

Empowering Vulnerable Children (EVC) Uganda
Chapel Corner, 1 Church Road, Willington, Beds MK44 3QD
01234 838134

8th October 2014

As you may be aware, since January this year, a small group of people here in Bedford have been working to set up a registered charity to support the work of Father Boniface in Uganda, and, after seven months of hard work, on August 8th, charitable status was granted by the Charity Commissioners. This will mean that eventually, money given will be able to be gift aided and Trusts and Foundations can be approached to support this work.

Ted and I were fortunate to travel to Uganda in June this year to see first hand all that is happening. We spent five weeks living on the compound with Father Boniface, his colleague Father Paul, the Church Secretary and the cooks. It was an experience which had a profound effect and which enabled us to see all that Father Boniface achieved in his previous parish and what he is seeking to do in his new parish.

Recently he has emailed to ask us to pass on his thanks to all those who have supported his work in different ways:

- **Sponsorship of children** At present 52 children are being sponsored through EVC Uganda and are being educated in a number of different schools, dependent on their age and ability. It's exciting to see the difference being in school makes; the positive attitude many have and the desire to gain a qualification which will help them provide for their future. Their Christmas term is now well underway and, as we saw for ourselves, the children are happy and purposeful.
- **Buildings** In Father Boniface's previous parish the school dining room, for which many here in Bedford helped raise funds, is now completed. It is large and solid and very much fit for purpose. We were royally entertained there by the school drummers, dancers and singers and also by the school choir who were rehearsing for a special church service. We would love to have brought them back with us for you all to hear the amazing sound they make. In his current parish the new school building is now in use, housing several large classrooms. It offers plenty of scope for the necessary expansion which needs to take place in order that more children can have the benefit of a good education.

- **Sewing machines** Rebecca and Simona, who visited Uganda last year, raised funds to provide these. They have now been purchased and are ready for distribution to the schools in which they taught.

We are very much aware that it is your continuing support which is helping to move this work forward and to give a secure and loving environment in which lives can be changed and a better future offered. Thank you for all you do.

Father Boniface writes : 'Though much progress has been made, there is still much to do. Children face many problems as a result of AIDS, malaria, cholera and other killer diseases and many are not yet in school.'

When we returned home in July we brought with us the profiles of 128 children needing sponsorship and undoubtedly, this is only 'the tip of the iceberg'. Alongside the search for sponsors for these children, we are seeking to raise the capital necessary to build new dormitories and, to provide a more accessible source of clean water for the school in Father's current parish. Please join with us in praying that God will continue to provide so that these needs can be met.

Yours in Christ,

Judi Fawcett
Secretary
EVC Uganda

Registered Charity Number: 1158189