

# vital link

Transforming lives through disabled people



## The Happiest Moment of my Life

### Through the Roof bringing hope in Nyeri, Kenya

'Today marks my most happiest moment of my life to see my grandmother Susan has acquired a wheelchair through Through the Roof with the Wheel for the World initiative', wrote Philip, an overjoyed resident of Kirinyaga, in an e-mail to our office. 'For the last four years it has been very challenging since my grandmother became paralysed on the left side. May Almighty God bless the team at Nyeri Hospice... My grandmother is now more relieved and this has also eased my mother's work. For sure God is great.'

In November 2012 a six-member Wheels for the World team from the UK joined staff and volunteers from the Nyeri Hospice for the distribution of wheelchairs and mobility aids. A total of 193 people were seen, assessed and helped with one form of aid or another. Our 'clinic' sessions were over eight days, and it was amazing how the needs presented in that time so precisely matched the equipment that was shipped to the hospice. We can only thank God for that, as well as appreciate the involvement of all our friends, volunteers and fundraisers in the UK.

Most clients had been pre-assessed by local physiotherapists and registered at the hospice in preparation for the arrival of the precious shipment of 160 wheelchairs and other aids. Once news of the opportunity spread, family members brought other disabled people from all around along for a chair or mobility fitting.

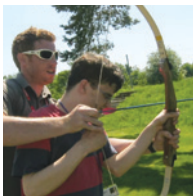
On the first full day at the Nyeri Hospice our team member, Kenyan pastor Davis Gatua, held a disability awareness workshop for a

group of church ministers and local officials. Among the attendees was the prison chaplain, who quickly came to speak to the team about the needs of some of the Nyeri prisoners. Two of our team members, Glenda Pike and Jill Jenkinson, made a trip to Nyeri prison, taking with them two wheelchairs and a collection of crutches and walking aids. Eight prisoners were seen and helped. The wheelchairs had been renovated by the prisoners at Parkhurst, and today have transformed the lives of prisoners in Nyeri, creating an unexpected link between the two.

Jill reflected on this visit to the prison, writing to say... 'One of my highlights was going into Nyeri Prison with Glenda and fitting a wheelchair reconditioned by a Parkhurst Prisoner to a Kenya inmate – his gratitude and delight at being independently mobile instead of having to be carried by other prisoners was a sight to behold... We were struck by the level of care which non-disabled prisoners had for those who needed help, and there was lots of laughing, joking and camaraderie whilst each inmate was seen... The needs of disabled prisoners are often ignored and this Wheels trip has certainly raised their profile.'

This was Glenda Pike's last trip before her retirement as Wheels Co-ordinator, and our friends and contacts in country presented her with certificates and gifts to say thank you for all that she's done for Nyeri.

What an amazing trip! See Page 7 in this Vital Link for dates of further overseas work through 2013.



**New Holidays for 2013**



**Seeing What's Possible**



**'It's Not Fair'**



**Ashtead Volunteers**

# NEW for 2013: Holidays at Hinwick

Through the roof

## Contact Details

### Great Britain Office:

PO Box 353,  
EPSOM, KT18 5WS

### Phone:

01372 749955

### Email:

info@throughtheroof.org

### Web:

www.throughtheroof.org

### Northern Ireland Contact:

### Email:

ni@throughtheroof.org

Churches inc

Fellowship DCF

Wheels for the world

integr8

## Our Vision

*'... is of a world where all people live interdependently, mutually giving and receiving as God intended.'*

Through the Roof Charitable Trust Ltd is a UK Registered Company number 04201510 with offices at SeeAbility House, 1A Hook Road, Epsom, KT19 8TH. It is also a Registered Charity Number 1087788.

Vital Link is designed and printed by PDC Copyprint (Kingston) [www.pdc-kingston.co.uk](http://www.pdc-kingston.co.uk)

Join DCF and Integr8 in a pair of brand new holidays this coming August. We'll be running an all-new type of holiday, combining the work of DCF and Integr8 and offering something for everyone in beautiful Northamptonshire surroundings.

First up, there's Time out with God: 16th – 18th August – this will be a retreat, with time for prayer, reflection and fellowship led by Jenny Edwards and Paula Smith AND, straight after that, there's Stepping Out: 19th – 23rd August – a holiday with a wide range of fun and challenging activities on offer, including archery, canoeing, bowling and a visit to a country park, yet not forgetting times of fellowship, prayer and worship. You can choose to attend either or both.

The holidays will run in Hinwick Hall, now owned by Livability but dating back to Tudor times. It is a fully accessible college for young disabled people, and this is the first time they have agreed to let it out in the school holidays.

## Cost

The retreat costs just £50 per person, the holiday £200, covering accommodation, meals and excursions subsidy. Please note: helpers are provided on the holiday only. Through the Roof is always grateful for legacies, and this new venture has been subsidised by one from Doreen Hilder, who always enjoyed her DCF holidays. Thank you Doreen. Please get in touch with

the office for an application form if you are over 18 and interested in coming. Places are limited.



Take part in archery and other sports



Hinwick Hall



The sensory garden at Hinwick

# New Horizons

When church members in Radstock noticed homeless adults, many with learning disabilities and mental health problems, gathering at a nearby bus shelter, they started offering a breakfast before church services. The group aimed to give people a welcoming and warm place to come. This led to a new DCF group in Radstock, Somerset being set up, called 'New Horizons'. The group began before Christmas, and has run a few meetings, but they'll soon be launching officially with an event for local people, area care home managers and press.

Part of their aim is to supplement the work of local day centres – places that can offer a lot, but are rarely able to provide any spiritual

content. New Horizons is looking to help with that. They'll be running weekly meetings, with worship, prayer, drama and social time, as well as 'taking over' the main church service once a month, to show the wider community what they can offer! They've also secured a donated spot on a local allotment, where they hope to give members a chance to learn some skills and to take part in gardening.

We're really glad to welcome New Horizons to the DCF, and look forward to working with and supporting them in all they do. Group leader, Tony Welch, is available on **07806 807501** and would welcome any contact if you'd like to join or help this new group.



# Moldova in 2013

Equipping local people to be effective agents and advocates for disability in their own communities is our goal for Moldova. Following the Integr8 team visit in February 2012, our partners Breadline have invited us back to work alongside and encourage local ministries in a very rural and desperately poor area. We'll be there to develop the initiatives of the local churches and other agencies. Training sessions and workshops will be part of the programme as will some community-based work for the therapists. Local social workers struggle to provide sufficient help to elderly and disabled people, and would be greatly helped through more interaction with other groups including the churches. Community based solutions are being devised and we want to support those appropriately,

## Our 2012 Moldovan hosts, the Chirica family

whether through training and educational resources, information on reaching local solutions, or the provision of wheelchairs and mobility aids.

Through the Roof are putting together a team of interested volunteers for a trip to take place from 23rd to 30th September 2013. If you're interested in supporting the Moldova work, please get in touch. We'd love to hear from you.



# Integr8 Encounter Groups Take Off

by Alan Whetherly  
Project Manager Integr8

It is an exciting time for Integr8 as we have identified three churches around the country for Integr8 to pilot Youth Encounter groups.

Through the Roof has not previously had much contact or activity within these geographical areas. It is an ideal opportunity to form new partnerships and links and to spread our message.

Information from these pilot schemes is helping us to develop our online resource for future Integr8 Encounter Groups and youth workers. The resource will give a step by step guide on how to establish an Encounter Group, tips on working with different disability groups, and suggestions on activity ideas for groups including downloadable resources. We are also going to include some video footage where pilot groups will demonstrate activities in action, young people talking about their own experiences and leaders giving advice on inclusion.

If you would like to find out more about the projects please visit the Integr8 website (<http://youth.throughtheroof.org>) or contact me at Through the Roof's office.

## Our Encounter Groups are coming soon

The three pilot schemes are based in...

- North Liverpool (Merseyside) – St. George's Church, Everton
- Great Lumley Methodist Church, Chester Le Street and Wear Mencap. (County Durham)
- Crossover, Hemel Hempstead. (Hertfordshire)

These pilot projects are enabling young people with and without disabilities to come together in Christian community and for social action outreach. Each of the three pilot schemes is taking a slightly different approach so that we can evaluate each model before rolling out the project UK-wide.



# Our Family Holiday

Our annual holiday for families with an autistic child will be running from the 2nd to the 5th April. We've another great programme planned, and places are now fully booked. If you're interested in finding out more about 2014's break, please get in touch. In the meantime, please pray for the families, helpers and leaders as they take part in these exciting (and hopefully restful) few days.

Enjoying the adventure playground at Dalesdown



# Join us in Prayer

by Joni Eareckson Tada

## Dear Roof-breaking Friends...

Like you, I am thrilled with the way Through the Roof is pushing back the darkness and shining the light of Christ where His love is needed most. And as we head deeper into this year, there are so many initiatives for 2013 that I'm excited about. But the most important? Through the Roof is increasing their focus on making prayer a priority in the ministry!

Nothing could thrill my heart more. The team at Through the Roof have always been prayerful people, but now, intercession will be even more specific and targeted. There will be extra efforts to enlist prayer warriors to get engaged with our work. And the team is

planning lots of follow-up prayer for every activity, too.

Why is this so important? Because if our outreach at Through the Roof is not covered completely in prayer, nothing of any eternal good will result. Prayer moves the muscles of the Almighty... opens hungry hearts to the Gospel... lifts depression and spreads hope... and gives success wherever the Good News of Jesus is given!

So, thank you for joining us in prayer – whether here in the UK or in places like Uganda, Kenya, Ghana or Eastern Europe, we want prayer to pave the way for our ministry outreach. And as you pray, receive this blessing from Ruth 2:12, "May the Lord repay you for what you have done; may you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel."



Philippa speaking

## Seeing What's Possible

Philippa Woodcraft's video testimony, (available on our website: <http://www.throughtheroof.org/philippa-and-tim-on-leaders-tv>), where she speaks about the difference that church has made in her life, is regularly used by Urban Saints at conventions and roadshows. It always gets a good response, with many viewers commenting on how inspiring it is, including one recent talk where a blind young lady said it helped her to 'see what's possible through God'. Philippa writes here about her speaking engagements...

'As Youth Ambassador for the last two years, I've been privileged to speak to a number of different groups including DCF groups, schools, Sunday school classes, church services, Churches Together meetings, etc. I have been blessed and encouraged by the reactions of these groups to what I tell them. Sometimes, my presentation will consist of a powerpoint or a movie on an Integr8trip, other times I just talk and sing. I always

encourage questions and like people to feel as involved as possible. It's nice when a group gives me audible feedback such as laughter or sounds to indicate when they are agreeing or disagreeing with what I'm saying. This is particularly good since I cannot see their faces!

I love to inspire groups of young people, but will speak to any age group, and am presenting at a lunch meeting in Wooton on April 15th in Wooton Bedfordshire, at a ladies meeting in Chatham in Kent on April 16th, at my own church in Potton on 2nd May. If you have a group or service you would like me to speak at, please do get in touch.

My talks consist of information about Through the Roof for any group who hasn't heard of us before, my own testimony, the biblical views and understanding of disability, and tips about including disabled people, tailored to the group I'm speaking to.

Thank you to those who have invited me to speak before!

# 'It's Not Fair'

by Mike Townsend, TTR Chair

Mike and Tom ►

My guide dog Tom is not good with queues. He just treats them as obstacles to go around. On New Year's eve we jumped the queue for tickets to see The Hobbit.

"That's not fair!" moaned a young lad, "we've been queueing for hours."

Life isn't fair. I have been reading about Joseph in Genesis. Kidnapped and beaten by his brothers, thrown in to a pit, sold in to slavery, falsely accused of rape, and dumped in prison. No, that wasn't fair. But God has not said that life will be fair.

My friend Peter White, who is also blind, and a presenter and Disability Correspondent for the BBC, told me of a time they were queuing for hours to get in to the USA. "I think now's the time to play the disability card," Peter said to his colleagues. He tried. "You have an equal right to wait like all the rest," came the cold official response.

Equality is one of Through The Roof's values. It is often seen as equality of rights. But we see it differently. 'Through the Roof believes that, amidst our diversity, everyone is of equal and infinite worth and value.' It's all about 'worth' and 'value' with God.

Joseph overcame the unfairness, and, following God's plan, ruled Egypt.

Like Tom, let's go round the obstacles that get in the way. We may struggle with inequalities and unfairness, but with God, and Through the Roof, there are always exciting opportunities.

A great new opportunity this year is the holiday at Hinwick - Stepping Out: 19th – 23rd August which will be action packed. Doreen Hilder, someone who loved DCF holidays, has made this venture (and a connected retreat in the days before – see page 2) possible through her legacy. We appreciate all those who make legacies to Through the Roof to help us bless more people.

Join me, as young and old, we test out our inequalities. I promise I won't cry, "not fair!"



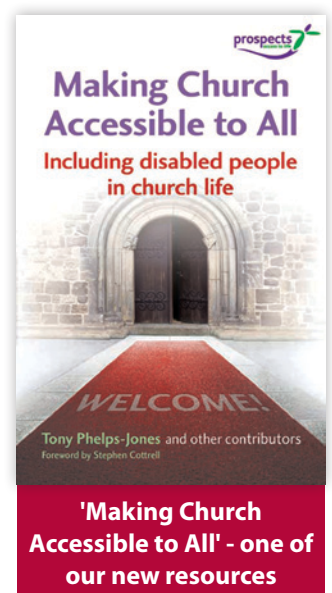
Using our Parachute Bible Stories to teach the 'Through the Roof' story

## Hidden Resources

At Through the Roof we're aware of many people who struggle on a daily basis, not just with their impairment, but with the misunderstandings or attitudes of others. Sadly, this can result in the gifts and contributions of disabled people being overlooked or hidden away. TTR has always worked hard to uncover the hidden talents of disabled people, enabling their full inclusion in, and contribution to, church and community life.

Over the years we've produced a range of resources to equip the Christian community with the tools to be more inclusive, and recently we have added to our respected in-house publications with 'Parachute Bible Stories', to help children's leaders bring the Bible to life with a play parachute. To supplement our materials we have hunted high and low to discover externally-produced books, specifically relating to disability from a Christian perspective to further equip and inspire churches and individuals. These address issues from a breadth of theological, personal and professional perspectives, such as 'Dealing with Depression' to help us all on this journey of inclusion.

For a full list of products, check out our resources order form with this Vital Link, or our website shop [www.throughtheroof.org/shop](http://www.throughtheroof.org/shop). Also, if you have read, or are aware of a useful resource, please let us know (or tell people via our Facebook page) so we can make it available to others. Let's join together in making it easier for everyone to access the Christian message of faith, hope and love.



'Making Church Accessible to All' - one of our new resources

# “For I know the Plans I Have For You...”

by Tim Wood, CEO



DCF Holidayers in prayer



A wheelchair recipient and family in Nyeri

## Through the Roof's plans for 2013

2012 was a memorable year for Through the Roof, the highlights of which are in our annual report summary on the website ([www.throughtheroof.org/downloads](http://www.throughtheroof.org/downloads)). 2013 is proving to be equally exciting in different ways. Here's a flavour of our commitments, God Willing, this year...

- Our desire is to increasingly make prayer a priority. We're delighted that Jenny Edwards MBE is using her gifting, adopting the role of Prayer Co-ordinator for the work, and the people, involved across the charity. She'll be gathering people together to ensure prayer is central to all we do – do get in touch if you want to join us, or start a group near you.
- A new focus this year is to serve and strengthen local Christian outreach and ministry, with and for disabled people, and so we're committed to activating new regional networks for mutual support and encouragement. We're planning pilot projects in Bath, Liverpool and Edinburgh – and hope to add other locations too. If you're keen to connect with others in your area who are committed to the work, please contact us.
- Our new summer retreat and activity holiday for people with and without disabilities, is filling up fast. This joint venture between our DCF and Integr8 programmes will embrace both the young and young at heart. More details are on page 2.
- International mission trips are nearly fully booked this year. Working with Christian partners, our teams will give disabled people a wheelchair in Uganda, Kenya and Ghana; and train and resource churches in Moldova on disability inclusion. Contact us now to fill remaining places, or if you want to be considered for an overseas team in 2014.
- Working with three host churches we're further supporting and developing inclusive Youth Encounter groups.
- We also have the challenge of moving offices! Our landlords, SeeAbility, are vacating the building so we also need to move soon, and we're taking a step of faith with a new venture – leasing warehouse premises to store wheelchairs. With thanks to Glenda and Malcolm Pike for the use of their barns over the years – you can reclaim your space now! We've a few more details about the move on page 8.



Jenny

Jenny on the Dalesdown holiday

Some of you may know that Jenny Edwards has been in hospital for major surgery, and is now recovering at home. We expect that she will be back writing in the next issue.

As a small charity, everything only happens through God's leading, and with a committed team of generous, servant-hearted volunteers, donors and pray-ers. If you're one of those, thank you! If you aren't, please consider joining us on this journey that changes the lives of both giver and receiver.

# Ashtead Volunteers

by Karen Goodridge, Volunteer Fundraiser

'Working as a volunteer for Through the Roof, specifically the Wheels for the World programme has been a real gift to me as a disabled person. I was diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis when I was 21, and have had many ups and downs over the years (I am now 47).

In the early years I was able to work full-time as a Personal Assistant in a Mission Agency, but after bringing up two children and the progression of the disease, it was not possible to work in a full-time capacity.

I heard about Wheels through a friend, who was also disabled, and we were both inspired by the amazing work being done to restore dignity to disabled people in developing countries. We had so much help here in the UK, with doctors, physios, NHS healthcare, equipment – the list goes on... and they had so little.

I have always loved making things, and thankfully, I am quite an organised person, so organising events, making cards, socialising with friends to raise money was a way I could give. I have been fundraising for over 10 years now, and although I have had less to do physically, I have built up a fantastic team of helpers to do all the things I can't do. It is a real team effort.

It does wonders for my self-esteem, and keeps the joints moving too!



Karen (on the left) and Sarah Phillips, one of the Ashtead team, running a fundraising stand for Wheels

Karen's ten years of fundraising have been an amazing blessing for TTR, and our Ashtead fundraisers, mostly from St Giles' and St George's Churches in Ashtead, working together have raised approximately £130,000 for Wheels since June 2001. An amazing achievement! We'd like to thank Karen for all she's done and continues to do. If her story has inspired you, please get in touch with the office – we can provide materials, publicity and support for anything you might be planning to run.

## International Mission Trips in 2013

Team places for our trips this year have now filled up, and we will soon publish our plans for 2014. Do write to Nigel Drury if you're interested in future trips.

<b>April 10th – 20th</b>	<b>Uganda</b> – Wheels visit RILD agency in Kira town, outside Kampala
<b>July 10th – 20th</b>	<b>Kenya</b> – Wheels visit Elburgon
<b>September 23rd – 30th</b>	<b>Moldova</b> – an Integr8 trip to Dancu area
<b>November 13th – 23rd</b>	<b>Ghana</b> – Wheels visit to the community of Ho



A Wheels team member works to fit a chair to a child in Nyeri

## Enabling the Church

**ENABLING Church**  
Disability, Wholeness  
and Christian Theology



The inaugural 'Enabling Church' conference in London was a great success, equipping 400 delegates to encourage their churches to more fully include disabled people. Through the Roof are glad to be involved with the Churches for All network, organising two more 'Enabling Church' conferences this year, in

Durham on Saturday 22nd June and Bristol on Saturday 6th July. The full day programme will include exploration of biblical perspectives on disability and practical discussions about making your church more accessible to disabled people. For more details, see [www.churchesforall.org.uk](http://www.churchesforall.org.uk).

# Thank You



John Brown (on the right)



Simon (on the right) at the Shine holiday

At our last board meeting, Vice-Chairman Simon Nicholson and long-standing board member John Brown stood down from the trustees. We'd like to thank them both for all of their time, service and input into the charity, and pray for all the best in their future ventures, particularly for Simon as he continues his medical studies and prepares for the birth of his second child, and for John in all he is doing in Northern Ireland. Thank you, Simon and John – you'll be missed!

## A Thank You from Glenda



Glenda and gifts

Glenda has asked us to thank everyone who contributed towards her leaving gifts and to say how much she appreciated them. In addition to a generous cheque, she received a silver necklace and earring set, a voucher for afternoon tea in a hotel, two exotic plants, flowers and chocolates. She said: "I was overwhelmed by the gifts and particularly by all the kind messages in my leaving card – thank you all so much!"

## On the Move Again!



Through the Roof will be moving offices towards the end of May – our phone numbers, email addresses and PO Box details will all stay the same (though there may be a short delay in replying to messages while we get set up). The new office is still in Epsom, Surrey and we'll have full details for you in the next issue of Vital Link.

We're also taking on new storage for donated wheelchairs. Following Glenda Pike's retirement as Wheels for the World Co-ordinator, she and her husband, Malc, very generously continued to store chairs for the charity at their farm. We're investigating suitable facilities, which will allow us to store and process more chairs, as well as hosting a small office on site for administrative work. Please pray for both of these moves, as they allow us to continue and expand what we do and who we can reach.



## Haiti Update

Our first chair recipient

Almost exactly 3 years after the Haiti earthquake, and following a great deal of research and work, our wheelchairs have arrived with our partners, Haiti Hospital Appeal. Reninca, the Director of Children and Disability work there told us, "I just wanted to let you know that the wheelchairs that you so generously have given us arrived TODAY! Much rejoicing and thanksgiving was had by all. Thank you. This is the first large amount of wheelchairs we have ever had, so people are really excited." We will be getting more photos and stories as the work progresses but in the meantime thank you to everyone who helped this to happen.

## Donations

We aim to personally thank every donor for their generous gift, but sometimes it's not possible to contact people, due to anonymous giving or lack of return address. We're extremely grateful for all of your contributions and support. Thank you all!