

Newsletter – Winter 2008

Land bought for Street Kids Training Centre

We thank God for the purchase of a fantastic piece of land for The Living Church. Our dream with them has been to create a street kids centre that will allow the expansion of the project. Up till now it has been housed in the church building but this is rented and unsuitable for expanding the project. Although all land in Kigali is now very expensive this piece of 1.5 hectares was bought for a very good price. We are grateful to God's people and bless God for the wonderful provision of funds for this land.

The goal of the first phase is to create a training centre to teach them vocational skills in bakery, carpentry, welding, English, computing, sewing, block laying and others and to build accommodation for those kids on or joining the street kids rescue project (they now call themselves the "Friends of Jesus"). The bakery is already underway and producing bread! We are trusting God for funding for the buildings needed and a project to secure funds for the non-bakery equipment for the vocational centre will be launched on Nov. 15th at Carnoustie.



The land from the foreground to the hedge just in front of the house at the back has been bought for a vocational training centre, accommodation units, bible training centre and other buildings.

University sponsorship scheme launched

A big burden for our partners, Solace Ministries has been the frustration of young people leaving school at their inability to move into university. For many survivors from the genocide their dreams of a better future hinge round a university education and finding employment which will release them from the very difficult conditions many of them have been living in. Alison Baird from Erskine is co-ordinating the university sponsorship. Recent members of a group visit to Rwanda are supporting the scheme as well as other individuals who feel this burden. We are also working with Christian Unions at Scottish Universities, some of whom have been very encouraging and pledged to support a student.

Prayer

Want to pray for the work in Rwanda? Get in touch with Anne Reid (01382 776601, chicsanny@hotmail.co.uk) to get regular prayer news.

2009 visits

Group visits for Mrch and July 09 will be booked soon. Let us know if you're interested

Sponsored climb up Ben Lomond

Thanks to Ailidh for organising and to all who took part in this great day out on the hills which raised over £1000.

Congo

Some of you will have met Mugongo Dieudonne who works with Ndahigwa Paul in the Healing and Reconciliation Programme in eastern Congo. Dieudonne has set up a project to provide income to survivors of the conflict. The situation there, as you may have heard on the news, is very critical and the number of refugees and traumatised women continues to rise.

We are still hoping to visit the area in January if the situation allows to do a pastors conference and also to visit the women on the project. In the meantime we are seeking help to send support to the church there to feed, provide medicine and water for many refugees who are taking shelter in the church. If you can help please get in touch.

First Phase of Bugesera project completed

The first phase of the integrated support of the Bugesera community is now complete. The six houses finished are of fabulous quality, two more are now being roofed, the land is extensive and producing good crops, a water holding tank has been built, cattle are producing calves and milk, students have received an education and the community has clearly grown in joy and peace through the support. We are grateful to Jim Bell and the many people who have supported this project and blessed these people who have suffered so much.

Although fundraising for this phase is now completed, building work on a further 12 houses, cattle and farming and water management will all continue to be developed.



Smiles all round as Avril and Hazel meet their sponsored survivor, Uwimbabazi Cartine

Unity Youth Choir

We had dearly hoped to bring the choir over this winter for a series of concerts in Scotland and the north of England. Unfortunately despite our strongest efforts the visas were refused and the concerts have had to be cancelled. We will certainly not be giving up on these wonderful musicians and will strengthen ourselves in God and try again next year. Our Leeds rep. Amy Stead, will also be working to enable the choir to visit churches throughout England. We praise God that His purposes stand and know that He will cause these things to work for good.

Street Kids Sponsorship Begins

A new sponsorship scheme to provide support and befriending for the kids on the Street Kids Rescue/ Friends of Jesus project has begun. The scheme will also enable The Living Church to add another 20 kids to the project in January. It is heartening to see how hope is restored to the kids on the project. 13 year old Gakuru Olivier, who is sponsored by Pentland School in Airdrie, lost both his parents just after he was born, but says "After the death of my parents, I had no hope for further studies, but glory be to God I am now in primary three. I want to pursue my education and graduate from university as a doctor. My favourite things to do include football and going to church" We had hoped to publicise the Street Kids Sponsorship during the choir tour but this will not be possible. So please contact us if you are interested in the sponsorship and befriending scheme.

Summer visits blessed

Since the last newsletter two groups have visited Rwanda. The first group from Kilsyth, Balerno and Diss in Norfolk had a fantastic time getting involved in "umuganda" (national work day) with the community at Ntarama, farming at Kabuga, making Rwandan crafts, pastors training and church convention, visiting sponsored survivors and a typically late late Rwandan wedding (!).

The second group in September involved Alistair Macindoe and Callum taking a well earned retreat for the hard-pressed Solace staff, before the group, from Dumbarton, Callander, Leeds and Kilsyth spent a wonderful two weeks getting to know Rwanda. Highlights included connecting with the Solace group at Jari and providing them with a cow, working with the Friends of Jesus, providing support for Solace beneficiaries that are now students and building deep quality relationships with so many people there.

Craft stalls

With the absence of the choir we will have more time to have craft stalls. If you would like a Christmas craft stall please let us know