-	-	2,062	594
Sub total	11,097	-	-	11,097	11,866
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	11,097	-	-	11,097	11,866
Net of receipts/(payments)	160	-	-	160	72
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	160	-	-	160	72

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	-	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
		N. Lamptey S. Wamweya	Naina Lamptey Samuel Wamweya	22-Sep-21 22-Sep-21