

Project 2000 - Uganda

Newsletter September 2005

A Big Hello from all our Friends in Rukungiri

Another year has passed and as newly appointed chairman of the Uganda committee I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support and give an update on the events of the past few months.

During March of this year, my father (Rod Gothard) and I spent two weeks in Rukungiri. During our trip we developed three main objectives. The first objective was to ensure that Global Care (GC), the senior staff from the Vocational and ourselves still shared a common goal. Following these discussions all three parties were convinced that the VTC had a sound base and was moving forward to a future where more students could be educated to a higher standard and that self sustainability was still possible at some time in the future.



Following initial discussions our second objective was to help develop the VTC's physical infrastructure. It was decided that building student dormitories was the priority. This would allow them to take on more boarding students many of whom are government sponsored which would provide a good source of income for teachers salaries but

also reduce their outgoings as they would no longer have to rent houses to provide accommodation. During our visit we were able to construct two accommodation buildings up to window cill height before we had to leave, and have since heard that they are now completed and in use.

The final objective of our trip was to review our fundraising aims and objectives. My father spent the majority of his time supporting the construction work by helping the students fabricate items for the building such as windows, double and treble decker bunk beds, as well as the never ending job of repairing the local poor quality hand tools. Whilst we have taken out a few good quality tools there are certainly not enough to go around at the moment and as we are looking to expand the VTC this problem will only get worse. Therefore it was still felt that equipping the vocational with quality hand tools is a major priority, and where the focus of fundraising will be over this coming year. Hence we are holding a tool amnesty commencing immediately where we are asking you to donate your old tools that you no longer use. This will hopefully provide a good selection of **quality**,

fully working hand tools that can be taken out next year. All tools should be dropped at 5 Firs Road.

In the run up to Christmas we will be offering Christmas gift cards which can be purchased for family members and friends where the money you would have spent on them goes to buy a hand tool for the VTC. Further details of these gift cards will be published shortly and will be available to purchase from any of the Committee members.

The project has now been successfully fundraising and raising awareness for the past 5 years and raised over £35k of which £29.5k has been transferred to Rukungiri and spent on the construction of the Workshops building and accommodation buildings as well as some tools for the students. It is felt that now is a good time to advertise for new committee members and we are keen to hear from anyone who has fresh ideas and wants to be part of the team.