

Children of Hope

Newsletter - December 2009 - Number 11



Christmas Party



What a fantastic day! It was very hot as we drove to the venue. When we arrived all the children and parents were ready and waiting with excitement. It wasn't long before the fun started and we played lots of games. It was great to see over 150 playing musical bumps, we even managed a giant pass the parcel game (see picture!).

After the fun we laid on a delicious lunch for all, with soda, much to the children's delight! It was a fabulous day; we even got to honour a parent who had been taking her children to school, even though she has had an incredibly difficult year in her personal life.

Finally the party ended as all good parties should, with the giving of gifts!

Revival School Graduation

This was an extensive presentation full of songs, poems, and traditional theatre pieces all performed by the children. Each child graduating to the next level wore a mortar board and gown (see picture) which was very cute! Jane was honoured by the school and was asked to cut the traditional cake at the ceremony and give a blessing.

After the ceremony the children were allowed to go home for the Christmas break. Before the end of the day we met up with all the CRM sponsored children and gave them a good lunch before they went home - all 100+ of them!

The children you are sponsoring are really benefiting so much from your support and they see it as a real privilege to go to school!

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Faridah

Jane first met Faridah in 1996 and she writes... "I first met her when I was taking profiles of children for sponsorship. She had brought two of her children for profiling. I noticed she was sat in a wheelchair and I can remember the look of hopelessness in her eyes".

When we enquired about her circumstances we found she was a Muslim and was living in a mud hut, crawling around on the floor. There were 4 children and they were all starving because they had nothing. The roof leaked, it was damp and dirty, and because there was no lock on the door, a man was coming in and taking advantage of her.

We managed to find a sponsor for Faridah and moved her into a better

home in her village with power and a lock on the door.

Life is very different now; 3 of her 4 children are now sponsored and no



longer is she seen as a curse in her village, but a blessing. Faridah is now an active member of her local church.

In December 2009 we took Faridah to hospital for tests, to see if anything could be done for her. After testing her hips and back they found that she could carry her own weight. The consultant told us that Faridah had suffered with polio as a child, which caused deformities in her leg, hip and foot. This could be corrected with a series of operations, rehabilitation and physiotherapy. She will then be able to walk with some help.

The cost to help Faridah to walk again is £6000.

If you would like to be part of this life changing operation, you can donate via our web site, or contact the office.

Please see the website for further details about Faridah.

School News

Progress on the school has been slow recently and we are still stockpiling roofing materials.

Due to the credit crunch less funding has been coming in, but we still plan to start the main roof very soon.

The electricity supply has been connected and we have the roof on part of the building, the headmasters office, which has been plastered, fitted out and is being used.

Our target is that by February 2010 Phase 1a will be complete and 60 children will be accommodated from Nursery to Primary 1.

New Website

There have been some major changes to the CRMI website, thanks to an excellent page redesign by one of our supporters in Kampala. As well as this we have divided the site in two, putting everything relating to child sponsorship in one place, under the Children of Hope banner. This should help you to easily find what you seek.

As promised we have created an online shop page to enable you to send gifts to your sponsored child. Many sponsors have used this and we value their feedback. We are preparing to make some changes to include photographs and descriptions of the items for sale.

An Apology

This newsletter should have been sent to you in December. We decided to hold it back so that items relating to Jane's visit to Uganda and the Christmas party could be added. This delay was due to unforeseen circumstances coupled with the arrival of Christmas, the New Year and bad weather.

Prayer Points

- For CRM and the work with the children.
- For the school building progress.
- In May 2010 John Bunjo is putting on a large worship event (20,000 people) called Encounter. Please pray for finances and wisdom as they prepare for it.

Trade the dress

So, you've had the wedding of your dreams and the dress to match. Now it's hanging in your wardrobe, taking up space, but did you know it has the potential to make dreams come true over and over again?

Trade the Dress is a micro finance project set up to create a sustainable living for those involved. It gives UK brides the opportunity to Trade The Dress to Uganda and gives an African bride an unforgettable day, whilst providing regular financial support for John & Sarah Bunjo.

In the trade you can have a photo shoot of the dress before we send it over to Africa, to enable your dress to make someone's day special. Your dress will be hired out, enabling a local family to make a sustainable living, and will bring happiness time and time again. You will also receive a picture of an African bride wearing your dress as a memory of what a blessing your dress has become!

Fundraising News

Easyfundraising has so far proved to be a worthwhile source of funds with over £140 raised so far, although less than 10 of our 150+ sponsors have done this.

While we understand that some people do not shop on the internet, many of those who do could help raise funds for us **at no extra cost** to themselves, indeed there are often discounts offered to Easyfundraising supporters.

If you feel that Easyfundraising would be a useful tool for some other organisation that you are involved with, please let us refer you. With this



We are offering you a free photo shoot in your dress if you trade it to the project and a photo of your dress being used in Africa.*

If you are interested please contact the office or email lucy@crmint.org.uk

*The photo shoot includes one 6 x 4 inch print and would normally cost £70

we also get a small percentage of the money raised by the other organisation, again **at no extra cost** to themselves. Please contact us for details on how to do this.

Easyfundraising can be found at:

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/crmi>

and Easysearch at:

<http://crmi.easysearch.org.uk/>

Why not make this your Home Page?

Thank you for all your care through the support of our children. The next trip to Uganda will be in June 2010, please can you start thinking about writing letters and possibly sending a small gift. We need to receive them at the office by 19th May.

Each month the number of sponsored children is increasing, so please think of small appropriate gifts we can take out in a suitcase!