



EZRA newsletter November 2009

Apologies for the silence, due to illness and injury, but much has happened since the last newsletter.

Registered charity number 1058534

Earlier in the year, we realised how badly the credit crunch had affected us when we visited Uganda and found that the exchange rate of the pound sterling had dropped drastically against the Ugandan shilling from 3,100/- Ugandan shillings to 2,500/- Ugandan shillings. This meant that we had effectively lost over 25% of our sponsorship and any money we sent out. This resulted in us only enrolling thirty more children into the school instead of the sixty we had anticipated and thus, only appointing one new teacher instead of two. However, every month we have continued to be able to pay the salaries of our staff and keep the school running.

Several visitors have been to our school this year. The first was Vicky Bannon who joined us on our January trip and then stayed up at the school for several weeks after our return, working in the classrooms with the teachers and helping in so many other ways. She also organised a party for the children whilst we were there.

Our next visitors were a team from the Heart of God, Uganda from the USA. They brought many spectacles with them and arranged for an optician to test the eyes of the children. Spectacles were then given out to the children along with bananas, pens etc. and bibles.



Last month, one of our UK trustees, Terry Leaman, visited the school, where he was able to assess maintenance required on the present building and bring news of the progress of the second teachers' accommodation block which is currently being built. He was also present at the initial interviews of candidates for teaching posts recently advertised. Second interviews will take place in January when the rest of the trustees will arrive.

The most recent development has been the sending of a 40 foot container from Bettws High School, now renamed Newport High School. Furniture, sports equipment and many other items were shipped out to our school, instead of ending up in landfill here. This was accomplished largely through the effort of Helen Morgan who worked tirelessly to bring this about. The support from the rest of the school, especially the head teacher, was also phenomenal, along with the donation of £3,000 towards the cost of the container from Leadbitter, the builders of Newport High School. Several of the staff and one of the pupils of the school are accompanying us to Uganda in January 2010 to sort out the contents of the container and see everything being put to good use.



The picture shows the loading of the 7 a side goalposts onto the container by Gary Schlick, the head teacher of Newport High, Mary Griffiths from EZRA, Simon Owen, the project director of Leadbitter, plus Helen Morgan, June Evans and Heather Lucas who are accompanying us to Uganda in January 2010.

Thank you for your continued support and your prayers.

Mary Griffiths