



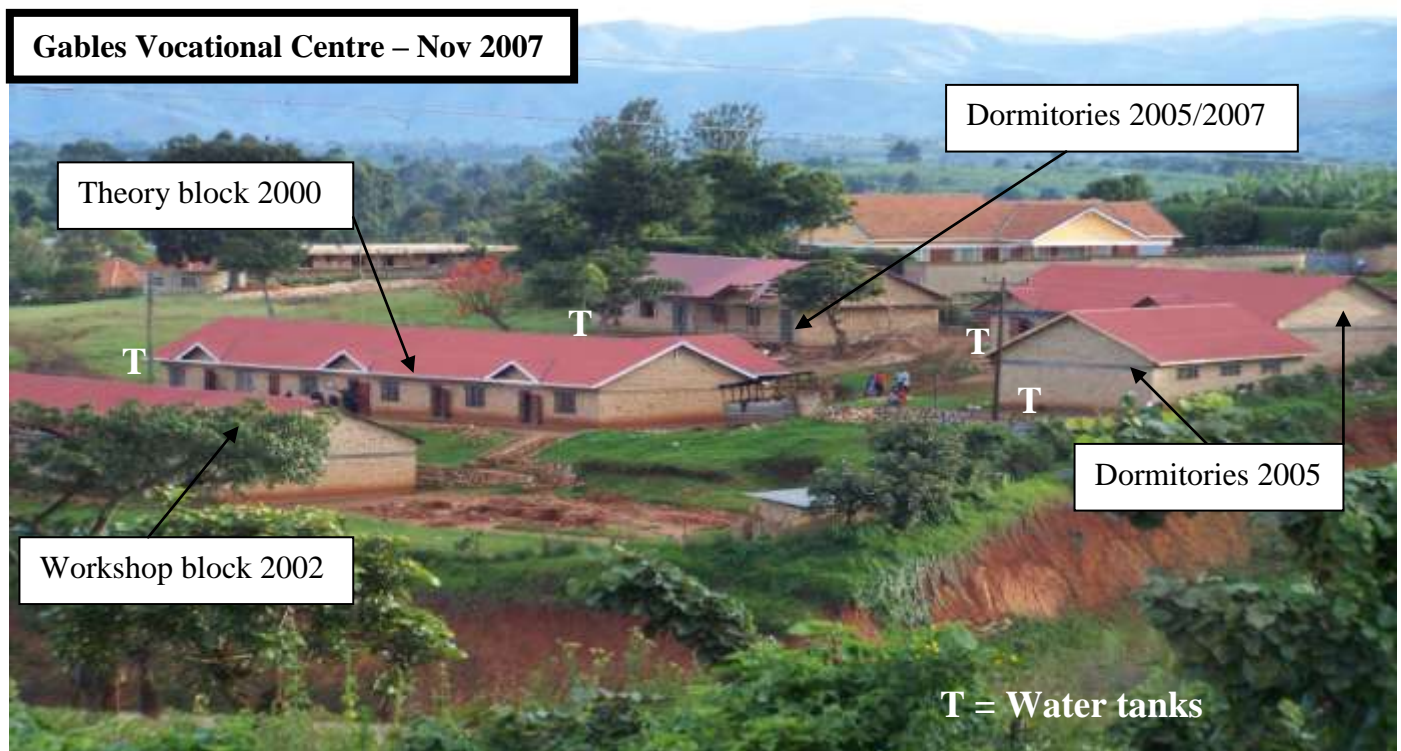
**March 2008**

Another year has passed and here we are again reporting on what has been a very successful year. With your continuing support the project is still progressing at a tremendous rate, since January 2007 we have raised just over £20k making this by far the best year the charity has ever had and monies raised to date have now exceeded £62k, which is fantastic.

**Ann & Rod's trip**

2007 was another busy year, with Ann and Rod Gothard's two month trip to Rukungiri last October/November. During this trip they focused on finishing existing building projects and ensuring efficient guttering was fitted to all buildings where possible to fully utilise the rainwater harvesting system now in place. Money raised last year was also spent on constructing a new dormitory, as shown in the site picture, enabling Gables Vocational Training Centre to take more boarding students. Rod also organised, with support from students from Gables the fitting of a rain water harvesting system to a two storey classroom block built at Modern Primary School by another charity, Mission Direct. They also assisted four students graduating in November 2007 in constructing their own cooperative workshop a few km from Rukungiri.

2008 has also seen the continued sponsorship of teachers and the start of a Student Scholarship Scheme. We are now able to financially support the equivalent of 4 full time members of staff (approx. £600 per teacher) which is a huge help to Gables in boosting staff morale, ensuring wages are always paid, and in allowing them to budget for the future. Towards the end of 2007 we started setting up the student scholarship scheme designed specifically for those children who are motivated and gifted but unable to pay school fees. We are aware that this is a problem for many young people in Rukungiri, We are relying heavily on the Principal Abel and the Bursar, Moses to guide us through this crucial student selection period. Our current funding will allow 8 boarding students and 4 day scholars to commence their studies



at Easter and complete a full three year programme and hopefully obtain their qualification at the end of the course.

***Date for your diary – Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2008 7pm for 7.30pm start  
Winterslow Village Hall***

***Come and enjoy a relaxing evening listening and dancing to Winterslows very own **Ricky Vernon and the Pathfinders** with “Vintage Echoes” supporting. Tickets £10 – light buffet included.***

Coming soon: [www.projectuganda.org.uk](http://www.projectuganda.org.uk)

### ***What's Next?***

In May this year Matt and Emma Gothard with their two young sons will be spending a month in Rukungiri to help develop a long term plan for the charity. They will be joined for 2 weeks by Martie Stanwell and Bob McKeown. All of the money raised so far in the village has been designated to the project. We have incurred no administration costs and all trips have been funded entirely by the individuals themselves.

### ***How can I Help?***

There are many ways in which you can help and one form which has been particularly helpful has been those setting up regular standing order donations. By knowing what money is coming in on a regular basis we are better able to plan how the funds are spent setting up long term projects which give opportunities through stability to the young people of Rukungiri. For example £10 a month will provide a scholarship for a student at Gables. Alternatively you can make a one off donation, buy a birthday or christmas gift card, support any of the fundraisers held by many of the organisations in the village. We have previously highlighted the importance of Gift Aiding your donation, and we cannot emphasize enough the benefits of this. Last year alone we collected over £2700 from Gift Aid.

Another way to raise money is by setting Everyclick.com as your internet homepage and selecting Village 2000 FWL (the registered charity name for Project Uganda). You will raise funds as you search and surf.

**Student Profile** – an example of how Gables Vocational Training Centre is helping the young people make a positive start to their lives.

### **Ezra Agaba**

Ezra is 20 years old and lives in Rukungiri on his own. He has 5 brothers and 3 sisters. His mother lives in a nearby village approximately 8 miles away. His mother owns a small banana plantation, 3 cows, 1 goat and 1 pig, which she fattens and sells on. His mother and father separated when he was young and his father lives far away. His father has 2 wives, therefore Ezra has 3 half brothers who are unknown to him.

Ezra's parents paid for his first schooling in his local village school, Katwekamwe School when he was 4. In 1998, at the age of 10, Ezra received sponsorship from Rev. John Tumusiimi; allowing him to study in Rukungiri Modern Primary School for 4 years from Primary 3 to Primary 7. He then attended Gables Vocational Training Centre where he studied a 3-year carpentry and joinery course from 2002 to 2005. When he had passed this course he worked in a private workshop in town making bookshelves, beds and cupboards. Ezra left this job to open his own workshop with a colleague from Gables. Not long after opening, the workshop was broken into and some of Ezra's tools were stolen. Despite their best efforts to continue working it proved too difficult without sufficient tools and Ezra returned to his previous employment. The workshop gives him a wage for the work he completes; he does not have a regular salary. The money he earns is sent to his mother to support her and the family. Ezra believes that without studying at Gables, he would not have the knowledge or skills to start his own workshop or even have a job now. In the future, Ezra would like to be self-employed again.

