



Shyira Trust

Registered Charity Number 1118979

Member's Newsletter, January/February 2010

This is one of a series of occasional newsletters for Trust members. We are sorry that it has not been produced earlier, but recently communication with Shyira has been proving difficult. Telephone communication has become very unreliable and Pastor Anthony has had to develop his email skills. They are coming on well because he has recently sent us a detailed report on the work completed in 2009.

Money Transfer

We aim to make two, or possibly three transfers of funds a year. One transfer occurs in January for several reasons, including:

- The academic year starts in January, and where people are dependent on money from us to pay educational fees they need the money in January
- We have income from Alternative Gifts after Christmas

In previous years we have sent money into a Pound account in Rwanda, but we have been told that such accounts carry 2% bank charges. This year we will be sending money into Rwandan Franc accounts because they carry reduced charges. We are sending £9,610 made up as follows:

Stipend for Anthony	£375.00
Maternity extension	£390.00
Child sponsorship	£2,100.00
Banana Leaf cards	£345.00
Maternity services	£2,700.00
Alternative Gifts	£1,353.00
Projects	£1,500.00
Emmanuel for educational fees	£535.00
Living Hope Ministries	£30.00
Coffee Projects	£80.00
Nursery Ruhengeri	£150.00
Child Headed Families	£52.00

This money transfer will take the total sent through the Church and Trust to £140,380 .

Well done everyone!

Rotary have sent a further £44,000.

Introducing the Schumann Family

The Kohl family, Iris and Matthias and their children have now left Shyira and returned to Germany. Matthias had served as a doctor in Shyira hospital and will be missed. Another German family have moved into the home vacated by the Kohls. They are Thomas Schumann, his wife Anett and children Elisabeth, Marianne and Benjamin—see the picture.



They tell us "On 2 August the waiting finally came to an end. After evening service with Holy Communion, we drove safely through all the holiday traffic to the airport at Frankfurt am Main. On arrival in Shyira we received a marvelous welcome from the King family, and many other people. The formalities of reception and accommodation were quickly dealt with.

In this place there is a large attachment of people to the Anglican church.



From 0800 to 0930 the service is in English, after which it is presented in Kinyarwanda until 1230. It is a nice experience—lots of African voices singing, drums and lively dancing.

During the week, we start early with a one hour lesson in Kinyarwanda. Here in this place, it is very important to be able to speak the native language. Many people are surprised, and it opens their hearts to us when we, as foreigners, greet them in their own tongue."

Thomas is sponsored by International Christian Workforce to manage the hospice (also known as Living Hope Ministries or the Restoration Centre) providing training, counselling, etc as necessary. His first task has been to oversee the completion of the main treatment block, and also construction of some of the dormitories has recommenced. The Rotary Club of Formby are to provide him with equipment.

Since arriving in Shyira Thomas has started working with a group of orphans. There are approximately 35 children each day for



prayer, Bible study and then they eat together. They have formed a children's choir, and could all be rewarded with health insurance in 2010. Starting in February they will all be sent to school.

Also 80 people attended a two weeks training on the themes of reconciliation and trauma healing. This is still a vital activity with many people traumatised by genocide. The HIV positive patients also hold meetings in the centre.

Maternity hospital

You will remember the state of maternity services at Shyira when we first started working with people there. A dilapidated hospital and no midwives. When the hospital we provided was opened in 2004 there was still no midwives.

Since the new hospital was opened Trust members have financed the midwifery education of Robinah and she graduated and started work in Shyira about a year ago. The Trust has continued to support her since she qualified. Also Fidele is now at university studying to be a midwife.

One qualified midwife in Shyira and another in training is good news for the maternity and for the people of Shyira. Fidele finished year 1 (and passed his end of year exams) and went to work in the maternity over the Christmas and new year holiday period. That meant that Robinah was able to have some time off to spend with her mum who lives miles away. It was her 1st Christmas with her mum in many years. Robinah is now back in Shyira and Fidele has started back in university. Between Fidel and Robinah they make sure the maternity hospital has midwifery cover and when they are there together they are running small teaching sessions for the nurses.

It is amazing how God works through all of us. He has led us to help with the most amazing developments.



But there is more for us to do. The success of the hospital with its midwives, and the confidence people have in it means that an extension is urgently required, That could cost £25,000. Give thanks to God and pray that he will continue to lead us in this vital work.



Points of interest

1. Rwanda was recently admitted to membership of the Commonwealth.
2. From January 2010 schools have been required to teach in English instead of French.
3. The start of the 2010 academic year was delayed to February 1st in secondary schools so that staff could receive intensive English language training.
4. We now have examination results for sponsored students in years senior one to senior five. They show an improvement over last year. Sponsors will be contacted shortly when the 2010 fees are known.
5. Anyone interested in sponsorship is asked to contact John McGibbon. Remember, we only add £1.00 to the actual school fees to cover our own costs. 71 students were sponsored last year.
6. Furaha, whose operation on paralysed and misshapen legs was paid for by two trust members is to start at Gatagara, a school for disabled children. Louise wonders if we are able to help with fees of just over £300 a year. Let Allan Hobson know if you want to help.
7. There is a regular exchange of letters between children at Range High School and Children at Groupe Scolaire. Rwanda now forms a core part of Range's Year 8 Geography curriculum.
8. Alternative gifts generated £1426 in the Christmas period, with a large share of the money going to Child Headed Families. Please remember that Alternative Gifts may be sent all year.
9. The Bishop Designate of Shyira Diocese is Revd Dr Laurent Mbanda who is leaving a secure executive position as the Africa Regional Vice President of Compassion International, a global Christian ministry.
10. Shyira parish now has 6 hectares for coffee growing, and will have 5,100 plants by April. The eventual target is 55,000.
11. The parish is now working with 22 child headed families:
 - 11 homes have now been rebuilt
 - 5 beds and 20 mosquito nets were provided in 2009
 - 12 goats and 4 sheep were provided
 - 26 children had medical insurance paid.