



# Latest News

**'Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you'. Jeremiah 32 : 17 NIV**

## Governance Visit to Uganda

In November, Gordon Lland, our Vice Chairman, and his wife Phil, made the Trustees' annual visit to Uganda, to meet with our Ugandan staff and sponsored children, to assess how money is being spent and, to inspect ongoing construction projects. They write :

On our first full day, we visited one of our schools, St Matia Mulumba Primary School, where we were given a traditional and flamboyant welcome by the school dancers and choir. The school staff also introduced themselves through song - a very joyous occasion indeed.

We were subsequently guests of honour at a meeting of over 200 Ugandan parents and guardians, who are extremely grateful for the opportunity to send their children to school. Though they have very little, all brought gifts, including eggs, bananas, plaited mats and even live chickens!!!

In addition to our two primary schools, we visited a number of secondary schools and vocational institutes and, met very articulate and focused children, with a clear vision of the careers they wish to pursue.

The area around our smaller primary school, St Matia Mulumba, has no electricity, no piped water and, a high percentage of destitute families. From what was mostly a green field site, EVC has helped to create a school, which today, has twelve classrooms and two new dormitories. Solar panels for electricity and large tanks to collect rainwater, have also been installed by the Charity, This water supplements the water from the solar powered water pump.



Much still needs to be done to complete the school. Cooking is carried out on wood fires outside and the children find a place to eat, either on the verandah or in a classroom. A purpose built kitchen and dining room is an urgent need.

During our visit, we met our Patron, Bishop Serverus Jjumba, Bishop of the Masaka Diocese and, were delighted when he accepted our invitation to visit the school. He was very impressed with the work of EVC and, was particularly delighted to visit our newest building with vocational classrooms, where woodworking, tailoring and IT are taught and where the new well-stocked library is housed, which children were making very good use of.



Our two weeks passed all too quickly and we were sorry to leave. However, we've taken away very many happy memories of our visit and, made many new friends.

## A New Nursery for St Matia Mulumba Primary School

Through a large and generous donation, we are now able to begin construction of a new nursery building at St Matia Mulumba School. This will be able to cater for 100 pre-school children.

The existing nursery building, which is very run down, with a dusty concrete floor, a leaking roof and crumbling walls, will be refurbished and, a new part, containing three purpose built classrooms and a small dining room and kitchen, will be erected. This will give a total of five classrooms. The resulting building will offer the children, ranging in age from 3 to 6 years, much more space and, the ability to move around, instead of sitting at rows of wooden desks. Once completed, the plan is to equip the building with the toys, games and educational stimuli, necessary for children of this age.

There is much enthusiasm about this new facility among the nursery teachers, who are already planning layouts and facilities for the internal classrooms and outdoor play areas. The nursery will be secure and, will have colourful murals on the outside walls. These will be visible from the main road, making it a superb advertisement for the school and, hopefully, will lead to new pupils enrolling.

Construction will begin in mid January and the new building should be ready for occupation in February 2025. There will be more photographs of this exciting project in subsequent Newsletters.

## St Kizito Primary School Celebrates its Silver Jubilee

In October, St Kizito Primary School celebrated its 25th anniversary. The school opened in February 1998 in the Parish of Kyamuliibwa, where Father Boniface had come as the new parish priest. At that time there was no school and, many local children did not receive any education. Through Father Boniface's vision and, the support of many in the local community, St Kizito Primary School was opened with just three children. Today, the school has in excess of 1,100 students, 88 of whom are sponsored through EVC and, the school ranks as one of the most outstanding educational institutions in the area.

In 2007, well before the formation of EVC Uganda, the first three children sponsored from the UK - Allen, Ben and Stephen - began their education at St Kizito. Their sponsor Sue, had met Father Boniface when he was visiting the UK and, had heard of the plight of the children in his parish. She discussed with him how she could help and so, became the pioneer of all the UK sponsors.



Their sponsor, Sue, says :  
Here is a favourite photo from St Kizito, of my sponsored 'son' Stephen Bukoome. He is with Father Boniface and is opening a present I had sent him. I have felt truly blessed watching him grow and develop into a fine young man and, am proud of him, as he makes good progress with his studies in mechanical engineering, which he will complete next year. His letters bring me much pleasure. As a retired teacher myself, I value education greatly and, am glad, I have been able to do something to help these children.



Stephen today

