



Uganda Newsletter

April 2008



In February we enrolled another 60 children into the school. This meant we also needed 2 new teachers. We now have 275 pupils and 9 teaching staff at the school.

New head teacher

Naboth Olupot, our new head teacher is handed over the keys and documents to the school, surrounded by EZRA trustees and 2 staff representatives. Naboth is the former head of a school in the town, with over 700 pupils.



Four new class-rooms

As pupil numbers go up, there is an increasing need for more classrooms to accommodate them. Last year, four new classrooms were completed and now house the new intake and a library.



Bedwellty comprehensive School in South Wales, had previously donated netball posts and so, with the new PE kits which arrived in the container, they were soon put to good use.



Three months delivery



In October 2007, a 40ft. container arrived with school equipment, furniture, books etc.. Severe weather and floods caused the bridge below the school to be washed away, so the container had to be unloaded and the contents taken up to the school in smaller vehicles. The contents were, therefore, only sorted out in January 2008, organised by our UK trustee Philip Hopkins.

Our school immediately utilised the new tables and chairs from the container, but secondary school books, were distributed to the local secondary schools, where siblings of the children in our school are attending. This help greatly with making and maintaining good relationships with neighbouring schools. They are so desperate for books that they are delighted with any help we can give them.

Belinda Dwyer, an optician from Raglan, accompanied us in January to test the eyes of the villagers and provide them with spectacles. they would otherwise have had no hope of even being able to afford an eye test. Several even had cataract operations paid for.



New waterproof outfit

Our staff at the school face challenges on a daily basis. One of our groundsmen had his house burned down, forcing him to live in a tree with his wife and three children. A friend in the UK was contacted and £50 was donated to rebuild it with a roof made of tin sheeting instead of grass. (Imagine - £50 to build a house!!)

Here are our groundsmen and Florence, the lady who weeds and waters the shrubs, trying on their new waterproof with great hilarity! Michael, whose house was burnt down stood next to me.



First meeting

Terry Leaman, the site manager of Rhymney Comprehensive School, visited Uganda for the first time in Feb. this year. He worked very closely with David, our caretaker, showing him how to put up display boards etc. and how to use the tools taken out. Here are the two of them together.

Terry's aim was also to set up a link between the King's Primary School and this school in Wales, in order to have closer communication between pupils and staff in the future.

Last year 30 of our pupils spent a week in town at Christian Union conference. It was the first time they had been to the town and the first time they had stayed away from home. At a meeting I had with parents in February, the feedback was very positive. Some said the children were better behaved. Others said they were amazed at how well the children could find their way around the Bible. One parent said that his child came home and demanded that the family have a time of prayer together before going to bed each night. Another parent said that one of the family was sick and the child went over to pray for him. He said he had never heard such a prayer from so young a child.



With regard to sporting activities, our junior team came first in the sub-county sports, surprising everyone, seeing as it was the first time they had entered and they were so much younger than the other competitors. (We only had pupils up to Primary 4, so they were competing against Primary 6 and 7 children) The facilities were very inadequate and some of our children didn't even have running shorts etc.. Fortunately, lots of PE equipment and PE kits were sent out in the container, so we are expecting even better results this year.

Our school teams

The boys are in their football kit donated by CC sports, Bargoed, South Wales.

The girls are in their netball bibs, donated by Bedwellty Comprehensive School which closed down in July 2005.

Behind the netball team, In the background, are our school buildings.



Our stone mason

Our vision for this year is to complete another two classrooms in preparation for another 60 children who will be enrolled next February along with two more teachers. A second teachers' accommodation block also needs to be started. The first block, holding eight teachers, is now full. We can then begin to build a house for our head teacher, who is presently accommodated in one of the classrooms. This is a requirement in Uganda. The photo shows Mwaniki, our stone mason who has done most of the building work on the school and accommodation block.

We now have transport at the school for the first time. Our head teacher was given money to buy a motorbike just before my return to the UK..This now reduces transport costs when the head needs to contact one of our trustees or a government official and also makes for speedy communication if a child is sick or has an accident.

We would also like to see each child have a mosquito net to take home. Babies especially are still dying of malaria.

