

TEMPORARY WORK



Historically, “jobs” were not a part of the reality of our community. Each family had gardens and livestock, and their work was to provide for their needs through these means. In more recent decades, however, as drought and erosion depleted the soil and deforestation diminished rainfall, it became almost impossible to survive off of gardens and livestock alone.

NO GARDENS + NO JOBS = HUNGER

There were precious few options for making an income apart from the traditional means, so the young people began leaving the area to seek livelihoods elsewhere. When Lemuel began working in the Plateau community in 1998, the population was made up mostly of adults who would not leave their land and children who were yet too young to leave. Everyone else got out as soon as they could.

One of the first things Lemuel did was to create jobs. While some work required full-time employees, many other development projects were accomplished by working for limited periods of time as funds were available. Thus was born the “Temporary Work Program.” Through this program, more families could benefit from an income while the community as a whole benefitted from the results of the work.

In the early days, work of this sort involved clearing thorns, building roads, and even building an airstrip! Then began the work of slowly digging out the waterholes (rainwater-catchment ponds). This work took over a decade.

Today, temporary work projects are usually focused on cleaning out or expanding waterholes, repairing and creating new canals, and extending or improving roads.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

\$50 provides work for one person for a week. We will continue to run temporary work projects as long as funds are available.

To help us provide work and an income for struggling families in our community, visit our donate page at www.lemuelministries.org/donate and specify your donation for "Temporary work."