

# Global Challenge Newsletter

Christmas 2022



Globalchallengecharity.com



Using Gift Aid collected from our supporters, Global Challenge was able to send all the teachers at Crossroads School a little bonus in their wages recently. Your generosity has enabled us to continue to pay the school staff throughout the pandemic school closure...which was two years, one of the longest school closures in the world! Consequently, Crossroads was able to reopen with all its original and wonderful staff. This could not be said for many other private schools in Uganda who have sadly not been able to reopen.

## Ephesians 3:17-21

.. so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, .. may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, .. and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. .. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, .. to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!

## Welcome

- Commitment continues to enable children to attend schools appropriate to their needs
- And “**sew**” it begins... Hellen and Priscilla celebrating their new found skills
- Photo Gallery
- Amazing response to our plea to help with student's fees
- From Tree to Cathedral



IDP Memorial Baptist Church celebrating 19 years

**“Enabling better health, education and quality of life through sustainable partnerships with local communities in Soroti, Uganda.”**



## Commitment continues to enable children to attend schools appropriate to their needs

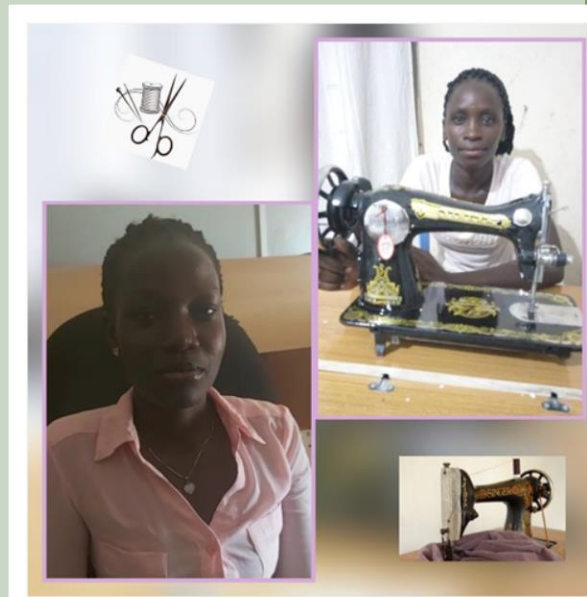
The increasing cost of living expenses has meant that the school fees at Ngora School for the Deaf have gone up slightly. We support six students who go to this school and are happy to announce that Global Challenge is still able to keep our commitment to support them through their primary into secondary education. All six students have been able to return to school after the pandemic.



Pupils from Ngora School for the Deaf.

Global Challenge has received a wonderful sponsorship to be able to support a little girl called Miriam. Miriam is blind and was at a mainstream school but was struggling. The sponsorship has enabled us to fund Miriam to attend St Francis School for the Blind.

Staff there have said how well Miriam has settled. Miriam was also given a holiday package so that she can practise using brail at home. The staff and Miriam's family are so grateful for the support she has been given.



Hellen and Priscilla

## And "sew" it begins...

Over the past year, both Priscilla and Hellen have been supported to attend tailoring courses. They have also been able to purchase a sewing machine each to enhance their skills. Both ladies are using their tailoring experience to generate income and support their families; with the intention of training others in their new found skills.



Crossroads School is very proud to have been selected for a national programme which encourages students to take more care of the environment. Students have recently been planting saplings on their school grounds.



Billy Outeke, our Special Needs coordinator in Uganda, has been keeping us in touch with the children with special needs, despite the challenges the global pandemic has thrust upon us all!



Global Challenge is grateful to the work of Deborah EMENITAI, who has acted as Head and been well supported by staff this term.



Through fundraising, Global challenge is not only able to support Anna Grace to go to school but also to support her family with chickens.



Travelling round the district of Soroti is not always a simple task with its unmade roads, dirt tracks, jungle vegetation and the huge distances. We are endeavoring to raise funds to replace Billy's aging motorbike.





## From Tree to Cathedral!!



IDP (Internally Displaced Persons) Memorial Baptist Church.

In 2003 many IDPs (Internally Displaced People), who had fled to the relative safety of Soroti, were gathered under a glorious fire tree to worship in Nakatunya.

In 2005 a team from Queens Road Baptist Church went to help build a more permanent place of worship.

In 2007 another team from Queens Road Baptist Church joined the procession, a short distance, from the flame tree to IDP (Internally Displaced Persons) Memorial Baptist Church, for its inauguration. A flame tree was planted in the grounds so that they would always remember God's provision.

In July 2022 the church at Nakatunya celebrated 19 years of God's grace to them.

## Amazing Response!

We had an amazing response to our plea to help up to 74 pupils at Crossroads School. Many children had been unable to pay their school fees because of the dire economic climate. As a charity we have a commitment to Crossroads Secondary School to pay for staff salaries and sundries such as textbooks for the new National Curriculum in Uganda and Bibles for pupils new to the school. We are also committed to providing a substantial meal each lunchtime. However, times are exceptionally difficult for parents and carers. Partly due to the pandemic and persistent drought, costs have risen by more than 40%. Financial hardship and ruin has caused a lot of suffering and even more poverty for the students at Crossroads.



Students revising in the shade

As trustees, we took the extraordinary measure in requesting support for **student fees**. Usually, we rely on the school board to determine which pupils deserve free places. The children usually pay for their school place according to their means, but their means are almost ZERO now! We received information on non-payment of fees for the previous terms, where there were 74 students who had defaulted to different degrees, each owing between 24,500 Ugandan shillings (£4 equivalent UK pounds) and 189,000 Ugandan shillings (£42 equivalent UK pounds). We asked if our supporters were able to pay off this debt so that the parents didn't need to worry about the school fees that they still owed for the last 3 terms. **AMAZINGLY**, due to the generosity of our Global Challenge supporters, we were able to help pay for the fees of every child that was in need! The whole academic year fees have been cleared!

