

Project 2000- Operation Uganda children at risk

Newsletter October 2002

Since our last Newsletter in March, Matthew and Emma Gothard have spent three months in Rukungiri working with John and Alice Tumisiime on the development of the vocational training centre. Thanks to the generosity of Winterslow and Firsdow they were able to take £13,500 to pay for construction materials and to pay the local workforce.

Matthew and Emma left the UK on May 5th, interested to see how the vocational centre had developed since their previous visit in January 2001. Their main aim was to build as much of the new workshop block as possible and to ensure the funds were used as carefully as possible.

The local workforce were ready for their arrival and consisted of masons (paid £2 per day), porters, students and many others who were in the town looking for work. The first stage was to begin clearing the site of old bricks and setting out for the foundations to be dug.



The workforce with an almost complete building for the students to use.

Under Matthew's supervision the building work progressed quickly and he was able to teach them new building techniques and process methods. With so many willing workers the building was constructed much faster than they expected, by week 9 the brickwork was done and the roof trusses were ready for erection. The windows and doors were being made on site and boys were crushing stones for the internal concrete floors.

During the last 3 weeks Rod and Ann Gothard and Lesley Waters arrived in

Rukungiri to see how the project was progressing. They were just in time to help with the erection of the 22 trusses which each took about 15 boys to carry them!.

Along side the important building work they trained the Bursar in book keeping and accurate record keeping to ensure that the vocational centre could control its budget with accurate accounting procedures. They also established several small business enterprises to allow the centre to begin to become self-sufficient.

Apart from helping with the construction work, Emma also spent time teaching English and Social Studies to 110, six year olds at the Primary school.

On the last day of their visit a concrete plaque was built into the side of the workshops and inscribed "*Winterslow Workshops, Millennium Appeal, Built 2002*". A very emotional end to a very productive and enjoyable trip.

Since the millennium Winterslow and Firsdow have contributed over £18,500 towards the development of the vocational training centre. We know that the support that you have given over the past three years has given the children of Rukungiri the chance they need and deserve to make a positive start to their lives

What next!

We would like to begin helping to equip the centre and



our initial focus is on quality hand tools, which can now be securely stored in the new Winterslow workshops. Currently the centre can offer one set of poor quality hand tools between six students. The aim would be that each department can offer one set of quality tools between two students. Since shipping costs are considerable we would like tools to be purchased in Uganda's capital Kampala. Over the Christmas period we would like to raise £2000 to purchase 20 complete sets of tools covering all disciplines.

A date for your diary

We are holding our second "Posh Frocks Dinner and Casino Night" in the village hall on 16th November. Further details from any of the above or the Parish magazine.

All of the money raised so far in the village has been designated to the project. We have incurred no administration costs and both Matthew and Emma's visits to Rukungiri were funded entirely by themselves. For further information please contact a member of the committee.

