



# INSPIRING SUPPORT FROM USA

**A COUPLE from Spokane in Washington State have embarked on a major fundraising drive to help Msaada's work in Rwanda.**

Paul Lakin, and his partner, Jeanne Mukambogoye, who is a survivor of the Rwandan genocide in 1994, are admirers of Msaada founder, Fergal Keane, and his work in Rwanda.

When they learned of Msaada they decided to do something positive to support the charity's work in Jeanne's homeland.

Their first event was a talk to the congregation at New Mission in Spokane, which was facilitated by the pastor there, Russ Davis.

Jeanne recounted her experience of living through the genocide, during which many of her family and friends were slaughtered.

In a very moving testimony to the congregation, she explained how her Christian faith sustained her and gave her the strength to endure her ordeal.

Paul outlined the work of Msaada in helping the people of Rwanda to rebuild their lives following the 100 days of genocide which left about 1,000,000 people dead and millions displaced and traumatised.

In an impressive display of generosity and sharing the congregation donated \$1,550 for Msaada.

The couple now plan to visit other Christian churches



**Pastor Russ Davis, Jeanne Mukambogoye and Paul Lakin, Spokane**

to raise awareness of Msaada's work and to inform the people in the US of the horrors suffered by the people of Rwanda.

When Odette Kayirere, the co-ordinator of AVEGA East, who looks after Msaada's projects in Rwanda, heard of Paul and Jeanne's action, she said she was humbled and honoured that people in another distant country had taken up the cause of her people.

"The support of people in the UK and the USA means an awful lot to us in Rwanda. We find it difficult to understand why so many people are moved by our plight and want to help us. Such an expression of love gives us great hope," she said.

Paul commented: "I'm very glad to hear about Odette and her lifted spirit. Our hearts are with them and you."

## The Rwanda Challenge offers experience of a lifetime

Msaada is offering the challenge of a lifetime to people with a spirit of adventure, and a desire to help those who are less well off than themselves.

At the end of April 2011, Msaada will stage

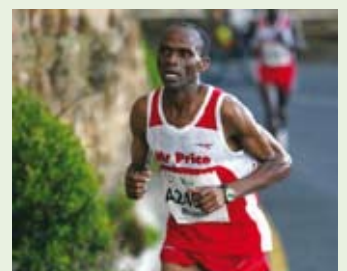
the Rwanda Challenge half marathon in Rwamagana.

During the visit participants will be able to observe some of the projects that Msaada is supporting in Rwanda.

Those taking part are

being asked to raise a total of £2,500.

Places are limited, so anyone interested in taking part should contact Msaada at [msaadarwanda@yahoo.com](mailto:msaadarwanda@yahoo.com) without delay.



# Rwanda Experience attracts new schools

By MIKE HAYES

## Msaada's schools' programme for Rwanda has begun a major expansion.

This coming August Grange School will visit Rwamagana and next year Sturminster Newton High School will make the trip.

This follows three years of very successful visits to Rwanda by students from Shaftesbury School.

The students that went to Rwanda in February have been really busy promoting the work of Msaada.

Although we have no doubt that the schools visit programme is life-changing, it seems that others are starting to think so too!

The students who visited Rwanda, both this

Grange School in Christchurch joins the Rwanda Experience with a visit to Rwamagana this August to be followed next year by Sturminster Newton High School

and last year, have given talks to other schools, students and community organisations. They have also given well-received presentations both to the heads of sixth form and also to headteachers and school leaders in Dorset at a conference about global citizenship.

Their presentations have been thought-provoking and very assured; they have become consummate ambassadors, not only for Msaada, but for the alleviation of poverty generally in developing

countries.

The culmination of this year is national recognition of their achievements and our programme; they will play a major part in a conference in London for some 500 students at the end of June.

A video that they made about the second Millennium Goal of universal primary education by 2015, and the barriers to reaching it, will be shown and they will be interviewed personally on stage about their experiences during

their visit to Rwanda last February.

Frightening stuff, I think, but they are really looking forward to it!

They will also be helping to organise a Global Citizenship Day in Shaftesbury School on July 16 which will include workshops on genocide, poverty and the millennium goal of universal primary education; these will be led by the sixth form students.

Part of the day will involve a sponsored walk by the whole school and they are hoping to exceed last year's total raised of £10,000!

The visit by the Grange School, Christchurch, is to take place in August this year and Sturminster Newton High School will be joining the programme in 2011; it goes from strength to strength!



Students from Shaftesbury School during the sports day they organised at the Excel Bilingual School in Rwamagana

## Montrose Restaurant lunches help to build new centre

THE Montrose Restaurant in Tunbridge Wells has held two highly successful fundraising lunches and fine wine auctions to support Msaada's latest project in Rwanda. They raised an impressive £5,500 which will be used to help build a hospitality centre at the AVEGA East complex in Rwamagana.

Msaada trustee, Jim Farrand, thanked the restaurant owner, Graeme Moore, for his wonderful support for Msaada.

"Graeme's backing of Msaada has helped introduce the charity to a completely new group of people," Jim explained, "and this expansion of awareness is vital to the growth of Msaada. On behalf of the people in Rwanda who will benefit from his effort, I thank Graeme most sincerely."

The proposal is to build a livestock produce outlet and rest stop for locals and passing tourists.

Honey from the Msaada-backed D'Angerville Honey Project, as well as high quality produce from local pig and chicken projects will be used in the centre.

Local young people will learn the essential skills associated with developing a sustainable hospitality industry.

The centre will be built in a traditional style, incorporating weaving and woodworking skills, giving employment opportunities to local craftspeople.

The centre will be a showcase for local crafts and will also incorporate a history display which will inform visitors of the history of the local area in photographs and text.

The proposal has received the enthusiastic support of the Executive Director of ORTPN (Rwanda Tourism Organisation), Emmanuel Werabe, as well as UK tourism consultant Roger Goodacre, who is preparing the tourism master plan for the Rwandan Government.

# Jeff the Chef shares his cookery skills

**Jeff "the Chef" Maund from Salisbury has just completed his first visit to Rwanda to begin the training of local orphans in kitchen skills and cookery techniques.**

Jeff has agreed to assist in training the young people as well as advising on the design of a new kitchen which will be part of the planned hospitality centre at AVEGA East.

"I went with a blank mind and it has now changed my life completely," said Jeff.

"Rwanda is the size of Wales and there were a million people slaughtered there in just three months. The whole world turned their backs on them.

"Once I met the orphans they welcomed me and accepted me into their hearts. I now feel part of their family."

During his trip, Jeff attended two ceremonial funerals – where about 600 skeletons recently discovered in the area were buried. The experience left him shocked but determined to do all in his power to help.

He worked with a group of 14 orphans to begin their cookery training. He has drawn up a menu for the kitchen, making use of local produce.

Jeff, who is planning to return



**Jeff the Chef meets chef Jan at the AVEGA centre in Rwamagana to begin the training**

to Rwanda in the next few months, said: "I want to work with these 14 orphans, I want to pass on some

good cookery skills so they will get employment and make a living and pass it on to others."

Msaada was established with the support of  
journalist and broadcaster



**Fergal Keane**  
Msaada founder

**OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES**

CHAIRMAN: Chris Brickell, TREASURER: David Zackheim, DIRECTOR: Billy Kelly, TRUSTEES: Jim Farrand, Martyn Jose, Mike Hayes



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Msaada is a UK Registered Charity Number 1111819

**Gift aid**

I want Msaada to treat the enclosed donation of  
£ .....  
as a Gift Aid donation

Please make cheques payable to Msaada

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**Chris Worrall and Linda Farrand at the VPs and Friends get-together at the Angel Inn, Hindon**

**VPs and Friends meet**

Msaada hosted a buffet supper for vice-presidents and friends at the Angel Inn in Hindon to bring long-standing supporters up to date on developments within the charity.

Trustee Jim Farrand welcomed the guests and thanked them for their ongoing support, without which Msaada would not be able to make any long-term commitments in Rwanda.

Director Billy Kelly outlined plans for a new hospitality centre in Rwamagana which will generate up to £25,000 a year for AVEGA East, helping them to increase their activities on behalf of the widows and orphans who depend on them for survival.

Treasurer David Zackheim urged those present to help spread the word about Msaada and asked them to try to interest just one other person in becoming a vice-president or friend, thereby helping Msaada to make plans for the future.

**Please donate now**

It's now really easy to donate to Msaada on-line with Justgiving. Payments are secure, your money reaches the charity quickly and, if you are a tax payer, it is possible to Gift Aid your donation to benefit Msaada even further. Visit [www.justgiving.com/msaada](http://www.justgiving.com/msaada) and follow the instructions online to make a donation.

**Challenge 2010**

Thinking of taking on a challenge in 2010? Going for a walk or cycle ride, climbing a mountain, running a marathon, losing weight, cutting your hair off or giving up booze for Lent? Please consider taking the opportunity to raise some vital sponsorship for Msaada. You can create your own Justgiving web page at [www.justgiving.com/msaada](http://www.justgiving.com/msaada) (follow the Raise Money link) then email your friends and colleagues for their support and watch the sponsorship pour in! Msaada Justgiving web pages can also be created to receive donations in lieu of gifts for weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, Christenings and memorials.

**Support Msaada as you shop online**

You can help raise funds for Msaada – at no cost to you – every time you shop online at Easyfundraising with stores such as NEXT, Argos, Amazon, HMV, John Lewis, M&S, Toys'R'Us, DELL, Dixons, Expedia or Debenhams. Msaada will receive up to 15% from every purchase you make! Please click on [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/msaada](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/msaada) to register your own account.

Total support for Rwandan projects to date:

**£216,476**