



The Mary Wood Trust Newsletter

Charity Number 1144311



CHRISTMAS 2017



It is 6 months since our last newsletter and we are happy to be able to tell you about some of the exciting things that have been happening and decisions that were taken at our last meeting in October.

We are very aware that the charity can only exist because of the continued generosity of our sponsors and supporters: People who like us who are keen to support education, especially of girls, in rural South West Uganda. This area continues to be cut off from the main stream: with intermittent power supply, poor internet connectivity, terrible roads and a discontinuous fresh water supply.

With your help we are able to make a difference to a few. Far better than not helping anyone at all.

We wish you many blessings at this special Christmas time and thank you from our hearts.

NYAKABUNGO GIRLS' SECONDARY SCHOOL

MWT Sponsored Girls

We continue to sponsor 30 girls in the boarding section of the school: 20 of these are through private sponsorship and the rest through the regular giving that we receive each month. If you feel this is something you would like to help with, the commitment at present is £15 per month. Hopefully the girls will continue at the school until they complete their A levels.

In order to help improve the relationship between the school and the local Kanungu community, we have decided to sponsor 10 day girls when the new school year starts in February. This costs approximately £25 per term. Again, please let us know if you would like to help with this.

These recent comments from Charles Musinguzi, chairman of the NGSS Board of Governors, show how much they appreciate the work we do.

"I am sure you know our school is situated among very poor peasant communities, and therefore I highly appreciate your concern for some of our day-students, and we shall be most grateful for assistance directed at them. As someone who was born right at the site this school, was raised and studied at this school (when it was still a mixed primary school), I praise the Lord with great joy at your love for this school that I am witnessing"

Sewing Room

The school is starting to think about providing some vocational courses at the school including hairdressing and tailoring. This will help to equip the girls with a useful skill before they leave school.

Work will hopefully start work on the Cliff Smith Sewing Room early next year. This has generously been donated by one of our trustees, Kath Smith, in memory of her husband Cliff, who died in 2014. It will be equipped with sewing machines and other tailoring related items. It will be a great asset to the school. We will keep you informed on the progress.

Staff Accommodation

Providing decent accommodation for the staff is imperative if the school is to attract good teachers. We have heard that some teachers have been put off applying for jobs at NGSS because of the remoteness of the area but also because of the dilapidated and poor quality of accommodation on offer. We cannot change the geographical location of the school but we can improve where the teachers stay. We have shown this with the female Staff House, completed a couple of years ago. We have agreed to construct a fence around this staff house and make it secure.

Now it is the turn for the male teachers. We plan to renovate the present block which has no proper windows, ceiling, floors, or toilet facilities. We have also agreed to build a new block which should accommodate 4 single teachers, with the possibility of easily amending the units in case a man with a family is appointed.

Because of the unpredictability of electricity, we also propose to install solar panels to provide light to both these blocks. It would be wonderful indeed if we could provide solar lighting to all the staff and students but at present we are not in a position to do so.

We are hoping to start all this work before the end of the year, once all the costings have been approved.

Greetings Card

An art competition held at the school has produced some lovely floral pictures and we have put the winning four entries together to create an attractive greetings card (21cm x 15 cm).

These are available from any of the trustees or by contacting us via the website or Facebook. They come with an envelope and cellophane sleeve and we are asking for a minimum £1 donation per card. All profits will go to benefit the girls at the school.



Some of the MWT sponsored girls in November



Greetings card

Ruth Memorial Nursery School

It is great to hear that the last of the dilapidated classrooms have now been renovated, a new side gate installed and much of the kitchen equipment updated. We are very grateful for the generous donation that has made this possible.



Ephraim is now waiting to hear from the local town council that he can go ahead with installing a fence at the front of the nursery school. This has been held up because the town planner has not been 'in his seat' but is on a course which will not be finished until the middle of December. Such is the frustrating way that things can work in Uganda.

We are confident however that the fence will be installed in the new year and the children will at last be safe and protected.

Nyakatare Health Centre

The new pit latrine and washing area for the patients is a great improvement and we are happy to have been able to help provide this.

The intermittent power supply is both very annoying and disruptive, especially to the dental clinic and when multiple machines are being used. We have very recently received a generous donation from Medical Missionary News and this means that we can now pay for a quiet generator to serve the clinic when mains power is off (example shown).



STOP PRESS

Ann and friends held a very successful coffee morning in Marcham on Friday Dec 1. They made £381.40 and this money will go to support 5 day girls at NGSS next year. Wonderful result. Well done! Thank you so much.

This first week of December sees the end of the school year for the girls at NGSS and the children at RMNS. Most of them will return in February to start the new school year once again.

Four of our sponsored girls have just sat their A-level exams and so they will be waiting anxiously to see how they have done. Thanks to those who have supported these students during their time at school. If they have worked hard enough they may be able to go on to study for a degree or perhaps pursue a vocational training. Although we are not always able to provide the funds to enable this to happen, we have managed to support a number of girls at Ugandan Universities. We are also helping one girl to study for a certificate in midwifery and another to learn about electrical installation.

Oliver and Clare will be making their next visit to Uganda on February 21, 2018. As always they will be very happy to take out any letters to sponsored girls or greetings or other useful items. As trustees of the MWT, we are all aware just how many demands everyone has on their finances, especially at this time of year. We would like to say a huge thank you to you and to say how much we appreciate all your ongoing, continued and future support. Without it we would not be able to give these young people the great start in life that they richly deserve.

God bless you all and Merry Christmas!

Clare, Peter, Kath and Ann

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