

Update for Trustees / Equipe Website

East Africa Director, Sue Gasston's visit to Kampala 8 - 10th March

We thank God for the NGO certificate that we have gained this year - recognising Equipe Global as a Charity here in Uganda, based in the Ssesse Islands. The main purpose of my visit to Kampala was to deliver our passports and Proof of payment for our work permits. In about 2 weeks time we will be able to return to Kampala to collect our passports with work permits included to allow us access into Uganda and other East Africa nations for the next 3 years.

While I was in Kampala I met with our Equipe partners.

First I met with Pastor Deo of the New Rock Foundation Primary School, Kabowa - the school started late (22nd Feb) because of the elections and children are still registering! This is because the family have to find the school fees and buy all the requirements needed for the term before the child can be admitted to the school. But the school is going on well with continued support from St Pauls in Hereford. The sponsored children are doing well in school and all pupils in P7 (final year Primary) gained either a division 1 or 2 in the national Primary exams. As the children move onto the secondary schools we have found that most families are now in a position to take on the financial responsibility for the school fees. We are then able to allocate other children from within the school to replace the leavers.

Later I met with Pastor Abbey Muggaga of the Chosen Children Centre Primary School - as with New Rock the school started late and children are still registering. An exciting development for this school is the link being forged with All Saints Primary School, Gresford, Wrexham. I was able to deliver some pictures from the headteacher of the school as well as a sample of the school uniform. Abbey is now in the process of producing some pictures and other information of his school for me to bring back in May. As with all our school links we hope this will benefit both schools and also help Chosen Children financially. The children being sponsored by Equipe through Pst Abbey are gradually being concentrated into his school so that there is greater accountability to the sponsors.

I have arranged with both schools that there will be letters from the sponsored children around the beginning of the second term - sometime in April - each year. There will also be a letter, up to date photo and end of year report from the end of the third term in December. I also checked the names of the sponsored children that we have to ensure accuracy and accountability.

I also met with Pastor Livingstone Wagaba of Omega Healing Church, Mbuya. New Life Church help to support a radio program every Friday evening 8 - 9pm. He also has a nursery school attached to the church with is supported by Golden Valley Church in Gloucester.

Finally I met with Pastor Margaret Musungu who has a ministry in helping bring prostitutes off the streets. She is based in Namulanda - between Kampala and Entebbe. The project, which now has its own accommodation, helps to train the ladies in various activities such as tailoring, baking and hair dressing. At the moment all these activities are accomplished in either Entebbe or Kajjansi and so involve transport costs. The hope in the future is for equipment to be provided at Namulanda. To this end 3 sewing machines have been secured through Tools with a Mission - which should be delivered sometime in April. Pastor Margaret is also heavily involved in womens' ministry throughout Uganda holding regular conferences and workshops. We have been invited to speak at the workshops for Marriage - Before I say 'I Do' - held on the 1st Thursday of each month at Namulanda and also contribute at the International Women's Conference at the beginning of September.

I was also able to discuss with our partners about the planned trip in August for our small team. They will visit New Rock and Chosen Children schools doing craft activities with the children. Although we will be outside the official school term, those children who live locally will be more than delighted to attend a summer school for fun activities. If time allows we will also visit Pastor Livingstone's church and partake in the radio program as well as a brief visit to Pastor Margaret's project at Namulanda on our way to the islands.

I met with my friend Evelyn who will negotiate a good rate for us at a hotel in Gaba where the team will be based for the first part of the trip. I already have a contact for transport from the airport when the team arrives so the pieces are beginning to come together.

Altogether a profitable time in Kampala!!