



Uganda Calling!

Home and Away

May 2017

Hi everyone – greetings from Anona & Dave.

In our last newsletter, we promised you an update on Zion Community School, Kakuba. For those of you who have not seen our newsletters before, we started building the school at the end of 2013 on land purchased earlier that year. We started by building pit latrines, two accommodation rooms and two classrooms. We employed three teachers and started the school in February 2014.

The school system in Uganda at that time was as follows: Two nursery classes, Baby Class and Top Class, followed by Primary (P) 1, P2 > P7. If the pupils pass their P7 leaving exams, then they can go on to secondary education.

Since 2014, we have improved the facilities year on year. At the end of 2016, we had four classrooms, an office, a staff room, pit latrines, two small accommodation rooms and a water harvesting system. As well as the two nursery classes, we had P1 > P4 and teachers for all classes.

At the end of the school year in 2016, we carried out the following works:

- Verandas and shades for the existing buildings. This protects the foundations as well as giving the children shade from the heat.
- Classroom no.5, which means we started P5 in February this year.
- Additional pit latrine block so we have separate blocks for boys and girls.
- Painting of the buildings inside and out.
- Levelling of part of the land as a play area for the children.
- Temporary kitchen.



Verandas and painting – original buildings



Classrooms and office block



The new pit latrine block under construction



The temporary kitchen – we have to build a permanent one!

So, we're making good progress with regard to the school infrastructure, but there is still much to do. Our next work will be:

- Complete interior painting of classrooms.
- Build permanent kitchen.
- Soak pit for new pit loos.
- Veranda & shade for new classroom.

Future plans include:

- Five more classrooms that are needed for completion of the teaching facility. We have learned that we should, in fact, have three nursery classes, Baby Class, Middle Class and Top class; like many other schools we were unaware of this and it may be a new government regulation. So we need to build a 3 classroom block for the nursery school and 2 more classrooms for Primary 6 & Primary 7.
- Pit latrines for Nursery block.
- Outside play facilities for Nursery.
- Fence entire site.

We now have seven teachers on our payroll:



Rose Nabwire



Baby Class



Robinah Namusoka



Top Class



Stellah Babirye (also the school administrator)



Primary 1



Jesca Nahwanga



Primary 2

At present, the majority of our eighty odd children are in the lower classes. The reasons for this are twofold:

- The school was built for the village in the first instance and in these early years we have over-age children in our lower classes because they have had no schooling at all.
- Parents from outside of the village will consider sending their older children to us when the facilities are complete and the standard of our Primary Leaving Exam results are known and acknowledged to be good. This will not happen until the end of the 2019 school year.



Dorothy Nyachon



Primary 3



Ritah Nabaale



Primary 4



Joshua Katumba



Primary 5

We are very proud of our teaching staff, and believe they are so important to the growth and excellence of Zion Community School. If you are a praying person, then please stand with us in bringing them before God.

Please also pray for everyone involved with the school: Daniel Kanya & Pastor John Kasikende (school overseers); the parents committee who do a great job in helping the school to develop; the school cook who feeds the children their porridge every day as well as providing the teachers' meals; and our friend Juliet, who is busy making the new school uniforms.

Our ultimate aim is to completely finish the school infrastructure, be registered with the Education Authority and become a place of excellence for the children of Kakuba and the surrounding villages. If we can achieve this, the school will then be able to become self sufficient because of its status.

The village is already proud of the school and of the knock-on effect it is having locally. Not long ago, the LC1 (local council chairman) thanked me for the school because *“it is causing land prices to rise in the area!”* So, we are doing some good for someone!

We have both learned a lesson from what is happening in Kakuba. We never went to Uganda to build a school, we just went to teach the word of God, but we have realised that when we are obedient in one thing, the Lord often leads us into something else – and that something else was to bless the children and people of this very poor, but special village. Praise God!

Now, a post-script to our last newsletter:

- The widow of the late Pastor Peter is called Jane Masika. Sadly, just a couple of days after his death, Jane had a miscarriage and lost the baby. She still has her seven other children to care for, and so we have guaranteed to pay the equivalent of her husband's monthly income to her for 12 months. In addition, friends have given us enough money so she can start a business of growing, buying and selling coffee. God is good!
- We told you of how our friend and co-worker, Pastor Alfonse, took the local police chief with him to try and free the eight pastors from army custody. Well, in another twist, Alfonse has led the police chief into Christian faith. He is also holding a weekly Bible study and prayer meeting for other interested police officers in the police post! Alfonse is truly an amazing man!

Well, that's all for now – sorry it's so long but there's was so much to share!



Please pray on! God bless & love to you all,

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