

Pebbles News

Pebbles Uganda charity No. 117960

Spring 2024



Dear Pebbles friends and supporters,
A BIG thankyou again for the wonderful support you have given since my last newsletter.

Last year we were able to send £8,200 to Choice Baptist Nursery and Primary school in support of the Feeding Programme. The school has been so grateful as it was able to provide food for 200 children and the staff.

A Christmas celebration.



Our giving also supported the celebration at the end of the academic year where parents and children came together to acknowledge the children's achievements. There was much dancing and singing followed by a meal for the community.

This has become an important event in the lives of the school community where the church and school offer hope to the families who live in the slum.

The picture shows Pr Alex and the Headteacher awarding one of many pupils their certificate of achievement alongside a proud parent.

As I looked at the budget for the meal, I was struck by some of the differences and similarities between the food in Uganda and the UK. There was rice, potatoes, sweet potatoes, matoke (green banana) cabbage, peppers, beans, and "meat".

For families that rely heavily on a high carbohydrate diet, the inclusion of more vegetables and meat is a welcome change.

A visit from Owen Green

Owen is a Baptist Minister from Swindon who was in Uganda last summer visiting another school. He paid a visit to Choice Baptist church and school and spent a morning chatting with staff and pupils. He found that the school provided a safe place for slum children, where they were fed and received a good basic education. He could also sense that God was at work through the commitment of staff and pastor.

Encouraging comments like these are significant in that they confirm what we already know - our support is making a difference to the lives of many families.



The comments made by Owen are echoed in the messages we receive from pupils and staff at the school.

The Headteacher Martin, described some of the circumstances in which children find themselves and how the feeding programme is helping. He said, *"Some live in very poor families, while others live with grandparents because they have been orphaned. Some are children of single mothers, while others are looked after by aunts and uncles."* He goes on to say, *"After eating at school, some children depend on that up until the next day."*

He also describes how the feeding programme attracts children to the school and helps their performance.

We also get messages from those who have benefitted from our support of the Back to Work scheme. Vicky shared about her business: *"I am so thankful to God for the support I received. My business is doing well. I started by working alone, but now I have two workers and can pay them 200,000 UGX monthly which is approximately 40 UK pounds. I personally make profit every month and can support my family. I also share the Gospel at my workplace and am so happy for the many people coming to faith through my business as I share the Gospel"*.

The school building.

The building which houses the school during the week is used for worship on a Sunday. It is a wooden framed structure with corrugated iron sheets for the walls and roof. Kampala City Council have plans for developing the slum and have insisted that any new structures are brick built with a sound roof. When the school built new latrines a few years ago, they had to be brick built.

The main building is now showing signs of age and decay and needs renovating. Pr Alex wrote recently that the roof was leaking badly, and he was worried that the winds and rain might cause it to collapse.

Over the past few years church members have been saving bricks for rebuilding. They have managed to pay for new steel structures to support the walls and roof and are stepping out in faith to fund replacing the iron roof sheets. They have delayed the opening of the school by a week to enable the roof to be finished.

The photos below show steel structures being welded inside the building and assembling them above the existing roof.



The help you already give towards the feeding programme is gratefully received and provides essential food for the children, but if you would like to make an additional contribution, each iron sheet costs about £18.00. Donations may be made through the ways described below but please indicate "Roof" in the reference when using BACS.

It costs around £10.00 per month to feed a child. The Feeding Programme provides employment for the small staff who buy, prepare, cook, and serve food. We are so thankful for the donations and support we regularly receive.

If you are interested in regular giving or making a one-off gift, our bank details are as follows:

Pebbles- Uganda

Lloyds Bank

Sort code: 30-92-69

Account number: 18394468

Please contact Caroline Couzens if you are interested in gift aid: carrers692@gmail.com

We also accept cash or cheques.

Please make cheques payable to Pebbles Uganda and send to:

11 Victor Jackson Avenue

Poundbury

Dorchester

Dorset

DT1 3GY

Thank you again for reading this.

With best wishes,

Chris