

Newsletter No. 111

April 2020

2. About CED
3. Letter from the Chair
4. Editor's Note
4. Directors' Strategy Meeting
6. Development as if People Really Matter
7. Climate Emergency: How I Became Involved...
8. From "No Hope" to "Bright Future"
10. LAMB Hospital, Volunteer Opportunity
10. CED in Showcase of Scottish Development Projects
11. Another Rainwater Harvesting Course...
12. The Tell in Kurdish Landscape: Informing Identity
14. Book Reviews: Coulson and Jann

ABOUT CED

Christian Engineers in Development (CED) is a Christian professional consultancy service dedicated to development work with overseas communities, and through service, to witness to the Christian faith. Operations usually comprise a tri-partite arrangement between a developing country organisation, a funding agency and CED providing technical assistance. CED responds to requests for assistance, improved water supply being the most frequent request but by no means the only one. CED promotes self-help with the maximum use of local resources.

CED's services include site visits, feasibility studies, assistance with project proposals, design, contract documents, procurement, tender evaluation, project supervision, direct labour employment, on-the-job training of local staff, project monitoring and evaluation, assistance with fund-raising and the management of project funding.

CED's income comes primarily from grants for projects together with donations from churches, trusts, members and supporters, and membership subscriptions. Most of the expenditure goes to operations; management costs are kept as low as possible. CED is not a funding agency and therefore cannot directly fund major projects but it can, and often does, fund preliminary investigations for potential projects.

The Association is registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee (without shares) and being a non-profit organisation, it is registered as a charity. It is managed by a Board of Directors/Trustees, elected from the membership, giving their services voluntarily. CED Members participate in the work of the Association either voluntarily or if they depend on earnings for their livelihood on negotiated payment for their services.

Membership of CED is open to any person who is professionally qualified, supports the Aims, accepts the Statement of Faith, supports the activities of CED in any way, or serves as an employee or volunteer, both in the UK and overseas. Becoming a Supporter of CED is open to any person or group that supports the Aims, and wishes to be kept informed of CED matters. Anyone wishing to become a Member or Supporter should contact the Secretary.

Newsletter

The Newsletter is published twice annually. We'd be delighted to provide additional copies for friends, colleagues, church book stands etc. Please contact ian@ced.org.uk and let us know how many you'd like. The newsletter can also be downloaded from the CED website.

The editor would be happy to receive contributions for the next Newsletter . Please send to ian@ced.org.uk

PrayerPoints

Copies of our monthly prayer bulletin are available by e-mail or post. Please request a copy by email to pray@ced.org.uk or by writing to the Secretary.

Privacy Statement

For administrative and mailing purposes we hold your name and contact details in our records. They will not be given to any other person or organisation. If you prefer not to receive publicity and information literature, then please inform the CED Secretary.



SHARING SKILLS
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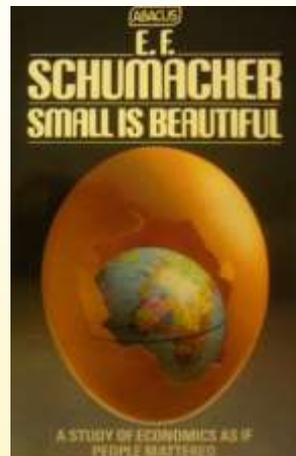
Despite the disruption that has been caused by the COVID-19 outbreak, I can reflect very positively on our last directors' meeting. We enjoyed a short retreat at High Leigh in Hertfordshire in February. We had an excellent time, and in summary concluded that we should be content with our current size and modus operandi; we should not be looking back at the 'old days when we used to do much more', nor should we try to be over-ambitious and try to expand. Instead we summarised our thoughts with the phrase, "we are God-centred engineers: small is beautiful and people matter". Our aim is to focus on four new 'Directions' in the coming years: Communications, Funding, Climate Change and Knowledge and Skills.

This will be my last newsletter as Chair after holding the position for five years. It has not always been an easy task. I have often wished I had more time to devote to CED. But the reality for most of us is that our busy working lives or other responsibilities leave us with less time than we would wish to dedicate to CED. I hope and pray that the new Chair is able to bring new energy, ideas and skills to the role.

Mike Beresford

Letter from the Chair

Welcome to the latest edition of CED's newsletter. Once more, our gratitude goes to Ian Rankin for weaving everyone's articles into another wonderful newsletter. Thank you, Ian! We are living in unprecedented times. The global impact of COVID-19 has been far-reaching. Some people might make light of it – but the reality is that it will have devastating consequences; and it is leading to widespread anxiety and hardship for many. The UK is facing restrictions on social interaction which will have an extensive impact on communities and churches. My own church has suspended all midweek activities and Sunday services. This coming Sunday we will be participating from our homes in a live streamed service; even during wartime it was possible for Christians to gather together to pray and worship God. Removing our ability to meet with each other leaves us bewildered and confused. As I write, it seems likely that our AGM (due to be held at Bermondsey on 13th June) will be postponed. Watch this space. In this time of global crisis, let's remember the words of Psalm 91: *"I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.' Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge"*.



Editor's Note

Hoping our readers enjoy this newsletter. For many, there will be more time to read and pray about CED's work. For a few, you will be coping with a nasty illness.

Please remember our overseas partners... many live in areas beyond the reach of intensive care beds and in societies where if people do not work they do not eat.

As we go to press it is apparent that the CED Open Day on June 13th will not take place. We will let you know when alternative arrangements are decided on.

Ian Rankin



From Sindh in Pakistan

CED Directors' Strategy Meeting

5th – 6th February 2020

CED's directors met at High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, from the Wednesday evening through to Friday morning. Our aim was to seek God's guidance for CED for the next five year period, and to discuss and review together our aims and priorities as an organisation.

One highlight of our time together was the worship time. Led by Mike Beresford, we used liturgies produced by the Northumbria Community which we found very helpful and inspiring.

We spent some time on the first evening discussing the environment in which CED operates – looking at the political, economic, social, technological and theological environments. It was very clear from that discussion that we live in a complex world, and one which is in a constant state of change. We live in a global village, in the sense that communications technologies enable us to talk instantly to our partners in rural Africa. And yet, in almost every other respect there are

huge differences between us. We may be experts in our own country's political and cultural map, but by and large we are ignorant of many of the undercurrents in, say, Uganda.

Thursday morning was taken up with the "ordinary" business of a Directors' Meeting – discussing ongoing projects and potential new ones. But after lunch we launched into a session looking at our Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (the infamous SWOT analysis!).

A full list of the "SWOTs" would take up too much space here, but here are some of the key points:

- We are a confessing evangelical Christian organisation, and that impacts all that we do.
- We are a lean organisation, in the sense that we don't have a lot of overheads.
- We are, in the main, a volunteering organisation, although that is not a defining characteristic.

- We struggle to raise funds for projects – but then that is not our primary aim.
- Donor organisations’ funding rules are making it increasingly difficult to match donors with projects.
- We need to make better use of social media to promote projects.
- We have so many opportunities to develop links with partners overseas, and there is no shortage of work to be done!

After all that we needed a break! Then, suitably fortified, we returned and were able to pray about and think about what key themes (or priorities) were emerging for us as an organisation. After much discussion we felt that these were some priorities:

- We are **God-centred** engineers. We are a **small** organisation, but “Small is Beautiful” (to quote E.F. Schumacher) and we should use that to best advantage.
- We need to make better use of

communications, especially to involve others in prayer and in action.

- We need to be better at **enabling**. Enabling our members, churches, students, and partner organisations to serve God with their time, skills, etc. There is potentially a **training** role for CED – transferring skills overseas.
- We need to respond to **climate change**, both in how we travel, and (of course) in how we do projects, and in what types of projects (e.g. renewables).
- We need to look afresh at the challenges of **funding** projects.

The Directors were all given homework to do! The bare bones outlined above need to be fleshed out and discussed further. So by the May Board meeting we intend to finalise our 2025 strategic plan, which will be presented to the membership at the AGM (date and place to be revised!).

Jonathan Appleby



Development as if People Really Matter

"*Small is Beautiful, A Study of Economics as if People Mattered*" is a seminal collection of essays by German-born British economist E. F. Schumacher. Although his work is now dated, many of Schumacher's arguments feel very contemporary. He contended that the modern economy is unsustainable. Non-renewable natural resources such as fossil fuels are subject to eventual depletion. He also argued somewhat prophetically that nature's resistance to pollution is limited. He concluded that the focus should be upon sustainable development. His concept of '**small is beautiful**', championing small and appropriate technologies, still stands in stark contrast to many of the philosophies that permeate our globalised free market culture today.

During our directors' retreat we grappled with our own place in the world of development. It is a fact that seeking funding for projects in excess of £100,000 has become more problematic. It took years to accumulate the necessary funds to deliver the Kisya Kagaana project in Uganda. We have been unsuccessful (so far) in seeking funding for large-scale water and sanitation projects in Pakistan and Sierra Leone. The budget for 'Improving Health through Sanitation in Tharparkar, Pakistan' was £250,000, whilst the 'Fresh Hope for Manowa' project was £293,000. CED has a long-standing track record of delivering such

projects successfully, for example at Pawaga and Kilolo where water supplies were provided to over 30,000 people. Our capability has not changed – yet, it seems that the priorities of funding bodies such as DFID have changed. Our inability to source funding for our major projects has not deterred us entirely, but it has led to us considering whether CED will be able to tackle such projects in the future. CED is sensing a move towards smaller projects that are rooted in their communities; working at household level. Projects like Mayange or Gbonko will perhaps become the norm in future. Where we work through personal connections and alongside families, instead of counting beneficiaries in thousands, we are engaging in doing 'development as if people really mattered'. We don't intend to let the professional standards that have been CED's hallmark since our inception slip. However, it feels right that we adopt a more open approach to those small requests and enquiries that we get – no future project will be considered too small. We don't yet know what the endpoint of this change in CED's direction will be, but we intend to be sensitive and open to God's guidance on the journey ahead, as He reveals His plans for CED in the coming months and years.

Mike Beresford



Rural villagers, Sindh, Pakistan

Climate Emergency: How I Became Involved in Christian Climate Action

A personal reflection by Rob Wakeling

Early life

From an early age I have seen the world as unfair because many people were born into situations where they were severely disadvantaged without any realistic opportunity to share the sort of life I inherited. I decided that I would try to do something about it. I have known about climate change for a long time but have become more aware of the link between global unfairness and global warming in the last few years.

2019

My son Sam took his family to London in April 2019 to be part of Extinction Rebellion and Christian Climate Action and I followed their progress. In October 2019 I went down to Trafalgar Square to help look after the children. This enabled Sam to take arrestable action. Sam has since spoken at his church in Sheffield twice about his experiences.

In the CED November newsletter I wrote about three books on climate change: **There is no Planet B** by Tim Berners-Lee, **This is not a drill** by Extinction Rebellion and **Planetwise** by David Bookless. Now I have read **Say yes to Life** by Ruth Valerio and **Time to Act** by Christian Climate Action.

In November 2019 I started attending the local group meetings of Extinction Rebellion in Buxton. I found it easier to talk about my global priorities there than in any church or charity I have attended.

Christian Climate Action

Time to Act contains a chapter by Sam and many other chapters written by passionately motivated people who see action on climate change as vital and urgent. I am moved by the stories of people who decided that they were called by God to get arrested in order to highlight the importance and urgency of government action to prevent irreversible

damage to our environment and biodiversity. Extinction clearly means very different things to different people. To some it refers to the current continuing losses of certain species and to others it refers to the possible extinction of human life.

Biblical context

Jesus quoted the Hebrew Scriptures when he said "Love your neighbour, love your enemies, love one another" on separate occasions. At the end of the parable of the Good Samaritan he said "Go and do likewise". Paul wrote about giving in order that there can be equality. James wrote about meeting basic needs. There is plenty of evidence in the Bible to convince us that God cares about poverty and injustice. In the power of the Holy Spirit He is able to act through us.

Coronavirus

Our carbon emissions did not significantly reduce until the world started reacting to Coronavirus. The reduction will only be temporary. It seems that we all long for "normal" life to resume as soon as possible. We urgently need to redefine "normal" life so that our carbon emissions continue to reduce and never again get out of control.

Conclusion

The unfairness of human life on earth has never been realistically addressed by those who have the power to change it. We who are privileged all have some influence and the option to simplify our lifestyles or way of life. We can all live more simply so that all humans may live with more access to the basics of life, however we define that. We can all write about these issues.



From “No Hope” to a “Bright Future”

*“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”
Romans 8:28 (NIV)*

In January 2016 CED re-established its links with Rwanda when Alan Michell and Rob Hoy made a visit to several regions and were introduced to Pastor Charles Semwaga and Faith Centre Ministries. One of the communities visited was a group of Rwandan returnees who had recently been given basic mud brick constructed houses by the government in an area of Kavumu village, Mayange, following their forced re-patriation from Tanzania and Burundi.

The community had no safe drinking water supply and no electricity and many of the houses needed further work to make them safe from the elements.

For the following three years, Alan, Rob, Ian Rankin and Pastor Charles worked together with James Rubakisibo of RHEPI, to find a way of providing this community with a safe water supply. The scope of the project was to include 50 x household rain-water tanks, a 40,000 litre bulk tank for the government’s mains supply and some home improvements to improve their resistance to the elements. Discussions



Alan with one of the returnees and family.

were held with the local Mayange authorities and various grant aid applications were submitted; regrettably these were unsuccessful. James Rubakisibo had to withdraw from the project due to ill health. It was beginning to feel as if the project would never get off the ground.

Then in late 2018, three separate offers of financial support came from Wilmslow Wells, The Life Trust and the Littlestone Charitable Trust, together providing 66 % of the funds needed for the project. In December 2018 work started on the bulk tank and in January 2019 a two-week training programme was run by Ian Rankin in the construction of the 4,000 litre ferro-cement household tanks leading to the first three household tanks being built. Work continued through 2019 with the tank construction being supervised by Pastor Charles and by the end of the year 39 household tanks had been constructed and all were providing good quality water to the community. In early 2020 St Mary’s Church



Ruth, Janet, Agnes and Charles in the new Church Building.



Olveston made a donation to the project which, together with a contribution from the CED Legacy fund, now covered the whole of the project finances.

Alongside the water project the community has been able to construct a new church building with support from the members of Crawley Baptist Church. The building now provides a valuable meeting place for worship and social community meetings throughout the week.

At the time of writing, the project is nearing completion with the last eight household tanks under construction and work is starting on further home improvements. The benefits and thanks of the community can be summed up in the following comments made by three of the ladies in January 2020:

Ruth said that before the start of the project she saw little hope for the future. However, Charles had encouraged her to pray and now she was happy that her dreams would be fulfilled, and the future was bright.

Janet gave thanks to everyone who had supported the project and the provision of a water tank, an answer to prayer. The church building was a peaceful place for seeking God or a place to run to when in trouble. May the Lord bless all who had contributed.



Agnes said that the future was bright, and the community was now more like a family with a new theme of cleanliness throughout.

The project has been a team effort where God, the 'Master Builder,' brought together the people and resources to fulfil His plans for the community of Kavumu.

Alan Michell

PS Watch out for the full story later this year



Building community: graduates of the rainwater harvesting course.

LAMB Hospital, Volunteer Opportunity

CED has been working with LAMB Hospital in northern Bangladesh since 2018. LAMB's aim is to transform their local community through the love of God, helping them to live in healthy and just communities. CED has supported four MSc students from Cranfield University to carry out research on some of their water and sanitation issues. CED continues to support LAMB in both the medium and long-term, helping it with environmental compliance as well as its long-term site development plans.

LAMB is hoping to appoint a volunteer Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) champion; this would be someone who can take the lead for WASH issues at LAMB and coordinate the planning, resourcing and implementation of

their programme of WASH improvements. It isn't a great time to be looking for volunteers for overseas roles, but the Lord moves in a mysterious way. The role would be for a three to six months with the possibility of extending. At least ten years' experience in an engineering project management or leadership role would be sought. Knowledge of WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) issues is desirable, as is working in a hospital or medical environment. Maybe you (or someone you know) are considering how you can use your gifts in an engineering role overseas? If so, please do get in touch with me at chair@ced.org.uk.

Mike Beresford

CED in Showcase of Scottish Development Projects

CED is proud to be a member of Scotland's International Development Alliance. The Alliance has recently published a report that maps their members' contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

'Working towards the Global Goals' demonstrates the impact and commitment made by the international development sector in Scotland. Over 120 organisations are working on projects in more than 100 countries. You can read the report in their resources section www.intdevalliance.scot/; Opposite is an excerpt. CED's contribution towards SDG6 'Clean Water and Sanitation' is highlighted on page 18: SDG6 aims to 'Ensure

The Majahida Project

Majahida Bible College in Bariadi in Tanzania had been without water for six years after the old shallow well ran dry. Christian Engineers in Development contributed towards achieving access to safe and affordable drinking water through the installation of a new borehole and submersible water pump at the college. More than 300 students, staff and members of the local community are now benefiting from the new water supply. The scheme was funded by churches, individuals and CED's own funds.

availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all'. CED is very thankful to be able to join other organisations in Scotland and the wider UK who are helping to transform the lives of the world's most vulnerable people through the SDGs.

Mike Beresford



Another Rainwater Harvesting Course...

Our rainwater harvesting workshops continue to be in demand among our partners. Every church group I meet asks for training. But the question remains: "what happens once people are trained?" The courses themselves are generally enjoyable and the workshop hosts find themselves with 10,000 litres of new water storage. It is the next stage that is challenging. What should our "exit strategy" be?

Perhaps the Mayange situation is most promising. As noted elsewhere in the newsletter we have a funded project to produce 50 tanks and the trained team are honing their expertise. The Congolese/Rwandese mixed group was less successful as there was no follow-on funding, although our Congolese partners ran workshops in two refugee camps showcasing the 1000 litre tanks; we await reports on whether some of the refugees have been able to move forward and build their own tanks. After the Rwanda workshops we decided to put more responsibility on the partners to make sure they have funds available to continue the work; in Kibaha, Tanzania the church not only contributed half the materials cost for the tanks, but also set aside £1350 to allow them to subsidise tanks for church members. So far they have built an additional tank at one of their churches and a large tank at the pastor's house. More are planned and some of the church members have placed orders for the

tanks which are less expensive and more robust than their plastic equivalents.

The recently completed workshop for the Anglican church at Kagera in Tanzania was perhaps our most successful in terms of the quality of the product built. The church's development officer is well educated and we had a highly experienced mason to lead the construction work. This time we requested the church to find the full cost of materials for the workshop and to set aside £960 to build at least two further tanks afterwards. After two weeks the 16 volunteers had built a 5000 litre tank, a 4000 litre tank and a 1000 litre tank. The leaders plan to support the trained volunteers to build tanks at their own homes to demonstrate their usefulness and to create local interest.

We have ideas for the future to support African trainers to do the training rather than bringing someone from overseas. The Kagera craftsmen would be able to do that, though we need to find the right context for them to explore. Please pray that we will be able to expand the programme. Water is a huge and increasing need and rainwater harvesting, though not a complete solution where there is a long dry season, can make a big contribution to a family's health.

Ian Rankin



Tank building team, Kagera Diocese, Tanzania.

The Tell in Kurdish Landscape: Informing Identity

A tell is an artificial hill created by many generations of people living and rebuilding on the same spot. Over time, the level rises, forming a mound. The single biggest contributor to the mass of a tell are mud bricks, which disintegrate rapidly. Excavating a tell can reveal buried structures such as government or military buildings, religious shrines, and homes, located at different depths depending on their date of use. They often overlap horizontally, vertically, or both. Archaeologists excavate tell sites to interpret architecture, purpose, and date of occupation. A classic tell looks like a low, truncated cone with sloping sides and can be up to 30 metres high.

The Kurdish tell, which gracefully and abundantly peppers the landscape in and around Duhok where I have been teaching architectural engineering these past two years, is a huge, tapered man-made mound (or berm) enveloping debris, archaeological remains, or garbage. The archaeological stratification of many of these tells reveals architectural ruins, foundations, and multiple mud-brick layers shedding remarkable light on ancient (and more modern) history and settlements—constituting crucially significant 3D archives.

Rather than excavating these sites or tells via archaeological digging, which is now considered destructive, techniques like remote sensing, underground radar and magnetic imaging, and thermal imaging employing aerial drones can be used (e.g. Stonehenge Riverside Project). By outfitting these unmanned craft with thermal cameras, archaeologists have discovered a new and affordable way of seeing what's underground while flying high above it.

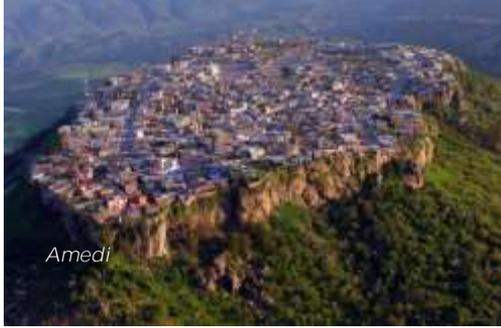
Exploring and comparing three Iraqi Kurdish tells can teach us much from an archaeological / architectural engineering point of view. The Erbil Citadel, dating from 5000 BC; the Malta Tell, an old Duhok cemetery and ancient buried stone complex; and Amedi, a historic Assyrian city lodged on a high plateau—not usually considered a tell, but situated on a small crater constituting a limestone bed belonging to the Pilaspi limestone formation of Eocene age. The mound's primary purpose serves as fortification. It is generally held that Amedi is the home of the Bible's 'three wise men' or magi. Unfortunately much of Amedi's original architecture has been lost, but it is my hypothesis that further archaeological investigation, like that of the Malta site (below), would reveal intricate subterranean foundational structures and layering.



MALTA HILL

A comprehensive study of the 'Archaeological Hill Malta at Duhok City' by Ghaib and Gardi in 2015 develops a model of the subsurface using two geophysical methods (gravity and resistivity) revealing the presence of wall remains distributed in a systematic manner under the surface. A more recent cemetery climbs the lower eastern slope.





Amedi

AMEDI

Amedi is 90 km northeast of Duhok. It was founded well over 2000 years ago. Archaeological studies have revealed little about the subsurface or substructure. In that the citadel is assumed to have been built originally on a crater, it is probable that the interior of the mound has depth, tunnels, foundations and debris worth exploring (similar to the Erbil Citadel). As an 'organically evolved (fossilized) landscape,' Amedi is a remarkable example of man adapting natural terrain to both serve and contain his shelter/security needs -unlike our borderless, contemporary urban development and sprawl.

ERBIL CITADEL

The extraordinary UNESCO World Heritage Erbil Citadel (Qelat in Kurdish), which pre-dates the Pyramids, has been well documented and studied. Archaeological digs reveal centuries of layers of built form. The settlement mound – of roughly oval shape — is between 25 and 32 metres (82 and 105 ft) high. The area on top of the mound measures 430 by 340 metres (1,410 ft x 1,120 ft) and is 102,000 square metres (1,100,000 sq ft) in area. Amazingly, natural soil has been found at a depth of 36 metres (118 ft) below the present surface of the mound. The angle of the citadel mound's slopes is about 45°. Three ramps, located on the northern, eastern and southern slopes of the mound, lead up to gates in the outer ring of houses. While it



Erbil Citadel

is not the purpose of this paper to expound historical merits, these examples reveal vernacular design models/precedents which can inform identity, increase self-esteem, and serve to improve the environment both near and far in imaginative and sustainable ways.

As Iraqi Kurdistan seeks to establish distinctiveness, its indigenous landscape, built form and history offer rich cultural language upon which to build—providing transportable models which can serve other cultures and regions around the globe. In many ways, this 'hidden country' is too well kept a secret.

*Marga Jann, AIA, RIBA, DPUC
American University of Kurdistan (AUK) / Cambridge
University*

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Erbil Citadel

Book Reviews:

Increasing Production from the Land

A. Coulson, A. Ellman, E. Mbiha, 276 pp, publ. Mkuki na Nyota, Dar-es-salaam, 2018. About £30 via Amazon.

This book is subtitled "A sourcebook on agriculture for teachers and students in East Africa". As such it is worthwhile background reading for engineers, economists and others who need to understand how agriculturalists think without themselves being professionals in agriculture. The text is very up-to-date and includes discussion of modern issues like GM cropping, aid-dependency, catering to overseas markets and trading by mobile phone (now widespread in Africa).

The word "Production" in the book's title suggests all agriculture, but the content is almost entirely related to crops rather than animals. The authors all have in-depth experience in Tanzania where the crops discussed are typical and all the helpful case studies are set, but the book could also be useful to workers elsewhere, allowances being made for different cultural and political contexts.

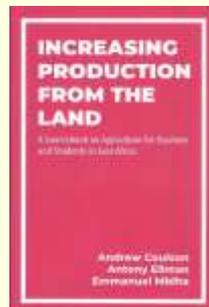
The text is closely confined to the needs, activities and experiences of *small* farmers, reflecting many of the communities CED helps. The scope ranges widely through the crops themselves, the soil, land tenure, marketing of produce, pests, crop diseases, erosion and some social issues such as how women relate to agriculture. There is helpful case-history discussion of the change, often observed now, from purely pastoral to increasingly settled crop-based livelihoods.

Only two pages are given to the recent phenomenon of Conservation Agriculture - sometimes known as "Farming God's Way" -

which has resulted in big crop increases in Zambia and Zimbabwe for small farmers. However, the book details papers available on the internet at the end of each chapter which offer much more. This feature expands the value of the book.

The chapter on water and irrigation starts with the words "Water is life" but disappoints slightly in that the only "life" considered is that of the crops. Any community, especially in the context of developing-country agriculture, will also need water for its members and for livestock, sometimes much more than for crops. Important parallel issues such as the quantity and quality of water for these other purposes, with the effects on other users downstream, are barely mentioned. This is not a criticism of the book which deals well with its subject: just a reminder that these other factors are usually important and that CED has a wealth of relevant experience to offer.

Alan Chadborn and Dick Waller

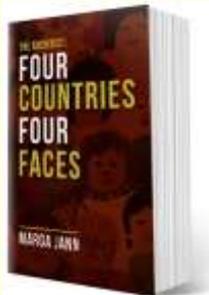


The Architect: Four Countries Four Faces

Marga Jann DPUC, RIBA, AIA, (Arrow Gate Publishing Ltd 2019)

"Cambridge 2005. It took a while for the garrulous Porter to notice the stealthy figure in the upper left-hand security monitor while we chatted about the forthcoming conference on architectural education...."

This is how the author grabs the reader's attention at the start of her gripping account of her experience as an academic architect working in Sri Lanka, South Korea, Cyprus and Uganda. Here is another quotation from further into the first country chapter:



"Shortly after settling in Colombo, I was sent to Islamabad by the United States Government as a regional Fulbright specialist following the 2005 earthquake which had just devastated the northern region of Pakistan. I was invited to give talks there on our tsunami-related design work in Sri Lanka to a group of Fulbright scholars who had been posted to South Asia, as well as on earthquake reconstruction to numerous Pakistan officials outlining our 'live project' methodology (designs for real clients which have the potential of getting built) – which, by the way, has largely since been adopted and implemented by Pakistani 'starchitects' such as Yasmeen Lari."

Such is the way of life described in this book which seems to move quite fast between locations, interesting incidents and a variety of professional relationships. CED members who have lived or worked overseas will find this book entertaining as well as thought provoking. It is available as an e-book or in hard copy from Amazon.

Marga Jann has been a member of CED since 2017 and contributes regularly to Prayer Points. She is now chair and professor of Architectural Engineering at the American University of Kurdistan. She says: *"I am 'hibernating' in locked down Iraqi Kurdistan (Duhok), where we are supposed to start teaching online April 1. Your prayers, for which I have been most grateful, have sustained me this far! Thank you. It's a challenging arena, especially for women. Many thanks, again, and keeping you and the team in prayer as we move through this difficult season."*

Let's keep praying!

Rob Wakeling



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Lydia Mill,
South Brent, TQ10 9JL
Email: admin@ced.org.uk

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Front cover: filling sacking with sawdust to make a mould for casting a rainwater tank, Kagera, Tanzania.

This picture: erecting steel skeleton for 5000 litre tank at Kagera, Tanzania.