



AAD Newsletter No. 1

January 2013



Vision statement

"To see the community of East Kasese educated, equipped and transformed by the Christian Gospel."

Mission statement

"To provide education, training and micro-enterprise opportunities in partnership with the local church."

An Introduction by the Chairman of the Trustees.



In the last twelve months we have undergone some significant changes to the leadership. Sophie, who founded the charity with her late husband Mark, has moved on to a new phase in her life, having remarried and moved to a new home. However, we are very pleased to announce that she is still very much involved and is now a Patron of An African Dream. Our aim is to remain true to Mark's original vision as well as moving into new areas as we continue to seek God's direction.

We hope that through this newsletter you will learn more about the variety of our work and it will encourage you as you continue to support AAD. We hope too that it will challenge you to let others know of the work and how they can be part of something that changes people's lives, giving them new hope for the future in very difficult circumstances.

Vital to our work is the close relationship that we have with Pastor Lumika, who is the overseer for the Full Gospel church in East Kasese. We are able to maintain this relationship through visits by Trustees and supporters, and I am delighted there were several visits in 2012 for which we give thanks.

We have also been making every effort to build a team around Pastor Lumika to spread the responsibilities for the wider work.



If you would like to visit our work or be part of a visiting team we would love to hear from you.

We would also welcome opportunities to speak to churches or schools about our work.

Contact details can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Dennis Preston
Chairman
An African Dream

St. Mark's School

Part of our vision is to provide primary education within the local community. St Mark's School was built by the charity and now educates approximately 480 children. One third of these children are orphans and their education, food and uniform are paid for by the charity or through sponsorship.

The school is visited annually by trustees to monitor standards, ongoing needs and developments. Recent visits show that teaching standards are sound and school leavers attain good results in their final exams. Teachers and others responsible for the school are encouraged to continue to develop standards of education, hygiene and ideas for self sufficiency.

As a result of ongoing fundraising and contributions made to the charity we have recently been able to provide a proper school sign, more security with a new school gate, a second water butt providing fresh water as well as slates and other teaching materials. Contributions also enable ongoing building maintenance and other essential projects. In March 2012, AAD funded the junior apparatus playground which was completed by East African Playgrounds. This team together with teachers and some members of local community helped to clear rocks and roots from adjoining land in order to provide netball, volleyball and football pitch areas.



The new playground area is very popular, and absenteeism has been substantially reduced as a result.

We are currently looking at safer cooking facilities, lockable cupboards for teaching materials, a staff toilet, solar panels and general maintenance.

Liz Edmondson-Smith
Trustee

Orphan Sponsorship



We continue to need sponsors for orphans at St Mark's school.

- We currently have 134 orphans.
- 88 orphans are being generously sponsored.
- 46 orphans are not yet sponsored.
- The cost of supporting an orphan has recently risen from £6 to £10 per month. This includes food, education and a uniform.

The start of the new year always brings new children to St Mark's school. We really do need more sponsors to help fund the orphans who attend. Many of our supporters have been with us for some time for which we are very grateful. However, we are aware that some may not know that to support an orphan the price has increased due to local costs. If you are a current supporter and are able to increase your gift it would be greatly appreciated, but if due to your own financial constraints you are not, then please understand we are grateful for whatever you are able to give.

Katie Ellis
Sponsorship Coordinator

Pastors

We are pleased that the St Marks school buildings are being used during school holidays to hold training seminars for trainee pastors in the East Kasese District that comes under the direction of Pastor Lumika.



Through the financial aid of our supporters we are able to offer accredited training to about 20 to 25 students at a time on a two year part time diploma course, held with a visiting Pastor from the Full Gospel Church Training College. The students are mainly men, but have recently included the first female student. Many of the student pastors live in remote villages and would never be able to afford to go to Bible College to earn a full qualification as a Pastor. At the end of their training we provide each pastor with a bible in their own local language at their graduation.



We would like to put this training on a more sustainable foundation and are

looking into the possibility of some form of sponsorship or a bursary. We are keen for UK pastors and churches to consider taking on mentoring or offering sponsorship or a bursary for pastors during their training. Please contact us if you would like to be part of this exciting new initiative.

Widows



Part of our vision is to provide sustainable income for widows through micro-enterprise opportunities. We are delighted that this year we reached our target of creating a self-sustaining project by providing widows with pigs. This has enabled them to breed the pigs and to both sell the piglets for further income, and pass some piglets to other widows to grow the work.

We are now looking for other opportunities for further micro-enterprise, and would welcome prayer and ideas.

Healthcare

In March 2012, we held a second healthcare day in St Marks for the pupils and parents through a link with the International Hospital in Kampala. This was a huge success. Unfortunately the International Hospital have had to make budget cuts so this work has been suspended until we can find another partner, and funding. Please pray that we find the right partner and consider donating to support this very valuable work in the community

Taste & See

Trevor Cook, an AAD Trustee, is looking for interested parties to travel to Kasese with him, in July 2013, to further support the work the charity is doing there, through Lumika. Plans are fluid, and can include supporting the school and children with their faith, academic learning, sport and practical help for those whom the school feel need added help and encouragement. Hopefully this will include attending various church based activities and events at the Local Bible College. Do let Trevor know through AAD if you may be interested in visiting then, or at a time in the future.

It may be that you are not able to visit to Uganda but have a talent or gift that may be of use to us.

Could you perhaps help with fundraising? Are you good at graphic design perhaps?

Below is a group photograph from a previous visit:

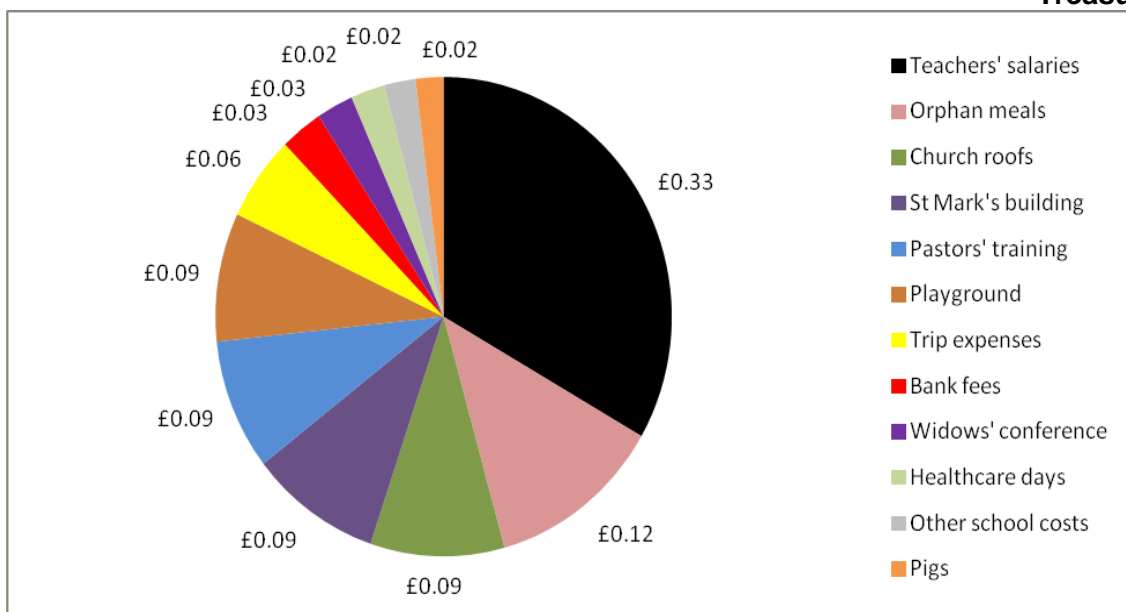


If you think you can do something to raise awareness or help in any way then please contact us as detailed on our final page.

Funds

We are very grateful to all our donors who helped us raise a fantastic £32k in our 2011/12 financial year – Thank You! We aim to distribute all the monies we receive to the various projects that we support in Uganda – primarily St Mark’s school and the education of orphans, the training of local pastors, and various micro-enterprise projects to support the local community. It is very encouraging that all of the UK helpers and Trustees are volunteers and therefore 100% of the funds go to the work of the charity. Below is a diagram showing how every £1 of our income was spent last year. Please would you consider giving? If so, please contact us now.

Trish Harding
Treasurer



UK Vision Day 2013

We will be holding our next Vision Day on **April 20th 2013** at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Widmer End near High Wycombe. The address is 70 Georges Hill, Widmer End, High Wycombe, Bucks HP15 6BH.

The facilitator for the day is Jeremy Cox, a professional management coach.

The theme for the day is “**Raising our Game**” – **the next stage of our journey**.

We would love you to join us. Please put the date in your diary. More information will be available soon.

Contact Information

Email: info@aaduganda.org

Website: www.aaduganda.org

The blog which can be found on the website is regularly updated and we recently added a short video about St Marks in the “Gallery” section.

Donations information:-

See information on our website or forward to our bank:

CAF Bank A/c Name: An African Dream

A/c No 00016077 Sort Code:40.52.40

Or send to:-

AAD Treasurer

6 St George Close, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 7JT

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. Please contact us if you would like to learn more or are interested in becoming involved in any way.