



FRIENDS OF
IBBA GIRLS SCHOOL
SOUTH SUDAN

OCTOBER 2016

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moneygiving

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.



October 2016

Dear Friends,

In this Newsletter we grieve, we celebrate, we support, we present, we applaud, we thank, we beg, and then we invite you to join us in some extraordinary events and exciting activities in November and December.

1) **We grieve** with and for the people of South Sudan who still live under precarious conditions, suffering insecurity, hyper-inflation and hunger. However, with Antonio Gramsci, we try to counter-balance pessimism of the intellect (about the continued tragic suffering in South Sudan) with optimism of the will (about the potential for peace-making through education and small but hopeful initiatives like Ibba Girls School).

2) **We celebrate** the courage and commitment of the governors, staff and students at Ibba Girls School who have kept the school up and running throughout this long period of volatility and uncertainty – without losing a single day of teaching and learning, and continuing to teach with great imagination in spite of all the pressures and uncertainties. Headteacher Richard Aluma is proud to report that all staff and students reported back to IGBS ready for the start of Term 3 of this Year 3. Few other schools in South Sudan have managed to achieve this given all the insecurities and uncertainties.

See their photos below.

3) **We support** the team of dedicated African teachers at IGBS (Richard, Vicky, Yoane, Agnes and Fabiano) through regular (3 times a year) visits by FIGS volunteers to run capacity building workshops, with the next trip leaving on 25th October.

4) **We present** the latest plans for the next stage of the school's building development.

5) **We applaud** the increasing number of people who donate their time and skill as unpaid volunteers and Friends of Ibba Girls School.

6) **We thank** most warmly literally thousands of individuals and organisations who continue to support Ibba Girls School with generous donations and standing orders (and gifts for example of textbooks, laptops, and sanitary pad kits for the girls) and by fund-raising in imaginative ways (via Golden Weddings, birthday parties, Alpine

climbs, ceilidhs, poetry readings).

7) **We beg you** to consider helping to bridge the school's funding gap before Christmas.

8) **We invite you** and other Friends of Ibba Girls School to sign up now to take part in an exciting series of major activities in November and December.

Read more on each of these points below...

1. Pessimism of the intellect, but optimism of the will

After a 50 year struggle for independence from the fundamentalist Islamist North, the new government of South Sudan seems unable to make the transition from military to civilian rule, to move from opposition to proposition, to establish law and order and an inclusive democratic process, a government of negotiated national unity, or a realistic plan for (re)construction and development of this youngest nation on earth.

However, it is striking that the churches of all denominations are providing moral and practical leadership in South Sudan. And we are inspired by [Gordon Brown's argument](#) that the Marshall Plan which helped the reconstruction of Britain and Germany after the 2nd world war may provide a model for economic, social and educational development in South Sudan. We are working with him and other in South Sudan and the UK to develop the educational dimension of such a plan.

News from Ibba

Bishop Wilson writes:

'Greetings to you all in Jesus name. Thank you so much for your continued prayers. Generally, Ibba is calm. People are very busy with the second season planting ground nuts (monkey nuts), corn and others. It has dry without rain for the last two months but it rained yesterday.

The Mothers' Union have an agricultural project in this second season. They have a plan to plant a feddan of beans, sorghum and ground nuts. Mama Agnes Kippa and

Rosi Bii are busy these days mobilizing the Mothers' Union from two archdeaconaries; Maniakara and Ibba to come together. Please pray for Mama Agnes and Rose as they work with the Mothers' Union to ensure that the work is done. Our confirmation programs will begin on 9th October at Maniakara, 16th October at Madebe, 23rd October Nabanga, 30th October Ibba and 6th November at the Cathedral. We invite your prayer for these programs to be.'

2. Inspiring classroom teaching

We would like to acknowledge the continued commitment of all those involved in Ibba Girls School especially considering the ongoing instability in South Sudan. A special mention must go to the vigilance and positive attitude of the staff at the school for their enduring enthusiasm and commitment to delivering enjoyable and engaging classes for the students.

Recent classes have included the students learning about sources of electricity - including making their own electrical circuits - and making their own salt. You can find more details and pictures of their activities here.



3. Volunteer teachers' trip to Ibba

The workshops run by FIGS volunteers 3 times a year create an opportunity to work shoulder to shoulder with our teaching staff alongside each other in the classroom, to share and compare knowledge and experience of how to improve the quality of teaching and learning at Ibba Girls Boarding School.

Following the workshop run by Julia and Paul Sanders and Sue Hunt in March this year (see their photos below), another team of volunteer teachers (Margaret Eddershaw, Keith Sturgess and Matt Bryden) is going to Ibba from 27th October until 10th November to help with English language training and drama. John Benington and Malcolm Worby are also going on this trip to help develop the role of the Board of Governors and to promote progress with the building programme.



4. Building for the next 40 students

We are aiming to build a new 3-classroom block, and an assembly/dining hall, and upgrading the solar powered electricity and water supplies in order to prepare for the arrival of an additional 40 ten-year-old girls for the start of Year 4 next February, which will make a total of 160 students at IGBS.



A lovely artist's impression of the proposed vernacular assembly/dining hall, which will also be used as a chapel.

5. Special thank you to our unpaid volunteers

We would like to say a special thank you to all of our unpaid volunteers who dedicate a huge amount of time and effort to our cause. This includes:

- The IGBS Trustees and Governors in South Sudan
- The FIGS Trustees in the UK
- The team of volunteer teachers who go to Ibbra 3 times per year
- The FIGS fund-raising teams who prepare our bids and appeals
- The social enterprise development team, who are investigating income generating business linked to IGBS (eg fish-farming; agriculture)
- Leapfrog PR who coordinate the FIGS Newsletters
- Totality Marketing who designed and manage the FIGS Website
- And, literally hundreds of other who help out

We now urgently need additional volunteers, especially:

A PA to support John in his role as Chair of Trustees and fund-raising

A person to manage sales of FIGS merchandise, eg Christmas Cards

We would urge anyone who thinks they may be able to help with the above to get in touch with John Benington at john.benington@wbs.ac.uk.

6. Warmest thanks for the following donations

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to those who have so kindly contributed to our cause over the last few months, either through donations or various events:

- Student sponsors: 46, with over **£9,000 this year**
- One-off donations: **over** £20,000
- Mig Kerr's 60th birthday ceilidh: over £600
- Jean Hartley's sponsored Alpine trek: £2,500
- Jill and Edward Hackford 50th wedding anniversary lunch: c. £2,000
- John Benington's 75th birthday appeal: over £13,000
- Sternberg award for over-active 70-year-olds: £1000
- Margaret Eddershaw, poetry readings and book sales: over £1,400
- Nailsea Methodist Church Bristol: £250 per year for 3 years
- Christ the King RC church: £5000
- IT Schools Africa: 12 laptops for IGBS students
- Diane Graham: "Days for Girls" kit for sanitary pads
- Give A Car: John and Mary Twidell
- St James Church Styvechale: £1,200 pledged for Big Give enhanced by £1,200 personal donation

This is a truly remarkable range of individuals and organisations, activities and events, bids and appeals, which have helped FIGS to generate an amazing average of £250k per year since 2011. Thank you warmly for this extraordinary generosity. We now need to raise around £150k to pay for next year's dormitory, and the rising costs of food, fuel and staffing.

Special thank you to our unpaid volunteers



Some of the first cohort of 40 girl students, who are now in their third year at IGBS

A big thank-you to existing Student Sponsors as well as those of you who have recently started a sponsorship, namely Pat Ramsell, Brian Lea, Claire Rushing, Ellie Pyemont and Sam and Anne Hood. We look forward to updating all 47 of you with the next Student Sponsor report, either when we meet in person at the FIGS Annual Meeting on Saturday 26th November, or in the post if you can't be present that day.

If you are considering starting a Student Sponsorship, [please begin this October](#) in order to receive your first Student Sponsor report, containing school news, and bonus photos and stories from the girl students, in November this year. Click [here](#) for our page on Virgin Money Giving.

7. Help Support Next Year's Schooling for 160 Girls

In South Sudan the school year starts at the beginning of February. Next year IGBS will welcome and enroll an additional 40 ten-year-old girls, making a total of 160 students in Primary levels 4, 5, 6 and 7. (The school will reach its target of 360

students in Feb 2022)

Will you join us in raising the funding for next year's schooling for these 160 girls?
You can help in 5 main ways :

Sponsor a student through their 9 years of schooling at IGBS (Details above)

Fund a nurse, matron, cook or security guard (Details below)

Double your donation through Big Give from Nov 29 – Dec 2 (Details below)

Contribute to Paul and Julia's Crowdfunding for textbooks for IGBS Primary Year 7 ([Details here](#))

Order FIGS Christmas cards and spread the word among friends (Email Jean Hartley at jean.hartley@open.ac.uk)



The girls help to harvest the maize crop, which they grow at the school.

Will you help support a cook, security guard or matron at Ibba?

We have just begun to invite regular standing orders of £14 a month towards the salaries of the support staff at Ibba – the dedicated, hardworking team of people who look after the health, well-being and safety of the girl students.

These are people who work long hours, sometimes under difficult conditions with

few resources, to make sure that the girls can continue learning in health, comfort and safety. Their loyalty to Ibba has been rock solid; some have chosen to relocate themselves and even their families in order to work at the school.

Would you help to sustain the jobs and service of people like our school nurse Jovia, matrons Ludia, Olivia and Regina, the cooks Cecelia, Eunice, Fozia, and Margaret, and our security guards Oliver, Michael, Thomas and Yepeta?



School nurse Jovia (left), accompanied by volunteer Sue Hunt (right), learns to use a microscope to identify malarial parasites for rapid treatment of sick students. Local healthcare systems are under great pressure, and so Jovia is learning and doing all that she can.



Fozia, Cecilia and Elizabeth, busy washing up and cleaning after a school meal.

To start giving or to upgrade your standing order to £14 a month, simply go to our [secure giving page](#) or follow the instructions on our giving form [here](#). **Thank you very much on behalf of the support staff and students at Ibba.**

8. Dates for the diary this November & December

- **Nov 15 and 16: RISING 2016 Global Peace Forum** at Coventry Cathedral, with a brilliant line up of international speakers including from South Sudan and Ibba Girls School. [Programme and details here](#).
- **Nov 26: FIGS Annual Meeting in Coventry**, with a live Skype call with IGBS, an immersive journey to Ibba, reports from recent visits to Ibba, poetry, drama, music and a surprise visitor from South Sudan.
Get in touch with Jonathan Martin at
jonathan.martin@westwoodfundraising.co.uk **to reserve your place.**

- **Nov 29 - Dec 2: Big Give for Ibba Girls School...**

Get ready for the Big Give 2016!



Our Big Give match funding campaign will open this year on Giving Tuesday, 29th November 2016 at 12 noon. We have £24,400 in matching funds available to double your donations on a first come, first served basis, so do book the date and time into your diary now!

Your donation will be doubled until matching funds run out, or until Friday 2nd December 12 noon, whichever is sooner. If matching funds run out before Friday 2nd December 12 noon, you will still be able to make an unmatched donation – all in order to build new school facilities that will accommodate 240 more girl students in Ibba. You can read about this year's project [here](#).

Find out more Big Give campaign details [here](#), and stay tuned for further updates nearer the time.

If you'd like to give between £500 and £5,000 in this year's Big Give, please let

us know as soon as you can by emailing Chernise at

connect@ibbagirlsschool.org. This will help us to better plan our Big Give campaign. Thank you very much!

Thank you!

With our best wishes and warm thanks,

John Benington Chair, on behalf of the Trustees and Friends of Ibba Girls School

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