

# Matugga News – October 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 community clinic, a farm and a busy church. Ivan's elder sister Ruth runs the 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 own families and their poorer neighbours in Matugga.

## Visitors to Matugga since March 2011



### Phil, Hannah and Rachel

Between 10<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> April Phil and Hannah Chappell and Rachel Eydmann returned to Matugga. It was great to see all the positive developments that had taken place since their last visits and to meet all the children and staff at the Revival Centre and friends in the community. Much of the site had been grassed and partitioned with nice walls and covered walkways.

The team had a busy, enjoyable and emotional time. With the funds available to the team; the new S5 block was completed, two large cooking pans were bought for the new secondary kitchen, some drains were completed, the nursery was painted and the end of term shortfall on staff salaries, exam fees and champions needs was covered. Rachel is currently raising funds to provide an outdoor play area for the nursery and was pleased to discuss her ideas with Joyce the new head of the nursery section.

The farm had really taken shape with all land now under cultivation or being grazed by the cows. Many of the fruit trees planted by Maria and Liz in August 2010 had grown well and could be bearing fruit as soon as August 2012 and providing a cash crop. The team visited the pigs being reared in Matugga who will be transferred to the farm when the piggery unit is completed.

**Time with the Champions** - The team interviewed the Champions, handed out letters from sponsors and brought back letters and updated pictures of children for their sponsors. More was discovered about the Champions' backgrounds, home locations and personal challenges. Some have come from poor rural areas and from the streets and slums of Kampala. Many of the fears and concerns the children have relating to their home and family situations were raised at a Youth Conference event and many difficult questions were referred to the visitors for advice. It was really hard to hear their stories and even more difficult to give advice on situations that were beyond the Team's own experience. It was a reminder of what a safe and loving refuge the Revival Centre is for these children.

### Alex, Emmie, Brittany and Helen

Alex Langford from Boston Spa spent 3 months of her gap year at the Revival Centre between 15<sup>th</sup> May and 29<sup>th</sup> July before going off to university. She spent time teaching, working alongside Allen helping with the administration of the schools and champions programme and spent some time working with Ruth's team in the clinic.



Helen

Alex

Brittany

Emmie

Between 23<sup>rd</sup> May and 23<sup>rd</sup> June Alex was joined by Emmie Giles and Brittany Harris from Devon. Like most visitors they painted classrooms and also enjoyed getting to know the children through teaching and found working in the clinic very interesting. Helen Hughes of Ilkley joined the team in these activities between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> June.

Together they attended an introduction ceremony where they wore traditional Ugandan 'Busuuti' dresses. The girls took cases full of practical gifts they had collected before their travels and used their money to buy paint, do repairs at the Centre and buy much needed sports kit. They enjoyed the church services very much and got personally involved, with Brittany singing a solo with her guitar at one service. They also took the chance to go white-water rafting on the Nile at Jinja and saw Uganda's fantastic wildlife in the Murchison Falls National Park. They all found everyone in Matugga and at the Centre very friendly and welcoming and they particularly enjoyed staying in Ivan's home and becoming part of the family.

In their own words: *"All in all, our time at the Revival centre was brilliant. We loved helping out at the centre where we could, everybody in the area was so friendly and the general atmosphere was always great, by the end of our time in Matugga it felt like a second home!"*

### **Libby, Beth and Matthew**

Libby Chappell and two young people connected to All Saints Church in Ilkley, Beth and Matthew Wilson, visited Matugga between 20<sup>th</sup> August and 5<sup>th</sup> September. They were relieved to see that pastor Ivan's 1 year old son Elisha had recovered from a recent illness that nearly took his life.

The team arrived immediately following a visit by a Government school inspector who required Ivan to expand the rooms used for science teaching and practical work (a condition of retaining exam centre status). The funds available to the team made it possible for this work to be started during their visit.

The science block extension under construction



The schools were closed for most of the visit so Libby visited some of the families supported by the ladies group in particular Mrs Musoke who is in her eighties and has two handicapped adult children and Restie and her 5 children whom she has met on previous visits. It is humbling to see how the ladies group, whose members are poor themselves, strive to support their own families as well as helping their struggling neighbours. Libby was excited to accompany Najuma Agnes to register at Mukono University to study Education and become a teacher. Najuma is from a poor family and since completed her A-levels in November 2009 she has been labouring at the farm. She is being generously sponsored at university by Pudsey Grangefield Maths and Computing College in Leeds for her full 3 year course.

A second student of the Revival Centre, also called Agnes, has been given the chance to go to University at Gulu in northern Uganda sponsored by a family in Ilkley. Agnes who completed her A-levels in November 2010 is the daughter of a widow called Grace who is the primary boys dormitory matron at the Revival Centre. For children from really poor backgrounds like the two Agneses going to University is a huge opportunity for them individually and a great encouragement to all the children at the Revival Centre to work hard and believe they will succeed in the future.

Beth and Matthew spent many days toiling in the hot sun painting the exterior of the extensive secondary school buildings. This is really important work as it protects the buildings from the weather and makes the school look smart both to students and the parents of fee paying pupils.



The team ventured into the bustling market areas of Kampala to buy a bale of towels and other items. Back at Revival they enjoyed handing out a towel and toothbrush to each of the secondary champions as they returned to start the new term and they also gave clothes to the teachers.

Despite such a short trip they took the opportunity to see a bit of the country and camped for 2 days on the beautiful Island of Kalangala in Lake Victoria. On Libby's last day she was delighted to see the arrival of the nursery chairs and cupboard donated by Ben Rhydding Pre-school Play Group which had been shipped 6 weeks earlier.

### **Pastor Ivan's visit to the UK**

Pastor Ivan was with us between 24<sup>th</sup> June and 12<sup>th</sup> July and had a busy time visiting 10 schools, 6 churches and enjoying fellowship and meals with families in their homes. Ivan's twin sister Jane joined him on some of the visits when she was in Ilkley between 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> July. It was Jane's first trip out of Africa and she was amazed at the standard of living people enjoy here but shocked by the waste we produce and by the number of machines and gadgets we use in our everyday lives.

Ivan gave updates on developments at the Revival Centre and on the progress of the children in his care. The biggest challenge remains meeting the rising monthly costs of food, fuel and salaries. Additionally Ivan outlined three projects that he would like to take forward in the coming months.

**Farm irrigation system.** To protect crops and livestock in the dry seasons and in periods of drought it is important to have an alternative source of water at the farm. Different solutions such as a borehole and pump, water harvesting tanks and a small impounding reservoir are now being assessed and costed.



Pastor Ivan being welcomed by Rev Rob Hilton at Christchurch in Ilkley

**Vocational skills centre.** Ivan is passionate about giving skills to those who are not so academic or have missed out on some years of formal education. In practice most of the children at Revival will need to have a practical skill to support themselves in the future. Most of the equipment for teaching carpentry, tailoring, catering and computing is already there but the cost of building premises and meeting the ongoing cost of instructors and materials has been beyond our budget for the last 3 years. We are now working with Ivan to determine realistic setup and running costs for establishing a dedicated vocational skills centre alongside the secondary school.

The proceeds of the Ilkley Trail Race (£1,717) will be put towards this project and we are delighted to report that Harrogate Grammar School's Charity Committee have adopted the Revival Centre as their charity for the year and will focus on the vocational skills centre project.

**e-learning.** Ivan continues to worry about the future of those who leave the Centre with little or no family support. While the vocational centre will help students secure jobs where practical skills

are required, an e-learning facility will enable others to obtain recognised qualifications in the more administrative and professional jobs in a low cost format.

The vocational skills centre and e-learning facility could offer training to the wider community for a fee and become sources of income generation.

### **Matugga visitors - Peter, Debbie and David**

Peter Willox, the Vicar of St John's Ben Rhydding, will be visiting the Revival Centre with 'Matugga regulars' Debbie Walker and David Moore between 11<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October. Peter will see for himself the different areas of ministry of the Revival Centre that St John's has been linked with since the Centre was established in the year 2000. Peter wants to understand the needs of people in the community and how the church reaches out to them and is keen to bring back lessons for his own ministry in Ilkley. This will be Debbie's 5<sup>th</sup> trip to Matugga and she will focus on the work of the clinic and will see installation of the ultrasound scanner. David will be repairing the computers he installed in 2009 and will be setting up a small server and Local Area Network which may become the platform for the e-learning facility at the Centre.

### **Letters to sponsored children**

If sponsors would like to send letters to their sponsored children those visiting in October will be happy to take them out - so please get them to us at Lyndhurst, Denton Road, Ben Rhydding, Ilkley LS29 8QR by **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October**.

### **The next 'Matugga Evening' – 7pm Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2011, St John's**

Come and enjoy an evening of feedback on developments at the Revival Centre and receive the impressions of some first time visitors to Matugga. We have many wonderful pictures, video clips and stories to share with you, so come along, bring your friends and see how lives are being changed both here and in Matugga through this link.

### **Donations and fundraising**

We thank all the individuals, churches and schools who make regular donations of money and practical gifts in support of the children at the Revival Centre in Matugga. A huge 'well done' to all who have undertaken fundraising events recently, these have included: a coast to coast family bike ride, a swim across lake Windermere, Hafla evenings, clothing sales, ruby wedding anniversary gifts and school fundraising events (including children selling wonderful crafts they have made).

If you or your friends are planning a fundraising event please let us know so that we can give you our support. We can now give you the facility to set up a fundraising page on the web via 'Charity Giving'. Occasional or regular donations can also be made online using this facility. For further details see the 'Donations and Fundraising' page of our website.



Restie and her children sit against the kitchen recently constructed for them by the ladies

**For further information contact Phil or Libby Chappell on 01943 430744 or at [philchappell@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:philchappell@blueyonder.co.uk) or visit [www.revivalcentrematugga.org.uk](http://www.revivalcentrematugga.org.uk)**