

Shyira Trust

Registered Charity Number 1118979

Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2008

Objects and activities

This has been the first full year of operation of the Trust since its formation. The Trust has taken over the financial aspects of a link between the parishes of St. Luke's Formby and St. Mark's Shyira, and has extended the area of operation in both Britain and Rwanda.

There has been a significant change to personnel in Rwanda. Rev Emmanuel Ndimukaga, who has been a key link person in Shyira and who has managed all projects, has moved from Shyira to take up an appointment at Ruhengeri Cathedral. He has been replaced in Shyira by Rev. Samuel Sebahire who is continuing the work started by Rev Emmanuel. In January a group of people who were in Shyira met with Rev Samuel and have confidence in his abilities. Subsequent email communications have confirmed this opinion.

The objects of the Trust are:

1. The relief of poverty and the preservation and protection of good health in Rwanda.
2. The advancement of education in Rwanda.

Poverty relief and health have centred on support for the hospital and its staff and the rebuilding of homes for child-headed families. Education advancement has seen the development of a link between a Formby school and a school in Shyira. The primary school has been provided with new desks. Trust members who have been to Rwanda would like to see the interior of the primary school painted, but that is a low priority for local people, and we do accept their wishes.

The Trust has partner organisations that work alongside it:

- St. Luke's church, Formby. Most of the Trust's members are members of the church, and they raise the bulk of its income.
- Edge Hill University Faculty of Health who support safe motherhood through the Trust and who are paying for the education and training of a Midwife.
- The Rotary Club of Formby, who have equipped the maternity hospital and provided library books for Shyira secondary schools, and are now fund raising to provide equipment for a new hospice. Rotary Club funding is transferred via Rotary in Rwanda, not through the Trust.

There have been two visits to Rwanda organised through the trust. The first was one person, a lecturer in journalism at Liverpool John Moores University, who went to teach English to children at Sonrise School in Ruhengeri. Sonrise is a school for orphans, and has very high standards. The other visit was to Shyira hospital. It was a group led by one of the Trustees, Peter Morgan, and his wife who is Head of Midwifery at Edge Hill University. The group included other staff from Edge Hill. They provided training in the maternity hospital at Shyira, and also some training to help establish a hospice and counselling centre in Shyira. A primary school teacher accompanied the second group and worked in Shyira primary school.

The Trust has been able to help establish a link between Range High School in Formby and Groupe Scholaire, a high school, in Shyira. Members of the Trust know people in Shyira, and were able to use that knowledge to develop the link. In addition the Trust provided support to

Range High School with an initial talk to a group of year 7 children about Rwanda and its people with particular reference to names and methods of address. More recently a talk was given to the children, now in year 8, entitled “The Children of Rwanda”. This was to the entire year group and formed part of an assembly. The children in year 8 are all studying Rwanda in geography, and almost 100 are now exchanging letters with children in Rwanda – we are told that when letters are received it can be a very emotional time in school as the life styles of Rwandese children are compared to their British counterpart. A teacher from range is hoping to visit Shyira early next year.

The Trust, in conjunction with St. Luke’s Church, received a Community Hero award from a regional newspaper for its work in Rwanda. From a total of about 30 awards the Trust was the only group working overseas. The award was a reward for the membership as a whole, and it was pleasing to be recognised in the community.

Work in and around Shyira is continuing. Some examples are a total of five child-headed family homes have been rebuilt, over the year 74 children were sponsored in high school, and the Rotary Club of Formby has provided US\$40,000 for books in the high schools. Training of a person as a midwife to work in Shyira hospital has continued with the support of Edge Hill University. A single gift has provided new desks to equip the primary school.

Financial review and reserves

The Trust raises funds to support specified projects, and transfers money to support those projects three or four times a year. Because money is raised against projects there is no requirement for the trust to have reserves other than the membership fees. An exception to this is when a project has not commenced in Shyira but some fund raising has been carried out – an extension to the maternity hospital is an example of this

Over the year a total of £17,535 has been sent to Rwanda. This included a contribution to a new project – coffee growing – that has the potential to cut poverty considerably. Donations to the project so far are to help train staff. Alternative gifts have provided funding for safe motherhood, child headed families, a hospice and coffee growing. Details are:

Alternative Gifts	£3,470
Child headed families	£2,420
Coffee growing	£780
Education and schools	£7,965
Medical work through Shyira hospital	£1,000
Work of St Marks church	£1,900

The total funds now sent since St. Luke’s church became involved with Shyira are £96,879. This does not include funds sent through Rotary, or the many private gifts made to individuals in Rwanda by trust members and supporters.

Management arrangements

The trust has six trustees, as described above. They each serve for three years, after which they may be re-elected for a maximum of three terms. All trustees are required to sign a declaration that there are no reasons for them to be barred from being a trustee, and in addition are required to either have or to gain CRB clearance. All have the necessary clearance.

Members pay an annual membership fee. The purpose of the fee is to cover the cost of the annual meeting and the associated documentation, and the cost of managing the Trust. This allows the Trust to send all funds raised to Rwanda, with the exception of the amounts specified in publicity as for other purposes. As an example alternative gifts include £1.00 per gift, this to cover the cost of a banana leaf card, printing and postage. It should be noted that

the banana leaf card is made at CEFOPS school in Shyira, so the amount deducted to pay for the card still goes to Rwanda.

Trustees meet regularly to consider the progress of the Trust, and to review the fund raising and use of resources in Africa. It is expected that information will be received from Shyira showing how money has been used, and it is also anticipated that there will be occasional visits of trustees to Rwanda so that they may monitor progress. Trustees going to Rwanda have always been self-funding.

Also members and supporters have made occasional visits to Shyira, always at their own expense. These visits are valuable because they allow needs to be assessed and progress monitored.

Procedures for grant making

The Trust accepts that local people are better able to prioritise their needs than the Trust is. The Trust therefore sends money to Rwanda for use against specific projects, but allows the detail of the way money is used to be determined locally. There is an exception to this when money has been allocated for a specific purpose as with alternative gifts.

As the people of Shyira and district see their priorities and needs changing the Trust seeks to accommodate them. In the past year a hospice, called Living Hope Ministry, has become a priority because of the trauma left by genocide, and because of the hospitals inability to cope with people who are in the last stages of life because of HIV/AIDS or other reason. The trust has therefore supported the work of Living Hope Ministry, helping to move to a situation where the first stage of the development has been completed.

This approach has always worked in the past. It depends on trust between us and the people in Shyira and the stated intention of the Bishop of Shyira diocese to be accountable for all transferred funds. Also through our visits we are able to see how money has been used.

Public interest.

There are several pointers to this aspect of the Trust's work:

- The activity of the Trust has been recognised in Formby and Region by a Community Heroes award
- The Trust facilitated the setting up of a link between a school in Formby and a school in Shyira
- The Trust works with partner organisations – St. Luke's church, Edge Hill University and the Rotary Club of Formby.
- Some members of the trust have developed friendships with people in Rwanda, exchanging letters, telephone calls and small gifts.

The future.

The Trust, with partners in Rwanda has identified five areas of activity for development in Shyira. They are:

1. The hospital, including safe motherhood and a second floor extension to the maternity unit. Since the new maternity unit was opened in 2004 the number of women using it has doubled and it is now too small.
2. Child headed families, to ensure that they have weatherproof housing

3. Support for the schools, including child sponsorship and further building refurbishment.
4. Help in establishing a coffee growing project.
5. A hospice and counselling centre to be called “Living Hope Ministry”.

Also the Trust is committed to the continued financial support of the pastor of Shyira Parish, this support relieving him of worries about feeding his family and enabling him to devote time to poverty relief and ensuring that money is spent effectively on projects.

In Summary

The Trust continues to build on the strong foundation that developed through Trust supporters gaining ever deeper understanding of the people of Rwanda and their problems. Financially the support given to Shyira this past year was slightly higher than the previous year, and we look for continued growth in the future.

Visits to Rwanda are planned over the coming months, and they will be used to verify the continued effectiveness of the Trust’s support.