



Shyira Trust

Registered Charity Number 1118979

Patron: The Rt Revd Paul Bayes, Bishop of Liverpool

Newsletter, September 2017

On 4th July 2017 a new hospital was opened to replace the Shyira hospital we have come to know over recent years. The opening was by President Paul Kagame who can be seen in the middle of the picture on the right. Jane and Peter Morgan were in Shyira for the opening. They are pictured below with Bishop Augustin, his wife Claudine and Dr Theoneste, the hospital's medical director.



St Luke's church in Formby had raised funds for the rebuilding of the Shyira maternity building after the destruction it had suffered in the 1994 genocide, with the new building opening in April 2004. By 2007 the Trust had been formed and was asked to consider extending the maternity facilities. There was a lot of deliberation on this. Could the building be extended or must it be replaced, for example. By 2014 the Government of Rwanda had determined that the Shyira hospital buildings, mostly built in 1938 by CMS medical missionaries Drs Norman and

Catherine James, were no longer fit for purpose and must be replaced.

The old hospital had been a church facility, supporting mission across the area covered by the hospital and its health centres. Originally the diocese was asked to pay £1 million of the £3 million estimated cost to retain the hospital as a church facility, with the Trust asked to raise £300,000. However Bishop Augustin came to an agreement with the government that if the diocese provided the land for the new building, and relocated people living on the land, then the hospital would be a church facility.

The cost of the land and relocation of people was about £125,000. The Trust was able to send money for the relocation of people living on the land and the diocese borrowed £90,000 repayable over ten years to complete the purchase. Thanks to a very generous gift the Trust has now contributed £104,502.37 for the clearing of the debt, this including a penalty for early loan repayment.

The new hospital is a two storey structure providing more than 150 beds in high quality accommodation. It demonstrates the ambition of the Government of Rwanda for its people to be as well catered for as people in more developed countries. The hospital opening coincided with the 23rd Liberation Day Celebration, commemorating the end of Genocide as Rwandan Patriotic Front forces led by Paul Kagame entered Kigali. This was the first time the celebrations had been held in a remote rural area and was attended by some 40,000 people, many standing on land the Trust had purchased for the hospital.

Projects in Shyira.

“Is there any reason not to close the Shyira Trust?” we asked Bishop Augustin. Shyira is now such a different place to the one some of us visited in 2000/01. People are no longer unsmiling and walking with eyes to the ground. The Trust has played an active role in this transformation with financial help for development totalling almost £400,000.

Bishop Augustin felt it important that the Trust continues its work. There is still extreme poverty in Shyira, as in most rural parts of Rwanda, and the work of the Trust can be extended to other parts of North-West Rwanda. To help the Trust with its work in any of these areas please contact us or make a donation using MyDonate —see the back page for contact details.

Poverty Relief. Jane and Peter met with one young boy who is an orphan and has no siblings. With no social security in Rwanda he was finding it difficult to attend school due to his unbearable poverty. The photograph shows the conditions in his very small home. Through the Trust he will be sponsored to enable him to attend school. The Trust is committed to helping children in this situation with housing, basic furnishing and schooling, all aimed at reducing poverty.



Mothers Union. The Trust has been supporting the Mothers Union in Shyira but now wishes to move the support to all of Kivu Diocese. Bishop Augustin’s wife, Claudine, is responsible for all of the MU across Kivu Diocese and so is able to see that help goes to where it is needed. Many MU members are widows and are in extreme poverty. We will continue to renovate homes and provide basic furnishings and daily necessities.



Butaka. Butaka is a remote community high on the slopes of the dormant volcano, Mount Karisimbi. St. Luke’s church, with the help of the Trust and two generous donations has almost provided a church/community centre. Another £3,000 will complete the inside of the building and then a further £12,500 will be needed to build a house for the pastor/community leader. Butaka is an impoverished community that reminds us of Shyira when we first went in 2000/1.

Hospital Laundry. Shyira now has a new 150 bed hospital, but the hospital does not have facilities for laundering bed linen, etc. Everything has to be washed by hand and that can be an unpleasant job and is probably not as hygienic as could be achieved with a washing machine. An industrial washer costs about £70,000 but a cheaper version is available for about £18,000. Can we provide one and improve conditions in the hospital?

Christmas is coming and you may be looking to purchase Christmas cards or gifts. The Trust could be able to help you. We have a good selection of Christmas cards made in Rwanda using dried banana leaves. They cost just £1 for three cards with envelopes and are available by contacting the trust. We also have an alternative gift catalogue containing a range of gifts. Copies of the catalogue are available from the Trust, or it may be viewed on the Trust website.

Education for All

Jane and Peter Morgan met with the children in Groupe Scolaire Secondary School who are sponsored through the Trust to support their secondary education and were humbled by their testimonies as to how they feel loved and supported by their sponsors and the Trust.

With the government's policy of education for all we questioned the need to continue the sponsorship programme. The problem is two-fold. Only students with higher grades get into the more academic schools that offer "free" education and then they have expenditure that many can't afford—they must pay for uniform, paper, books, school lunches, exam entry and more. The annual cost is about £72.50.

Less academic students can go to technical school where they learn crafts like tailoring or joinery, crafts that can be used in their communities earning money to reduce family poverty. Technical schools require students to board, and the cost of a one year course is about £145.

For more information or to sponsor a child please contact the Trust.

Expertise Required

The new hospital has Maternity and Neonatology, Paediatrics, Accident and Emergency, Surgery, Internal Medicine, and an Out-Patient Dept. It also offers X-Ray and Imaging, Dentistry, Ophthalmology, Physiotherapy, and a Pharmacy. To support these services there is a laundry, waste disposal, a water treatment plant, medical & nursing staff hostels, canteen, administration, maintenance dept., and the Mortuary.

The capacity of the new hospital has increased to 150 standard beds from 94 beds that were in the old hospital. The Hospital has improved accessibility for people and serves 202,000 people mostly from remote rural areas of North West Rwanda.



The hospital benefits from the use of modern technologies such as a centralised medical oxygen system and telemedicine. There is good interconnection between services so that all parts of a person's treatment are well integrated.

The maternity department of the old hospital achieved a drastic reduction in maternal and child mortality and morbidity and it is intended to maintain this high quality service in the new hospital. However in all departments there is a lack of staff with appropriate training and experience to cover all the services the new hospital can provide.

Medical expertise is urgently needed. The hospital director has suggested that one way of building staff capacity and capability would be to recruit medics, such as surgeons with various kinds of expertise and an obstetrician/gynaecologist, to assist for a period of time to work and train staff.

Do you know of any medics who would be willing to serve for a period of time to share their skills with the staff in this new hospital? If so, contact the Shyira Trust for further information. Accommodation and transport can be provided in Shyira.

A quite amazing gift.

While he was with us in May 2017 Bishop Augustin met with someone who wished to gift some money for use in his diocese in Rwanda. They discussed what could be achieved with the money and came up with proposals for several medical projects, as listed below:

- ◆ Clear the loan that had been taken out for land purchase for the new maternity hospital. As described on page 1 of this newsletter that has already been achieved and was a Shyira Trust responsibility.
- ◆ Employment of three midwives until the Government are able to take responsibility. The hospital presently has 7 midwives who were transferred from the old hospital. However, the new maternity unit is quite a lot larger than the old one and is spread over two floors.
- ◆ Equipment for Mutaho Health Centre. The centre has buildings but no equipment and is in need of about £50,000 expenditure.
- ◆ The diocese has been given land for a health post in Ngoma Cell, Kabaya Sector and is under some pressure to provide the facility.
- ◆ Palliative care has been under consideration for several years, and a purpose-built building has been provided in Shyira. To assist in implementing palliative care Bishop Augustin spent a day in Queenscourt Hospice and has been given ideas on how to proceed.
- ◆ Provide a kitchen/rest area for the maternity section of the new hospital. Meals are not provided for people in hospital in Rwanda so they have to have carers with them. Mothers-to-be will usually go to the hospital early because of travel problems and so carers are important. At present there is nowhere for them to prepare food or rest and sleep, so a building is to be provided.

The gift given for this work is an amazing £500,000. Like all other Trust projects, these have been defined by Bishop Augustin or other contacts in Rwanda. Where these projects differ from other projects is that they were agreed in consultation with the donor, and that the funding was already in place to support them. The projects are therefore an extension of the Trust's work and the Trust will keep the donor informed about progress, invest money until it is needed for one of the agreed projects and report to the Charity Commission.

The Trust continues to fundraise for its other projects because this donation is ring fenced to be used on the projects described above.

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