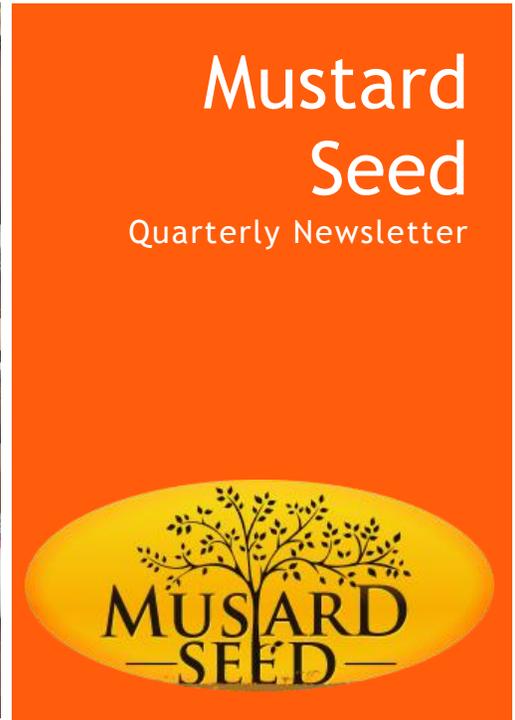




INSPIRING A NEW GENERATION OF LIFE TRANSFORMERS



VOL 2

HELLO!

It is with great delight we welcome you all to this second edition of our newsletter – “**The Mustard Seed**”. It is a quarterly avenue to share and continuously acquaint ourselves of the activities specific to Mustard Seed, tit bits of general NGO/charity related matters, and other issues for your reading pleasure and enlightenment.

A SEED OF HOPE

Meet Lynn Onuoha, a 27 year old resident of Port Harcourt, and a sickle cell patient afflicted with Avascular Necrosis of the Femoral Head on the right hip. The disease was diagnosed in 2000. In July 2013, an x-ray was done again on the affected leg when she started experiencing incessant and mind-numbing pains on her leg, back, ribs, chest, and also noticed rapid reduction in length and thinness of the leg, and it was discovered that the disease was in a terribly advanced stage and nothing could be done to remedy the rapidity of damage done to the leg and her spine but to have an immediate Total Hip

Replacement surgery. She had suffered with the pain for about 14 years. In 2014, Lynn reached out to mustard seed for help and through your seeds of donation hope has been sown into Lynn’s life as she has been able to go through with the full hip replacement surgery successfully. These are her words of appreciation

“My family and I wish to thank everyone who contributed financially to my Total Hip Replacement surgery... My gratitude cannot be fully expressed because through your timely intervention and kind contributions, I now have my life back and a brilliant future to look forward, bringing joy and thankfulness to my entire family, friends, neighbors, colleagues and acquaintances. May the good Lord bless you all and continue to use you to bring succor to the lives of people in need, and remember you in your times of need. I pray that I would be able to touch the lives of people in need through this God sent Foundation someday.”

Lynn Onuoha, 2015



Lynn Onuoha and Innocent Ofoma during a Post operation Visit.

Contact details: Website: www.msoworld.org Phone: +17133716619, Email: info@msoworld.org

Free Medical Missions to JAH Community

Jahi is a slum community near the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria—Abuja. Mustard seed in partnership with CYID embarked on community assisted medical project in 2014. Free Lab tests, Immunizations, and medications were given out. About 1000 men, women and children were estimated to have been reached. The mustard seed Organization has outlined the Following Project for this year:

- Free medical missions to Kaima
- Free medical missions to Dnako
- Free medical missions to Jahi.
- Adopt a child for one year.



3

Kaima and Dnako

On Saturday 14th March, 2015, Mustard Seed team undertook a pre-mission location assessment visits to two remote communities: Kaima and Dnako communities both several kilometers away from Bwari area council in the FCT Abuja. The visits highlighted lack of near medical facility and the dire need of medical support and missions to such remote areas. This is clearly exemplified by the poor state of health of one of the community's head seen in the picture. In case of emergency, unfortunately help will indeed be very far for him. We are now planning for a medical mission to his community (which will also include two other communities nearby). When we get there and

still meet him, we hope to do our best for him....but we will leave after the days' program. There are many more women, children, etc., in such situation. Please support Mustard Seed to save a life that otherwise will be cut short



Kaima village head with a mustard seed staff and volunteer



(Dnako village head along with mustard seed staff and Village elders.)

3 MYTHS THAT BLOCK PROGRESS FOR THE POOR

(2014 Gates annual letter)

By Bill and Melinda Gates

1. POOR COUNTRIES ARE DOOMED TO STAY POOR

This myth is stated about lots of places especially Africa. A quick Web search will turn up dozens of headlines and book titles such as *How Rich Countries Got Rich* and *Why Poor Countries Stay Poor*. Thankfully these books are not bestsellers, because the basic premise is false. The fact is, incomes and other measures of human welfare are rising almost everywhere, including in Africa. So the easiest way to respond to the myth that poor countries are doomed to stay poor is to point to one fact: They haven't stayed poor. Many—though by no means all—of the countries we used to call poor now have thriving economies. And the percentage of very poor people has dropped by more than half since 1990. The bottom line: Poor countries are not doomed to stay poor. Some of the so-called developing nations have already developed. Many more are on their way. The nations that are still finding their way are not trying to do something unprecedented. They have good examples to learn from. I am optimistic enough about this that I am willing to make a prediction. By 2035, there will be almost no poor countries left in the world



NAIROBI 1969, 2009 - ©Corbis, Nigel Pavitt, ©Getty Images National Geographic

2. Foreign Aid is a big waste

One of the most common stories about aid is that some of it gets wasted on corruption. It is true that when health aid is stolen or wasted, it costs lives.

We need to root out fraud and squeeze more out of every dollar. But we should also remember the relative size of the problem. While we should try to reduce it, there's no way to eliminate it. Another argument from critics is that *aid holds back normal economic development* and makes them *aid dependent*. This argument makes several mistakes. First, it lumps different kinds of aid together. It doesn't differentiate aid that is sent directly to governments from funding that is used for research into new tools like vaccines and seeds. Second, the "aid breeds dependency" argument overlooks all the countries that have graduated from aid funds and focuses on the few remaining cases. While it is right to say aid doesn't necessarily drive economic growth, we do know that aid drives improvements in health and saves lives. I have believed for a long time that disparities in health are some of the worst inequities in the world—that it is unjust and unacceptable that millions of children die every year from causes that we can prevent or treat.



Foreign aid helps refugees like Nikuze Aziza feed their families and stay healthy (Kiziba Camp, Rwanda, 2011).

3. Saving life leads to over population

It makes sense that people are concerned about whether the planet can continue to sustain the human race, especially in the age of climate change. But this kind of thinking has gotten the world into a lot of trouble. Anxiety about the size of the world population has a dangerous tendency to override concern for the human beings who make up that population. The fact is letting children die now so they don't starve later, doesn't actually work. It may be counterintuitive, but the countries with the most deaths have the fastest-growing populations in the world. This is because the women in these

countries tend to have the most births, too. Scholars debate the precise reasons why, but the correlation between child death and birth rates is strong. When children survive in greater numbers, parents decide to have smaller families. Because most countries—with exceptions in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia—have now gone through this transition, the global population is growing more slowly every year. As Hans Rosling, a professor at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden and one of my favorite data geeks, said, "The amount of children in the world today is probably the most there will be! We are entering into the age of the Peak Child!" Given all the evidence, my view of a sustainable future is much more optimistic than the Malthusians' view. The planet does not thrive when the sickest are allowed to die off, but rather when they are able to improve their lives. Human beings are not machines. We don't reproduce mindlessly. We make decisions based on the circumstances we face. When children are well-nourished, fully vaccinated, and treated for common illnesses like diarrhea, malaria, and pneumonia, the future gets a lot more predictable. Parents start making decisions based on the reasonable expectation that their children will live. Saving lives doesn't lead to overpopulation. In fact, it's quite the opposite. Creating societies where people enjoy basic health, relative prosperity, fundamental equality, and access to contraceptives is the only way to secure a sustainable world. We will build a better future for everyone by giving people the freedom and the power to build a better future for themselves and their families.



Like millions of women in sub-Saharan Africa, Sadi didn't know about contraceptives when she got married (Talle, Niger, 2012).