The singer-songwriter Lou Reed’s favourite short story was ‘IN DREAMS BEGIN RESPONSIBILITIES’ by Delmore Schwartz. The story did not do much for me but the title fuelled a life-long belief, that those things I long to see, I have a responsibility to achieve.

Our responsibility at Amos is to those who are forgotten, ignored and passed by. It is to those who are labelled, scape-goated and blamed for events beyond their control. It is for those who live out the legacy of colonial policies, for our over consumption, for the massive and widening gap between rich and poor and for our lack of care.

Our hopes for our friends in Palestine and Israel and the dream of a just peace fuels our actions and pushes us to take risks and to be imaginative in how we pursue this. CEPAD’s work in Nicaragua is rooted in the absolute belief that we have to imagine the future into being, and it is why we have spent the last two years working with our street child partners to develop new responses for girls on the streets.

We dream that these girls, who have never had a first chance, get a second one. Mpendulo and Hlonphile from Umthombo explained to me that if a girl who has fled abuse at home is on the streets for just 1 week, it is so much harder to work with her, as abusive boyfriends and pimps move so fast to offer accommodation, a good time and a place of seeming safety. The reality of ongoing abuse only sinks in soon afterwards. The same stories come from Karunalaya in India, with children targeted immediately upon arrival at Chennai railway station. New Generation in Burundi talk of young girls on the streets and in the slum communities who are scared of growing up as they see their control. It is to those who are labelled, scape-goated and blamed for events beyond their control. It is for those who live out the legacy of colonial policies, for our over consumption, for the massive and widening gap between rich and poor and for our lack of care.

We estimate that it is 8 times harder to work with girls than boys — at every stage. The same support that can mean progress for 8 boys, means progress for only 1 girl. Girls are so much more invisible, so much more traumatised, so much more trapped by street life and are judged so much more harshly for only 1 girl. Mpendulo and Hlonphile from Umthombo explained to me that if a girl who has fled abuse at home is on the streets for just 1 week, it is so much harder to work with her, as abusive boyfriends and pimps move so fast to offer accommodation, a good time and a place of seeming safety. The reality of ongoing abuse only sinks in soon afterwards. The same stories come from Karunalaya in India, with children targeted immediately upon arrival at Chennai railway station. New Generation in Burundi talk of young girls on the streets and in the slum communities who are scared of growing up as they see their control. It is to those who are labelled, scape-goated and blamed for events beyond their control. It is for those who live out the legacy of colonial policies, for our over consumption, for the massive and widening gap between rich and poor and for our lack of care.

We estimate that it is 8 times harder to work with girls than boys — at every stage. The same support that can mean progress for 8 boys, means progress for only 1 girl. Girls are so much more invisible, so much more traumatised, so much more trapped by street life and are judged so much more harshly by society. And projects find it so hard to work with them. Workers become dismayed by how hard progress is, at how many steps backward there are for every step forward; by how many times they will be let down and how hard it is to report to funders who want numbers and success. Our dream and our responsibility, and that of our partners, is to change this.

In September this year we will bring the women leading our partners’ girls’ work to the UK, together with women from a number of other street child projects, to share their experiences, to talk of the hurdles they have had to overcome and to look at what works.

IN DREAMS... BEGIN RESPONSIBILITIES

WORDS: Chris Rose

The singer-songwriter Lou Reed’s favourite short story was ‘IN DREAMS BEGIN RESPONSIBILITIES’ by Delmore Schwartz. The story did not do much for me but the title fuelled a life-long belief, that those things I long to see, I have a responsibility to achieve.
The first ever women’s rights Zanzi Half Marathon at home in Mwanza, Tanzania — January 2018

— one of the four young women from Cheka Sana who ran the inaugural Zanzi Half Marathon — January 2018

© Amos Trust/Tom Merilion 2018

KIMBIA BILA SHAKA

“RUN WITHOUT FEAR”

AMOS STREET CHILD lead worker Karin Joseph describes running the first Zanzibar Half Marathon with four new friends.

WORDS Karin Joseph PHOTOGRAPHY Tom Merilion

As dawn broke on a Sunday in early February and the calls to prayer floated over Stonetown’s crumbling rooftops, we were typing our shoeslaces and warming up to prepare for the Zanzibar Half Marathon. “Kimbia bila shaka” — “Run without fear” was the race slogan for this, first-ever, women’s rights half-marathon, to be held on Zanzibar.

Our all-female group, made up of four teenage girls from Amos Street Child partner Cheka Sana, together with Kissa, their lead social worker at Cheka Sana, and myself and fellow Amos street worker Mary, were nervous as we set out under a punishing sun.

Jaysa, Mary, Khadija and Tala ran non-stop. All four girls, aged between thirteen and sixteen, have spent time surviving on the streets of Mwanza, before accessing intensive support from Cheka Sana and beginning the difficult but profoundly important process of reintegration work with their families. All are now living full-time, or almost full-time, back with family members.

“I’ve never seen women overtake men before!” declared Mary as we sat and reflected on the race later that day. This run meant many other things for these girls too — it was the first time any of them had left Mwanza or flown on a plane, let alone completing the race and being awarded their medal! A few days before they had experientiated another first: being given birth certificates, enabling them to make the trip but also, vitally, giving each of them a legal identity.

Cheka Sana’s impressive team works every day across the city to support children who live or work on the streets. For older teenage girls and young women, many involved in commercial sex work, a model of collective support known as ‘association groups’ has proved very effective. Girls form support groups of around fifteen people, and go through a process of group building, leadership and finally investment in a micro-business of their own choosing. There are currently living at the Cheka Sana girls’ centre, a group of eleven girls in their weekly self-defence class. Self-defence classes are one of Cheka Sana’s most significant interventions with the girls and young women they support. These 14+ year olds are currently living at the Cheka Sana girls’ centre, whilst the afternoon class is held nearby for older teenagers and young women, many of whom are involved in commercial sex work. Many are mothers, and bring their babies to the class, taking it in turns to sit with their small children.

As a girl, feeling powerful enough to yell the word “no” is a radical leap. For any young person (but particularly girls) in Tanzanian culture, ‘no’ is not a word they are allowed to feel comfortable using with their elders, or men. For many of the girls taking part in self-defence, the most transformative aspect of these sessions is recognising that no man has the right to claim their body, despite what may have happened to them in the past. Some continue for the present time in commercial sex work, but with a mindset that over their situation and the choices they make about their bodies and their clients. Despite this, it was noticeable that the older girls were more reluctant to use the full power of their voice; there was a sense that they had already absorbed the cultural norm — women should be quiet and submissive. Their eyes remained downcast, and their visions for their future felt quite limited in comparison to the optimism that many of the younger girls expressed.

“This is one day — yes they would make a success of it.”

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There’s not a country in the world where girls and women have more, or even equal, opportunities to be men and boys. Yes, 2017 saw high-profile feminist movements start to demand exactly what this means, but for the young women supported by Cheka Sana, their right to claim their body, despite what may have happened to them in the past, is one day — yes they would make a success of it. They have rarely made the space to include the women and girls who most urgently require such acts of solidarity — such as the young women supported by Cheka Sana.

Teenage girls on the street are so often there because of abuse they have suffered at the hands of powerful men. However, these movements have rarely made the space to include the women and girls who most urgently require such acts of solidarity — such as the young women supported by Cheka Sana.

To find out more about Cheka Sana Tanzania, please visit amos信托/cheka-sana-tanzania.com

Words Karin Joseph Photography Tom Merilion

© Amos Trust/Tom Merilion 2018

To find out more about Cheka Sana Tanzania, please visit amostrust.org/cheka-sana-tanzania

“Run without fear” — you’ve/are left to right: Khadija, Mary, Mary and Mary, showing off their well-deserved medals after completing the inaugural Zanzi Half Marathon — January 2018

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WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES

Fresh from a visit to NICARAGUA, Katie Hagley writes about how the community of Teustepe is flourishing.

We are now 3 years into our 5-year cycle of support for CEPad’s sustainable community development programme. During this time we have talked a lot about ‘walking alongside’ these communities. So it was great to have the chance to go out there last month with trustee Peter Bone and 18 supporters to see the developments being made and to ‘work alongside’ the communities — digging microdams, moving stones and doing a spot of gardening.

Through this programme CEPad partners with rural Nicaraguan villages for 5 years of training, which focuses on supporting the community in the areas that they identify as most important for their development. The work in agriculture and training at a local level, particularly among women.

Meet Secorro and her husband Isabel — pictured below — top right. They have 4 daughters aged 5, 9, 14 and 18 and live in La Joya, Teustepe.

They rely on their small plot of land to produce their main source of food. Like many other families in Teustepe, drought brought on by lack of rainfall, together with infrequent but torrential downpours, meant they were extremely vulnerable to losing their annual crops. During our visit CEPad was helping to build a ‘microdam’ in their garden and our team was delighted to help.

Microdams are built using simple available resources. It means digging a hole close to your house and lining it with plastic sheeting. It then acts as an essential store of water she can use to irrigate the family garden as well as for washing.

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And some of us were lucky enough to learn how to cook the delicious fudge-like sweets. Yum!

The training Secorro has received from CEPad has brought new life to her plot of land and has also meant that she is now learning about how to plant a wider variety of fruits and vegetables, which can improve the soil and the family’s diet.

‘Now we grow tomatoes, papaya, pineapple, yuca, peppers, watermelon, we did not know how to grow these before. We have learnt so much.’

Another significant part of CEPad’s training is to teach people new recipes and ways of cooking with these new vegetables and fruits.

And if you look through the achievements in CEPad’s annual report listed on the left, you’ll see that one of the wonderful things about their model is that it encourages those who have been trained to pass on their training. So training just one person can mean eventually you’re training a whole community. Rosa, another community member made this point clearly: “If I receive training and do not pass it on, then what am I doing? Nothing.”

Meanwhile Secorro has also attended workshops to learn how to make different handicrafts and traditional sweets which she can sell in the village. And some of us were lucky enough to learn how to cook the delicious fudge-like sweets. Yum!

‘CEPad has helped us hugely in La Joya and we have seen great change — especially the women. Before we did not know how to grow plants and run family gardens and we have also learnt to cook differently. Now we can move forward,” said Secorro.

To find out more about how Amos is supporting communities in Nicaragua and how you can get involved, please visit amostrust.org/water-for-life.
Loosely based on a real life character still living in Gaza, THE SHROUD MAKER is a dark new satire, telling one woman’s story of survival.

“This year marks the seventieth anniversary of the Nakba. It is a sentence that a lot of people will read over the coming months and many will choose not to delve too deeply into. Having just got to grips with the Balfour Declaration, which had its own one hundredth anniversary last year, some may find the whole thing rather confusing. It seems like when it comes to the Palestinian struggle, there is always one anniversary after another.

This is true and mainly due to the fact that the intifada continues under our nose, not so different from what it was a few decades ago. Perhaps it could be worse, mainly because of the loss of hope. My young nephew in the besieged Gaza Strip, who is excellent at school with top marks that would get him to Oxbridge, would agree. In fact, it was because of him that despair has crept up to me, as I saw his enthusiasm for studying starting to dwindle.

“The Shroud Maker is a dark new satire, telling one woman’s story of survival. I wrote this as a dark satire telling Hajja Souad’s story of survival. It’s also a comedy, which delves deep into the intimate life of ordinary Palestinians, weaving a highly distinctive path through the modern history of Palestine. I wanted to base it on true stories told to me to create a vivid and entertaining, yet highly serious, play delving deep into the intimate life of ordinary Palestinians, weaving a highly distinctive path through the modern history of Palestine. I wanted to base it on true stories told to me to create a vivid and entertaining, yet highly serious, play.

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My pain is hard to explain, and is perhaps better bottled-up for another time; at least until it is over and we can start to take care of the side effects. It’s like it is what I do — release my pain by creating characters on stage or in novels, so readers can understand me better. They can come to hear a story, just like any story, filled with tales of people in Palestine, their humanity, their humor, their dark side and their resilience.

This year, I am curating an exciting Palestinian Festival of Culture entitled @70: Celebration of Contemporary Palestinian Culture. It will take place at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts (RADA) between 13th-15th May 2018. And yes — as you guess, it is to mark the seventieth anniversary of the Nakba.

The week-long performances will include my play THE SHROUD MAKER, Ahmed Najar’s and Al Zaytoun’s dabke dance production entitled @70: Side and their resilience. Perhaps this is the only thing that still gives me hope, knowing that people still care.

The Shroud Maker will be the backbone of the festival and will play six nights throughout the week. This one-woman play tells the story of Hajja Souad, an 80-year old woman living in Gaza who has grown up as the adopted daughter to his wife, who teaches her English manners and elocution. But in the chaos of the British withdrawal, as the Union Jack is lowered from the port of Haifa, Hajja is left alone to her fate in the abandoned mansion.

She is loosely based on a real life character still living in Gaza. I wrote this as a dark satire telling Hajja Souad’s story of survival. It’s also a comedy, which delves deep into the intimate life of ordinary Palestinians, weaving a highly distinctive path through the modern history of Palestine. I wanted to base it on true stories told to me to create a vivid and entertaining, yet highly serious, play.

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SOUTH AFRICA'S INVISIBLE GIRLS

Chris Rose shares news from his recent visit to Umthombo — our street child partner in South Africa.

Umthombo was created in 2005 by Tom and Bulelwa Hewitt to respond to the needs of children living on the streets of Durban, especially in the Point, Port and Beach areas, where most of them gathered. They began to campaign for them to be seen and treated as children just like any other.

The stories of former street children who went on to work at Umthombo, together with the surfing programme and hosting of the first Street Child World Cup, had a massive impact on changing the treatment and perception of children on the streets. The impact was particularly felt by the Municipal Authorities who credited Umthombo’s outreach and reintegration programmes as being key in vastly reducing the numbers on the streets. As these numbers decreased, Umthombo’s work had to adapt to reflect their changing location needs and services.

Outreach and reintegration are still key. In 2017 they met 261 children and young people on the streets. 183 joined their programmes, which include sport, psychosocial support and temporary housing. If a child wants to be reintegrated there is a very strong programme which includes extensive aftercare support for them and their families (last year 15 children were successfully reintegrated).

The locations have changed. The rapid rise to substance misuse, especially among young women, is a key priority. A highly addictive heroin based drug in the large townships that surround Durban, means that most children start by going to the streets in these areas. It has become clear that the work needs to focus on developing preventative programmes in these townships. In response, they have set up a series of local partnerships in key locations to facilitate this, establishing a school-based programme and working closely with a local drug and substance misuse charity.

Youth unemployment rates are also a key issue, as high as 65% in parts of South Africa. Umthombo’s 10-week residential post-it programme, which is now massively over-subscribed, offers young men who have been on the streets and are involved with, or addicted to substances, employment and independent living skills. It includes dairy, group work, sports (especially running) and individual support to address their needs. It also provides work experience, skills such as cooking, cleaning and reintegration work with their families.

I visited the eight young people on the current course. Two recognized me from years earlier when they had been involved in Umthombo. Since then, they had both been in prison and been addicted to a variety of drugs. The group were nearing the end of their programme and were giving one another feedback on their progress and those areas they needed to work on. They felt free to talk about their stories and the massive progress each had made is a testimony to Lindelane who has been working at Umthombo since my first visit in 2006. His relationships with each of them, his care, interest, challenge and gentle humour are so impressive.

As they talked about themselves, they asked about young people on the streets in the UK. The similarities in experience stood out.

“We are deliberately targeting the young people and children who are involved with street life that other groups are not working with, and who society has given up on.”

Mpendulo Nymbere, Umthombo Director — 2018

These girls are instable, people ignore them. If they do see them they call them bitches or hookers. They need our love and our support. “Hlophile Umthombo’s girls lead worker explained: “If they are on the streets for more than a week, they will get trapped here by an older boyfriend or a pimp and then it becomes so hard to work with them let alone reintegrate them back into a home.”

A core group of 10 girls and young women who have been involved in street life for up to eight years are in regular contact and receiving support from Umthombo. Due to extensive outreach work, support and group support, the relationships with these girls are now very strong. Each Monday and Thursday they come to the centre to shower, to do their washing and to talk. They felt confident to attend a residential weekend away where they agreed not to use any substances for the entire period, and have also been involved in STD and HIV testing.

These young women, many of whom are parents, also now offer other girls who are new to the streets to Umthombo. They will either phone Hlophile and have her about a new arrival, bring them to group sessions or give the girls Hlophile’s number. Last year 12 girls new to the streets were successfully reintegrated home and this number is set to increase.

Two young women who had been on the streets for several years also moved away from street life. While this is obviously great, it is not the sole aim of the programme. The aim is to journey with these girls who want to meet up to support one another, to have someone to talk to and get advice from, to feel relaxed and not judged. We joined a group of 15 of these young women for a morning of beach games — volleyball, cricket etc. Very often male workers abdicate responsibility for the work with girls — here it was very different. It was clear that they were there to support Hlophile and to engage with these young women.

We have been looking to do a photographic study with these young women and as Hlophile asked their permission, there was an immediate response — “No, (another) organisation took my picture and put it in the newspaper, saying I was a street girl, and my mother reads that paper.”

Having journeyed with Umthombo from their start and seen the highs of 2010 and the lows and struggles that followed, it is great to see where they are now. The next 12 months are critical. Our current Comic Relief grant for Umthombo ends in December and this will mark a massive reduction in the resources available to them. They are looking to increase support in South Africa and we are keen to identify new support for them and to share their success with the numerous Amos supporters who have journeyed with them.

Mpendulo, Umthombo’s director, will be over in the UK from 5th – 25th May when he will join the Amos Boul Club ride from London to Paris. You can join him, simply visit amostrust.org/london -2018 — we are also finalising speaking engagements for him, so watch this space.
“NO ONE IS FREE UNTIL WE ARE ALL FREE.”
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

PHOTOGRAPHER: TOM MERILION

Two young children peering over a wall into a lorry park.
Two young women from Tanzania who have received a micro-loan from Cheka Sana Foundation to start their own sewing business.

#ONHERTERMS

Above: Siblings sleeping in their ‘bedroom’ — part of the pavement-dwelling community in Chennai, India.

Above left: Sangeetha playing football with her friends at Karunalaya, Amos’ partner in India. She’s their star player.

Above right: Joyce leads a HIV-awareness session at Cheka Sana’s drop-in centre for boys who are living on the streets.

If you would like to support our work with girls who live on the streets of Burundi, India, South Africa and Tanzania, please visit amostrust.org/on-her-terms-appeal-2018
25 JANUARY—7 FEBRUARY
CLIMB KILIMANJARO 2019

INTRODUCING OUR FIRST EVER TRIP TO TANZANIA TO CLIMB KILIMANJARO

Our street child partners Cheka Sana are based in Mwanza, which happens to be right next door to Kilimanjaro! We want to combine one of the ultimate bucket-list challenges with a visit to Cheka Sana to experience their amazing work with children on the streets (particularly girls and young women) and to raise funds for this fantastic Tanzanian project.

Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain in Africa, 5,490 metres above sea level, and the highest free-standing mountain in the world. We asked Amos supporter and Duke of Edinburgh Award leader, Joy Martin, to research a special Amos trip to climb Kilimanjaro — this is what she said,

“The summit climb began at midnight and is a 7 hour trek. It’s a breathtaking experience illuminated by the light of thousands of stars. As we got closer to the top, watching the sun come up was incredible. It was a huge personal challenge and it took me 56 minutes to complete the final 1km which would normally have taken me just 10 minutes. But it was worth it to reach the snow-covered plateau at the top and to look out from the tallest freestanding mountain in the world!”

This unique trip will start with 5-nights in Mwanza where for 3 days, you will join Cheka Sana on the streets, visit their day centre and sheltered accommodation and experience their reintegration work.

Grace, and 10 other young women from the streets went through Cheka Sana’s therapeutic group work programme, after which they set up their own tailoring business. “I didn’t know women could run a business without a man in charge. We should be strong enough to stand our ground”.

You will then have a 1-day safari in the world famous Serengeti National Park, before flying to Kilimanjaro airport in nearby Moshi.

The next day you will begin your 7-day climb up the beautiful Machame Route which has a 92% success rate, with Tanzanian trekking company Safarease. Being a non-technical climb it is open to most people of reasonable fitness.

THE TRIP WILL INCLUDE:
— 7-days climbing Mount Kilimanjaro including accommodation (tents), full board, entrance fees and tips for guides and porters
— full board accommodation in Mwanza
— a 1-day safari in the Serengeti National Park
— internal flight from Mwanza to Kilimanjaro airport.

PRICE:
£2,250 excluding international flights and connections to Mwanza and a £1,500 fundraising challenge.

We are keen to encourage as many people as possible to join us for this challenge, and especially women. Our aim is to raise as much money as we can to support groups of young women, like Grace, to unlock their potential and overcome the barriers they face which can seem as immovable as Kilimanjaro itself.

For full details, please visit amostrust.org/kili-2019

AMOSTRUST.ORG/PALESTINE-EXPERIENCE-2018
Join us for our annual creative trip to Palestine and Israel this summer. Enjoy the sights and sounds of the best street-party in the world — the amazing Bet Lahem Live Festival. Visit Banksy’s Walled Off Hotel and immerse yourself in Palestinian community life. Meet our friends and partners across the West Bank, and visit creative grass-roots projects, who are working for full equal rights for everyone who calls the Holy Land home. Please join us.

To watch our short film about Bet Lahem Live Festival, please visit Vimeo.com/Amostrust/Bethlehem-Live-2015

29 JULY — 6 AUGUST 2018
PALAESTINE EXPERIENCE

amostrust.org/Palestine-Experience-2018

amostrust.org/kili-2019

amostrust.org/Bethlehem-Live-2015

amostrust.org/Palestine-Experience-2018

JERUSALEM @70 EASTER FOR JERUSALEM

WORDS Chris Rose

PHOTOGRAPH Mark Kensett

This Easter we are asking people to think not only of the events that occurred in Jerusalem 2,000 years ago, but also of the current situation.

This year marks the 70th Anniversary of the Nakba and the formation of the state of Israel when close to 1 million Palestinian refugees had to flee their homes. It is also 10 years since the start of the Israeli occupation of East Jerusalem, the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights.

We believe that this Holy Week we should focus on the current situation in Jerusalem — so our thoughts are particularly with the 500,000 stateless Palestinian residents of the Holy City. At this time it is vital that we continue to put pressure on our Government to maintain its position that until Jerusalem can be the capital of a future Palestinian state, it will not recognise it as the capital of Israel.

As we share Christ’s peace on Maundy Thursday, we pray for the peace of Jerusalem. We pray that there be peace, justice and full equal rights for all its inhabitants.

Our book ‘Words or Ours’ contains a series of prayers under the section ‘Life’ for use during Holy Week, as well as many others about Palestine. To mark our focus on Jerusalem we have published a supplement entitled, ‘Stages on Jerusalem’ which we’re making available as a free download. It contains civil rights activist Langanis Hughes’ poem ‘Democracy’, which is as true for the residents of Jerusalem today as it was for the civil rights movement. It also features prayers by Karim Hewitt, Najwa Farah and Gerald Butts and two new Statements of Faith, one based on ‘Credo’ by theologian and political activist Dorothee Sölle.

GOOD FRIDAY REMINDS US:

Each time we support someone in need, each time we stand up for an ideal or speak out against injustice, we stop people from knowing what it means to be forlorn.

In every community there are people who share Jesus’ words from the cross: ‘My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?’ Our work at Amos and through our partners is to make sure that those who are so often forgotten, know they are not forlorn.

At Easter our thoughts naturally turn to Jerusalem, the triumphal entry of Palm Sunday, the last supper, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Jerusalem is unlike any other city as it is integral to three faiths in a way that no other city is. It even has its own mental health disorder, ‘Jerusalem Syndrome’, when visitors experience religious delusions and believe they are hostages at the end of days.

The US President’s declaration, to move the US Embassy from Tel Aviv and to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, leaves many Palestinians in Jerusalem feeling even more forlorn. They know that the Israeli government would prefer that they were not there and its policies towards them are punitive and discriminatory. And the Palestinian Authority has no jurisdiction as the Separation Wall prevents access.

After Just Walk to Jerusalem I am now known in Palestine as ‘Abu Jack’, father of Jack, as a token of respect for me because of the achievements of my son. I am also really proud to be ‘Abu Shai’a’ and for good or bad my greatest legacy will be in the lives of my children. However there is another sort of legacy we can choose and that is how we can support, not only the people, but also the causes and projects we care about after our death.

Each time we stand up for an ideal or speak out against injustice, we can do something. Each time we support someone in need, we change a life. Each time we use our voice, we can choose and that is how we can support, not only the people, but also the causes and projects we care about after our death.

Reading the story of the resurrection is important because it is a reminder of the hope that is available to us. As we share Christ’s peace on Maundy Thursday, we pray that there be peace, justice and full equal rights for all its inhabitants.

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The legacy of that event has been far-reaching and the issues that we struggled with over choosing to support our partner projects. This has been especially the case in Gaza where they faced major financial shortfalls as the focus of international funders switched to Syria, yet on the ground they faced an even worsening situation.

My wife Sarah and I were in our villa shortly before the first Street Child World Cup in 2010. We were leaving our children for the first time to fly to South Africa to run an international event which we knew would be hugely decisive, and which a number of experts had advised us could go disastrously wrong.

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AMOS LISTINGS

2018/19

Amos trips and events are open to everyone. Join us as we challenge injustice, build hope and create positive change.

For further details please visit our website at amostrust.org/diary

26 – 29 MAY 2018
TEAM AMOS CYCLE RIDE
LONDON — PARIS
amostrust.org/London-Paris-2018
Cycle from London to Paris over four days with the Amos Road Club. Join us as we ride and raise funds for our partners in India, Tanzania, South Africa, Burundi, Palestine and Nicaragua.

29 SEPTEMBER 2018
AMOS DAY 2018
REMAIN IN LIGHT
amostrust.org/remain_in_light
With updates from our four street child partners, the Change The Record campaign in Palestine plus ‘Words Of Hope’. Please note the new venue for 2018.

2 – 10 DECEMBER 2018
AMOS CHRISTMAS EVENTS
amostrust.org/christmas-2018
Join us this Christmas in London, Bristol, Cheltenham, Canterbury, Cambridge (TBC), Bradford and Manchester.

25 JANUARY — 7 FEBRUARY 2019
KILIMANJARO CHALLENGE
amostrust.org/kili-2019
Join us for our first ever Kilimanjaro Challenge in Tanzania which will include 7 nights climbing the highest peak in Africa and a day’s safari in the Serengeti National Park.

1 – 18 APRIL 2019
AMOS HOME REBUILD
amostrust.org/rebuilding-home-2019
Amos Home Rebuild trips are an opportunity to bring hope to a Palestinian family and community by helping them to rebuild their demolished home. Join us in Palestine in April 2019.

REMAIN IN LIGHT
AMOS DAY 2018 — SATURDAY 29 SEPTEMBER

AMOSTRUST.ORG/REMAIN_IN_LIGHT
Amos Day will have a new look and a new venue for 2018 — the Amnesty International Centre at 17–25 New Inn Road, London.

In the morning we will focus on our ON HEr tErmS campaign with a chance to hear from the women workers involved in our street child work. Trustee Robert Cohen will lead the afternoon on Israel/Palestine entitled aPartHEid@70. To find out more and to register for your free tickets, please visit amostrust.org/remain_in_light

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW VENUE FOR 2018.
That’s why we want to create opportunities for them to be heard and to learn from one another, so that they can move forward in their work. They can help other projects to understand how to find and support workers who are like them and develop responses that work.

So we are excited to let you know that coming out of long discussions with our partners, we will be hosting a week-long gathering in the UK, bringing together street workers from our projects and those undertaking similar work, to share their experiences and to look at how they can make their projects stronger. By discussing the opportunities open to them and the barriers that hold them back, we hope that by the end of the week they will identify the next steps for their project — and their goals for this work.

We will also give them the opportunity to share with Amos supporters — at Amos day — and with other interested groups while they are here.

We know these projects will need our ongoing support. We want to raise funds for these women to go back and deliver their ideas. We want to develop an online forum for them to share their struggles and successes, and to arrange exchange visits between projects.

They will also need support to identify how they can enable girls and young women to have a real role in the future development of the work and in starting to shift people’s negative response to them. So that five years from now not only will these projects be stronger, there will be more projects doing fantastic work.

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Without the involvement of women and girls who can identify with what it means to be a teenage girl on the streets, nothing will change. Without the support of all those who are outraged that girls like Tanya have to survive on the streets, this vital work will not progress.

If we are to avoid the situation where countless girls are still living lives trapped in fear and shame on the street, we need to learn from those who are transforming their lives — and equip those who say it is too hard and takes too long to know that they can create the difference they long to see.

To support our On Her Terms Appeal, please visit amostrust.org/on-her-terms-appeal-2018

MEET TANYA

Tanya is ashamed that she ran away from home — ashamed that she had to live on the streets, ashamed of the names she is called and ashamed of what it takes to survive.

She needs to know that she is strong — strong enough to have fled an abusive home, strong enough to have survived on the streets and strong enough to have made choices that no girl should have to make.

Strong enough to dream of a future for her and her child and strong enough to take the next step — on her terms.

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YOUR SUPPORT WILL ALLOW US TO:
— bring 20 women workers to the UK to find their voice and share what they have learnt
— pass on their learning to those who want to set up new projects
— create an online platform so they can continue to learn from each other and strengthen their work
— find ways for the girls who benefit from these projects to shape their futures

To make your donation please use this form.

To support our On Her Terms Appeal, please visit amostrust.org/on-her-terms-appeal-2018

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF AMOS TRUST

[ ] Yes, I would like to give regularly to Amos Trust and have completed the standing order form.

PLEASE USE THESE FUNDS FOR
[ ] On Her Terms Appeal 2018
[ ] Amos Trust General Funds
[ ] Amos Communities
[ ] Amos Street Child

[ ] I would like to receive updates about our work and news

ABOUT YOU
Title
First Name
Middle Name
Surname
Date of Birth
Telephone
Email

STANDING ORDER FORM

Please use this form to make a recurring donation to Amos Trust. You can choose to pay by standing order.

Amos Communities

To fill in the standing order please complete the standing order form below or visit amostrust.org.

Payment Methods

[ ] Direct Debit
[ ] Credit/Debit card

Please fill in on the form and return this section and the completed standing order form to Amos Trust, Amos Associates, St Clement’s, 1 St Clement’s Court, London EC4N 7HB, United Kingdom.

Amos Communities

To make your donation please visit amostrust.org/give —

THANK YOU

SOLIDARITY

BY ROBIN MESSAGE

SOLIDARITY: Can we be solid alongside someone? Someone we don’t know, of another culture, another class, another country, another time? Can our souls take in their pain, our minds their devastation, our hearts their joy?

SOLIDARITY: It’s not just polite concern, nor sympathy with their plight, nor empathy with suffering that is far beyond our comprehension.

SOLIDARITY is to claim an incomplete understanding of another’s pain, and to humbly ask to know more of it.

SOLIDARITY is laughing when their children are born, weeping when their children are killed.

SOLIDARITY is a painful experience of letting go of our privilege and welcoming in despair.

SOLIDARITY is to walk towards those who lack a place, to walk alongside those who lack a hope, to walk in the place of those who lack a voice.

SOLIDARITY is hard. It’s too hard. It’s too damned hard.

Yet to not show solidarity is to be half a person. If we cannot raise our eyes above our own concerns, if we cannot think of the needs of the other, if we cannot find room in our hearts for a stranger, then our lives will be empty and meaningless, and no amount of our own comfort will give us peace.

SOLIDARITY is the ultimate goal of faith, the highest calling of humanity, the greatest triumph in a world of suffering.

SOLIDARITY is our walk onwards in defiance of barriers and checkpoints and borders and guards and interrogations to make a simple human call of freedom and justice for all.

#CHANGETHERECORD