

Matugga News – March 2011

The Revival Centre

The Revival Centre is run by Pastor Ivan Lugoloobi and comprises a primary school of 450 pupils, a secondary school of 250 pupils, a Champion's Home for 125 orphans and needy children, a clinic and a busy church. Ivan's elder sister Ruth runs the Revival Clinic and treats up to 450 people a month and his twin sister Jane is involved with a ladies group who run projects to generate income to support their families and their poorer neighbours in Matugga.

The New School Year Begins

The 31st January saw the start of the new school year in Uganda. During the 2 month break most children will have been working hard helping their families make a living and hopefully there will have been some time for play. Many Champions returned from staying with members of their extended family located in towns and villages in all parts of Uganda (including the slums of Kampala and the war ravaged north). The small number of Champions who have no extended family to stay with and those for whom it is not safe to go to their home area stay with Pastor Ivan and his wife Allen in their home over the holiday period as the dormitories at the Centre are closed.

Dormitory Matrons

The dormitory matrons who look after the children in term time also take a well earned break in the school holidays and return to their home villages. The children of some matrons are taken into the Revival Centre as part of their support terms, but other matrons leave their children with family members in their home villages and for them school holidays provide the opportunity to see their children. Living in a school dormitory many miles from home and not seeing your own children for many weeks at a time is an example of the sacrifices people make to survive in Uganda.



Providing 'the basics'

Seeing the children return for the new school year is a sight to behold. They arrive following many hours uncomfortably squashed into a bus or minibus tax (*a matatu*) or precariously perched on the back of a motorbike taxi (*a boda-boda*) juggling their dormitory box, foam mattress and sack of belongings. There is a long queue of boarders with all their paraphernalia registering their return and demonstrating the extent to which they have been able to bring 'the basics' with them. For all there is a long list of requirements because the school cannot provide everything for everyone. Families in the needy group and guardians of the Champions are asked to provide as many items as they can and the school will try to help them with the rest.

The basics and their costs

| | UgSh |
|------------------|-------|
| Exercise books | 6000 |
| Pens and pencils | 300 |
| Ream of paper | 12500 |
| Uniform | 50000 |
| Day wear | 20000 |
| Sunday wear | 20000 |
| Shoes and polish | 20000 |

| | UgSh |
|---------------|-------|
| Sanitary pads | 5000 |
| Toilet tissue | 500 |
| Bathing soap | 1000 |
| Washing soap | 1000 |
| Plate and cup | 3500 |
| Bed sheet | 8000 |
| Foam mattress | 60000 |

| | UgSh |
|-------------------|-------|
| Washing bowl | 2500 |
| Towel | 5000 |
| Blanket | 20000 |
| Flip flops | 2500 |
| Bag of sugar | 3500 |
| Toothbrush/paste | 5000 |
| Vaseline for skin | 2500 |

The total cost of these items is 248,800 Ug Sh (£71) per child. If the guardians of the 125 champions did not provide any basic items it would cost Ivan £8,885 to provide for them all. At the start of the new school year we send Ivan an additional £2,000 (largely money raised through the Gift Scheme) to help meet these practical needs. Sadly, there is still a big shortfall and it will be evident to visitors that many children will be lacking a number of basic items including shoes, uniform and day clothes.

Primary 7 Exam Results

It was wonderful to receive news from Ivan of the P7 exam results. Of 33 candidates 8 achieved Grade 1 and 25 achieved Grade 2 (no Grades 3 or 4) which is fantastic. As you know most people in Uganda are lucky if they get the chance to complete primary education and it is great to see Ivan's P7 students going into the world or on to secondary education with the blessing of a good primary education.

Secondary and Vocational

We don't have full details of the secondary exam results but we know that Ivan was really encouraged by them. We have just heard from Ivan that the secondary school has finally been registered as an exam centre. This will avoid the cost of sending children to other exam centres to sit state exams (it has come too late to save on those costs this year). A kitchen is being established at the secondary school to reduce the demand on the current kitchen which serves *posho and beans* to 700 pupils every lunchtime from just 2 pots.

We are working with Ivan to determine realistic setup and running costs for establishing a dedicated vocational skills centre alongside the secondary school. Most of the equipment for teaching a range of practical subjects is already there but the cost of building premises and the ongoing cost of instructors salaries and materials has been beyond our budget over the last 3 years. Ivan is passionate about giving skills to those who are not so academic, and in practice most will need to have some practical skills to support themselves in the future. Ivan will be sharing the plans when he visits us in June.



Sanitation, Drainage and Water Harvesting

Poor toilets and flooding present a huge health risk to the children and threaten to damage the site and some of the buildings we have invested in, so in June 2010 we shared the urgent need to address these issues. With your support we have built a new EcoSan toilet block and pumped out one of the older pit latrines. So we are pleased to report that there were sufficient toilet blocks for the primary boys and girls and for the secondary boys and girls to have separate facilities at the start of the new school year.

A huge amount of work has also been undertaken terracing the site and installing and repairing drains to remove slopes and manage runoff. A good start has also been made on water harvesting which will further reduce runoff and provide an alternative source of fresh water at the Centre. Some areas have been grassed and planted with small trees to hold the soil together and improve the environment.

Donations received for this work over the last 8 months (a fantastic £8,000) has allowed us to tackle some of the most urgent sanitation and drainage problems but this is a large scale challenge and there is more to do. The original costings are proving accurate and it will take another £10,000 to complete the necessary work (the big items being concrete drains and 4 water tanks with concrete bases to complete the water harvesting scheme).

The Farm

The farm in Gombe (6 miles north of Matugga) is now well established. Every few months there is a harvest of maize, beans, cassava, sweet and Irish potatoes, cabbages and greens. There are serious droughts and food shortages in Uganda so the more food that can be grown at the farm the better. Throughout August and September last year about half an acre of land was cleared and planted with fruit trees (mangos, paw-paws, oranges etc). These should start to provide an annual cash crop in 2 or 3 years time. The final areas of unused land have been cleared for cultivation, some crops will be planted on a larger, more commercial scale, to improve returns.

A piggery unit has been completed and a number of pigs being raised elsewhere will soon be moving to the Farm. The cows continue to do well although producing calves is the main event at the moment with one calf born last December and another two on the way. The Agriculture teacher regularly takes pupils to the farm so that they can learn first hand how to grow crops and tend livestock.

A large thunderstorm took place in February and damaged the main building at the farm making a side wall fall into the living quarters where Agnes is residing, fortunately she was not hurt but we now need to repair the building. Agnes graduated from S6 at Revival at the end of 2009 and is working at the farm to sustain herself. She got good A-levels and is praying that support will come from somewhere to pay for her to study Journalism at Makerere University.

The Clinic

Ruth runs the clinic very professionally and is always looking to improve the service. The new solar panel installed last August has been a real blessing providing light at night when difficult deliveries and procedures are being undertaken and when the mains electricity is off. Recent gifts have provided mattresses, bedside lockers, mosquito nets, completion of dining area for staff, training for nurses and a new delivery couch. We are paying for Anna and Agnes to live in rented rooms nearby as the previous arrangement where the 4 nurses were sharing one small room was unfair and unsustainable.



The idea of a clinic annex to provide an isolation ward and nurses rooms was withdrawn because the authorities who regulate the primary school won't allow pupils to pass through a medical centre to get to school. Clinic gifts have also been invested in an ultrasound scanner and examination enclosure in the former waiting room. Ultrasound is a vital tool in identifying and dealing with difficult pregnancies and in investigating other problems such as hernias and swellings.

Visitors since July 2010

It is impossible to summarise the contributions and experiences of visitors to Matugga so we will simply acknowledge their visit and identify the main focus of their efforts (they could write a book!)

The Pomeroy Family

Between 31 July and 7 August 2010 Stuart and Tamara Pomeroy visited the Revival Centre and teamed up with their daughter Hannah who was well into her 4 month gap year trip. Tamara and Stuart used their professional expertise to do surveys of the sanitation and drainage requirements and of the health care provided by Ruth and her team in the clinic. Their detailed reports have been a huge help in making plans for improvements at the Centre. Hannah's visit ended on 2 September and it was great to hear her give first hand feedback on her experiences at our recent Matugga evening.



Liz and Maria

Liz Hughes and Maria Wren-Kirkam visited the Centre between 25 August and 5 September 2010. Among other contributions they worked tirelessly in the heat planting fruit trees at the Revival Farm. This vital work will help provide a future cash crop and improve the self-sufficiency of the Revival Centre.

Debbie Walker

Debbie Walker made her fourth visit to Matugga between 14 and 29 September 2010. Being a nurse Debbie spent time encouraging and working with the clinic team. Each year Debbie facilitates the annual achievers day out to reward those who have done well in their school work but also those who have made a significant contribution to life at the Centre. The day included a trip to Entebbe zoo, a bottle of pop and a time chilling out on the shores of Lake Victoria.



Hannah, Jazz, Dennis and Ben

Hannah Chappell, Jazmine Powell and Dennis Crosby volunteered at the Centre between 14 September and 16 December 2010. They all got involved in many aspects of life at the Centre but also had their own particular focus. Hannah focussed on working in the clinic. Jazz taught dances which were performed at the end of year celebration event. Dennis painted walls, coached football and helped with computer lessons. Ben Boerrichter joined them between 10 and 24 October when they all experienced camping on an island in Lake Victoria, Bens driving on Uganda's hazardous roads and his firewood chopping skills.

The Bly Brothers

Peter and Mark Bly visited Matugga between 12 and 29 November. They worked hard making, painting and installing fascia boards and gutters to move the water harvesting project forward.

Phil's December Visit

Phil Chappell went out to Matugga for 9 days (4 to 12 December 2010) to review the past year and make plans for 2011 with Pastor Ivan and his leadership team. It was wonderful for Phil to live in a house full of champions, Ivan's family and 3 young people from Ilkley.

Tracy Henney

Tracy who is a teacher at Eastburn primary was the first visitor of 2011 (13 to 21 February). Eastburn school has a link with Revival Primary and the purpose of Tracy's visit was to lay foundations for joint projects to be undertaken on agriculture, the environment and school life. During her short visit she spent time teaching and comparing notes on teaching methods with staff at Revival, making friends and finding out how people live in Uganda.

Letters to and from Champions

In April we hope to bring a letter back for every sponsor. If you would like a letter to be taken to your sponsored child please get it to us at Lyndhurst, Denton Road, Ben Rhydding, Ilkley LS29 8QR **by 8th April**.

News and Events - Ivan's son 'Elisha' who was born on 6th September 2010 is thriving. Visa permitting, Ivan will visit us in June.

On Saturday 16th April - Guiseley Brass Band will be performing a concert in aid of the Revival Centre at St John's Church, Ben Rhydding starting at 7.30pm. Further details and tickets will be available shortly.

On Monday 30th May - Ilkley Trail Race organised by Ilkley Harriers and All Saints church is a fundraiser for Revival Centre. The race starts at 11.30 am from Ilkley Lido (register from 9.30 am). Entry Forms are available from Phil & Libby, Ilkley Harriers website (see 'our races') and the 'News & Events' page of the Revival Website.



(Huge thanks to all who are undertaking fundraising events, please let us know if you need help)

For further information contact Phil or Libby Chappell on 01943 430744 or at philchappell@blueyonder.co.uk or visit www.revivalcentrematugga.org.uk