



Education is our Future

October 2015

Late in the afternoon of 22nd July, my husband Ted and I arrived at the compound in Kyansi to a wonderful welcome from some of the local school children - lots of drumming, singing and dancing as well as reunions with people who already feel like old and special friends.

This was our second visit to see the projects EVC is supporting and we were encouraged to see the changes which have taken place in just one year. Numbers of sponsored children have grown in both elementary schools and, with money received from parishioners at St Joseph's in Bedford, work has begun on building the girls' dormitory at St Matia Mulumba.



Of course there are still many needs. Both schools need extra classrooms, dormitories and school equipment, particularly text books, and St Matia Mulumba also lacks a dining room and a source of clean water on site. We held several discussions with governors and staff about these and emphasis was placed on the importance of prioritising, building well to stand the test of time and establishing models of good practice. Much discussion took place on the need for training in vocational skills so that, those children who will not go on to further education, have the skills and abilities necessary for earning a living and providing for their families. A Bedford company has offered to help with training and meetings have already taken place to consider how this can be effected. Throughout, it was stressed that these are long term aims and that it will take several years for these to be brought to fruition.



Beginning small and doing things well was something highlighted by the Bishop of Masaka with whom we had a very productive meeting.

He has agreed to become one of the Patrons of EVC and will seek to promote its work among the Ugandan community and internationally when he travels, as well as attending some special functions in the schools.

Seeing our sponsored children as individuals and seeking to find the best way forward for each one in their education is of prime importance to us. Over time we need to consider how we can best help those with disabilities and those whose ability to learn has been impaired through malnourishment, as well as catering for those who exhibit specific gifts and talents.

On our recent visit we met several women who were given the opportunity of an education by Father Boniface. Maria, one of these, is now working as a university lecturer and recently opted to support one of our children. Judith and Josephine are now head teachers of the primary schools where our children are studying.



From the age of 12 until she was 17 Judith Nnakalema (in the photographs) did not attend school as her parents could no longer afford her school fees. When Father Boniface met her he found a place for her at St Kizito and she was able to complete her elementary and then her secondary education. She went on to train as a teacher, coming back to St Kizito to teach for three years. Eighteen months ago she was appointed as head of St Matia



Mulumba. Her own experiences give her a very clear understanding of the problems and difficulties some of our sponsored children face and, in this job, she is able to give back and further the work of the schools.

Thank you for all you are also doing to make a difference to the lives of these Ugandan children and to further our work with them.

With warm good wishes in Christ

Judi Fawcett, Secretary

For enquiries Tel: 01234 865051
email: info@evcuganda.org Website: www.evcuganda.org
Suite 232, St Loyes House, 20 St Loyes Street, Bedford MK40 1ZL

Empowering Vulnerable Children (EVC) Uganda, Registered Charity Number 1158189