

Easter Rising!...

Happy Easter to all friends and supporters of Ibba Girls School!

We write to bring you heart-warming news of practical progress in South Sudan - a welcome contrast to the heart-chilling coldness in the UK!

This Newsletter brings you up to date with details of:

- Progress in the building of the first class-room block toilets, kitchen generator and completion of the perimeter fence and of the second solar powered water bore hole.
- The funds we still have to raise to complete the dormitory and shower block and the teachers accommodation.
- The schedule for Bridget Nagamoro's visit to the UK from May 10-27
- The FIGS annual conference and AGM in London on May 15
- Opportunities for volunteering with FIGS – in the UK and South Sudan.

and much much more!

Water for Ibba Village. Following his recent visit back to Ibba, our architect Malcolm Worby is pleased to confirm that the building work completed from Phase 1 (site clearance, perimeter fencing, gatehouse and a solar powered water bore-hole, bringing water for the village through 4 taps) is of good quality, on time and within budget. The bore-hole helps to reduce the time and effort which young girls have to put into pumping and collecting water, and removes some of the barriers to their attendance at school.

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If you feel you're able to contribute please do so through our link

[HERE](#) to Virgin Money Giving!

Every contribution counts and anything you do will make a huge difference to our cause! Thank you, from all of us.

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Building the First School Class-Rooms in

Ibba. Further FIGS funding has now been allocated for the next stage of the construction work to commence in March, and to be completed in the targeted time of 4 months (March to June 2013). This comprises the classroom block, toilets, kitchen, solar and generator block and completion of the second solar powered water borehole. Our architect Malcolm Worby will be travelling to Ibba again on April 15 to inspect the progress.

Jobs for Local Young People. This building work also helps to create employment for local young people. Gabriel Gbera, head of Anisa Construction, our builders based in Yambio, tells us that he is excited by this prospect “We had a wonderful meeting with the paramount Chief of Ibba and the community on 19th March. He selected 30 hardworking men from the East, Central and West of Ibba to work with us.”



Funding Teachers in the Feeder Primary Schools in Ibba. FIGS Trustees have also agreed further funding to support additional teachers in the feeder primary schools for Ibba Girls School. The aim is to reduce the class sizes (often over 100) and to try to improve the quality of basic education in Ibba County for those who will later come on to Ibba Girls School at the age of 10 – when most girls drop out from school.

Last year FIGS paid the salaries of three trained teachers (Jada Lawrence, Bingo Jackson and Waran George) to work in St Mary's Primary School in Madebe (which has 300 pupils) and in St Peter's primary school in Ibba village (which has 400 pupils in five classrooms i.e. around 80 pupils per class).

This year, following a visit to Ibba by Janet Darg-Forsyth, Amesbury Parish near Salisbury has raised the funding for one of these primary teachers. FIGS will support the other two teachers for another year.

Bishop Wilson Kamani writes from Ibba to "express a special vote of thanks to all friends of Ibba Girls Boarding School for their open-handed support for these teachers ...and to inform you about the substantial number of girls less than 10 years old at St Peter's and St Mary's who are ready to join the Girls Boarding School when it opens".

Funding Needed for the Dormitory Block and Teachers. Stage 2 of the current phase of building work in Ibba will be started as soon as the additional funds are

raised. This will complete the initial building work necessary to open the school, and comprises the dormitory block, showers and laundry facilities, plus teachers' accommodation. We hope to be able to start this work while Stage 1 is still in progress, so that the builders can continue on site and thus the costs can be kept down. See below for the detailed breakdown of how much we need to raise.

Recruiting a Board of Governors, Teachers and Students. The Ibba Steering Committee is keen to be able to open the school to its first 40 ten year old girls by the end of this year. In order to achieve this aim we have lots of work to do, both in South Sudan and in the UK.

In South Sudan, in addition to completing the buildings, we have to finalise the setting up of the Trustees and Board of Governors; to recruit and induct the head-teacher and other staff; to develop the school curriculum and culture; and to select the first 40 ten year old girls.

The Ibba Steering Committee will take the lead in this process, with support and advice from FIGS and from education advisers from the government of Western Equatoria State, the RC and ECS churches.

Fundraising to Complete and Open the School. In the UK we have to raise the funding to complete and equip the buildings and to recruit the head and other staff for the school. This will require a lot of time, expertise and money.

So we have set ourselves some ambitious stretch targets for fund-raising. We are approaching a number of philanthropists, businesses and trusts to contribute to both the capital and the running costs of the school.

We also look to continued support from our expanding network of Friends of Ibba Girls School, which includes generous individuals, churches, schools, NGO's and other organisations – and some interest in other countries, including possible funding from a University in

Norway.



Breaking Down some of the Costs. Costs in South Sudan are soaring because of the economic difficulties following the long standing conflict with the North over the oil supply (on which the Republic of South Sudan currently depends for 98% of its income). While the economic situation is improving with the end of the war, materials are still scarce and very costly. Here is a breakdown of some of the money we still need to raise in order to get the school open to the first 40 girls:

- Dormitory block £52,000
- Shower and laundry block £32,400
- Teachers residential accommodation £38,300
- Head-teacher, incl. support costs, approx. £9,500 p.a
- Teaching staff, incl. support costs, approx. £7,500 p.a

Engaging with South Sudanese People Living and Working in the UK Diaspora. FIGS discussions are increasingly informed by South Sudanese people who live and work in the UK, and they are taking on fundraising for FIGS too, with further ideas to help us build support among the diaspora, and to engage with their schools and church groups. For example Suha Lagu has already set up a meeting for us with the head of Christ the Saviour school in Ealing where her children go, and there are plans for fund-raising and a longer term partnership with FIGS.

The First Secretary of the South Sudan Embassy spoke

at a recent London meeting of volunteers, and we have had contributions from several South Sudanese women at our recent Trustees meetings too. Martha Modi wrote to say that “It was nice to meet with all the Trustees and Friends of Ibba Girls School Project. As I said in the meeting this is a very important project that will make a very big difference to the women and girls of South Sudan”.

Formation of London Volunteers. On 7th February the London FIGS group met for the first time. Through advertising on the website and talking to our networks of colleagues we were pleased that over 30 people attended the evening, bringing with them a wealth of experience and knowledge about the Republic of South Sudan. Trustee professor Jean Hartley shared our vision and the excellent work that FIGS have already achieved so far. Many volunteers spoke passionately about their experience growing up in Africa and the impact the work of FIGS could make. Edith Galliers, who is co-ordinating the volunteers in London, provided an overview of the roles that would be available. The evening proved to be successful with volunteers providing their details to be kept informed with volunteering opportunities that arise.

Next London FIGS Meeting – Thursday

28th March. With the encouraging outcome of the last meeting we are organising another meeting for the volunteers, Please see the details below. We hope to see you there!

Date: 28th March 2013

Time: 6:30pm (networking), 7:00pm – 8:30pm (meeting)

Location: Camden Town Hall, Room 4,

Argyle Street, London, WC1H 8NJ

For more information please

email: londonfigs@gmail.com

Meeting of FIGS Trustees to Develop Strategy. The FIGS Trustees meet quarterly. The March 18th meeting had been arranged to start to discuss and develop our

strategy for the short term (this year, 2013), medium term (next 2 to 8 years, 2014-2022), and long term (next 9 to 16 years, 2022-2030). Our aim within the medium term period is to help Ibba Girls School to reach its full initial capacity of 320 girls in 8 classes of 40 girls each and to begin to become more self-sustaining (supported by grants from the South Sudan government and by local income generating projects e.g. a market garden).



—May 10th to 27th: Visit to UK by Bridget

Nagomoro. FIGS is sponsoring a 2 week visit to the UK for Commissioner Bridget Nagomoro, to help raise the profile and funding for Ibba Girls School. Meetings with FIGS funders and supporters will be arranged – we already have requests from London, Coventry, the Cotswolds, Nottingham, York, Belfast and Glasgow. Bridget will also contribute to the FIGS annual conference and AGM in London on May 15th.

May 15th FIGS Annual Conference and AGM. The conference will be held in central London from 2pm till 5.30pm and will include speakers from South Sudan (including Bridget Nagomoro and others) , the churches, NGO's and the UK government. The conference is an open meeting, with a range of speakers about South Sudan and the development of the school, so you are warmly invited to come along. The FIGS AGM, which is open to all friends and subscribers will start at 6pm and will include the appointment of some additional Trustees including more young women and South Sudanese people. Please book the date and look out for further details in the April Newsletter.

An Easter Rising – and an Easter Gift? As we move from the darkness and cold of Winter and of Lent through to the first light and hope of Spring and the Easter rising, we would like to take the opportunity to thank all of you who have supported the building and development of Ibba Girls School so generously.

Please help us now to reach the total we need to complete this initial phase and to open the school to its first 40 girls. Please contribute now if you have not already done so, and also pass on these details to other individuals and organisations whom you think might be interested. There are basically 3 ways to make a donation:

1) By cheque made payable to Friends of Ibba Girls School and sent to our Hon Treasurer at Ashlar, Icomb, Cheltenham GL54 1JE

2) BACS transfer for the credit of Friends of Ibba Girls School, Co-operative Bank; account no 65525782; sort code 089299. Please add your name as reference.

3) Via our website and Virgin Money Giving (although in this case there will be a charge to the charity of 2% plus credit/debit card fees)

Please also sign the gift aid declaration form (click on the image below to download the form) if possible, as this will increase the value of your gift to us by 25%.



Volunteering. We are currently looking for volunteers to get involved with:

- Support to the FIGS fundraising sub committee
- Grass Roots Fundraising

- Research and Draft a Volunteer Protocol
- South Sudan Diaspora
- School Liaison
- Logistical Support for the visit of Bridget Nagomoro

If you are interested in getting involved please contact londonfigs@gmail.com to register your interest and find out more.

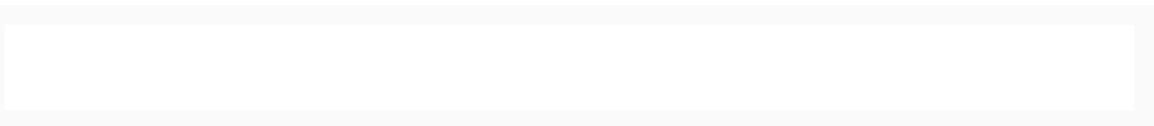


With our best wishes and thanks, John Benington Chair of the Friends of Ibba Girls School, South Sudan

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