



**FRIENDS OF
IBBA GIRLS SCHOOL
SOUTH SUDAN**

NEWSLETTER
December 2013

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DONATE NOW



Cheques Payable to: Friends of Ibba Girls School
Send to: Ashlar, Icomb, Cheltenham
Gloucestershire, GL54 1JE

Eric Shepley (Honorary Treasurer)
ericsshepley555@btinternet.com



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.



Christmas Newsletter

Peace and Reconciliation?

We are very sad to hear of the conflict in South Sudan's capital Juba earlier this week. This seems to reflect both political and ethnic rivalries (between the supporters of President Salva Kiir, and of the Vice President Riek Machar whom he sacked from the Cabinet some weeks ago; and between the Dinka and the Nuer).

The UN and the churches have moved fast to try to restore talks between the rival factions, and to emphasise the loss of confidence within the international community if peace is not restored rapidly.

Thankfully Ibba is over 400 km from Juba - more than 10 hours by road (about the distance from London to Belfast) and not caught up in these political/ ethnic rivalries.

The population of Western Equatoria State (WES) is predominately from a single ethnic group (the Zande), and the WES state government is actively committed to peaceful development, based upon investment in education and skills, and in agriculture and forestry.

Ibba Girls School is seen by many as making a practical contribution to this peace-making process, and as an important part of the process of "normalisation" of life after over 20 years of war.

In spite of all the dilemmas we are therefore still firmly committed to the opening of the School in February, the start of the next school year.

To Touch the Life of a Child

The Christmas story tells us that light and love can break through darkness and despair – even when we do not recognise it.

So, even in these difficult times for South Sudan, please keep the faith with Ibba Girls School, and strengthen your commitment and support.

Someone from Fields of Life told us of this inscription:

"A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of

house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove. However, the world will be different if I was important in the life of a child”

So if you have not already done so please join the growing number of people who have decided to give a monthly standing order to support the opening and running costs of the school (e.g helping pay for the teachers, books, equipment, accommodation and food)

Before you forget, please sign up right now to contribute £5, £10 or £20 per month (compare it with your monthly mobile phone subscription?)

<http://bit.ly/1hA3Yd5>

We will make sure you get regular progress reports from the school and about the 40 girls.

These are the kind of Christmas gifts which you can be sure will bring literally life-changing benefits to 40 girls who otherwise would get no schooling at all.

Recruiting an African Co-head Teacher

We have made a wonderful start in the process of recruiting the small initial team of teachers and staff to start the school in February.

A call for Expressions of Interest in 5 posts was circulated widely in South Sudan, Uganda and internationally (especially among the South Sudan diaspora).

This led to strong applications for each of the posts from African people already working in South Sudan, plus an expression of interest from two experienced primary school principals from Western Australia.

Paula and Jamie Sgherza from Perth have offered to come to Ibba Girls School as volunteers for two years, to work shoulder to shoulder alongside the African staff, to share their experience of teaching and leading and managing a school.



Paula and Jamie Sgherza

The newly constituted South Sudan Trustees for Ibba Girls School met and decided the guiding principles for the staffing of the school, arguing that they wanted IGBS to be a model of good practice and a benchmark and a beacon for other schools to learn from.

The Trustees welcomed the idea of Paula as co-head and Jamie as co-finance manager, working alongside their South Sudan counter-parts as on the job mentors for the first two years.

All short-listed applicants (including Paula and Jamie) were invited to come for interview by a sub-committee of the Trustees, and to carry out some practical exercises as part of the selection process (eg teaching a sample lesson in front of the selection panel; and doing an in-tray exercise of a typical Monday morning in school).

The Trustees have not yet found the African co-head (see the re-advertisement below) but have made the following excellent appointments:

- 1st Co- Head (To be re-advertised. See below)
- 2nd Co-Head: Paula Sgherza
- Classroom teacher: Youane Peter Kumbonyaki
- Co-finance manager Jamie Sgherza
- The African co-finance manager is to be appointed at the beginning of year two, once the basic systems have been established)
- Nurse/matron: Beatrice Adongo

Christmas blessings, best wishes and warm thanks from

John Benington (chair) and the UK Trustees of Friends of Ibba Girls School, South Sudan



South Sudanese Trustees (plus Bishop Wilson below)



John Benington, Bishop Wilson & Bridget Nagomoro

Head-mistress for Ibba Girls Boarding School (Re-advertisement)

Dates: Apply by: January 21st 2014

Job start: ASAP

Location: Ibba County, Western Equatoria State, South Sudan

Contract type: Full Time

Contract term: Three years in the first instance, following satisfactory probation.

The Trustees for Ibba Girls' Boarding School is seeking to appoint an outstanding

Head teacher to open and lead this new school in Western Equatoria State, South Sudan. Website: www.ibbagirlsschool.org

The school opens in February 2014 and the Trustees and Board of Governors wish to appoint an African Head to work alongside the newly appointed Co-Head, Paula Sgherza (an experienced primary school principal and teacher from Australia) as soon as possible after the school starts.

The School is located on a 73 acre forest site and Ibba, which is situated between Yambio and Maridi in Western Equatorial State. Ibba is about 2 hours by road from Yambio, and 45 minutes from Madiri. Ibba also has its own small airstrip which is used for flights by light aircraft (e.g. Mission Aviation Fellowship).



The school will cater for girls from the age of 10 to 18+, and is starting with 40 ten year old girls in 2014. Ibba Girls' School is a purpose built school and over the course of the next 8 years will expand to 320 girls between the ages of 10 and 18.

The school is constituted under South Sudan law as a Community School and is a formal partnership between the local community, the churches and the Western Equatoria State government.

The school will follow the new South Sudan curriculum and will aim to fulfill the potential of girls from local communities in all 10 counties of Western Equatoria State.

The facilities to teach and accommodate the first 40 girls are built to high standards and will be ready for the opening of the school in February 2014. Good quality teachers accommodation is provided on site.

The Headmistress will work with the co-head to lead the academic development and operations of the primary part of the school and will be responsible for enabling and ensuring high quality learning for the girls.

This is a wonderful opportunity for a committed teacher who is inspired by the challenge of starting up, leading and developing a new girls' school in this developing country, with the opportunity to be innovative and make a real difference.

We particularly seek an experienced teacher from South Sudan or a relevant sub-Saharan African country (e.g. Kenya, Uganda).

As Head Teacher you will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of Ibba School and play a leading role in:

- meeting the learning needs of the children in the school
- ensuring the development of the school with community support
- leading school growth and school improvement
- supporting the delivery of high standards in all aspects of the school.

You need to have:

- qualified teacher status with a degree as a minimum expectation
- proven success in managing curriculum and school organisation
- a leadership style which emphasizes good communication and team work
- a preparedness to live in and contribute to the community

You will be offered a three-year contract in the first instance, with progress through probation. It is hoped that, by mutual agreement, the contract will be extended further, dependent on performance.

The salary is negotiable, and is enhanced to reflect the pioneering nature of the school.

To Apply:

Letters of application including the reasons for applying to Ibba Girls' School together with a full CV, a recent passport-size photograph, and a supporting letter and three references should be sent by e-mail to the following 3 people:

1. Chair of the Trustees: Hon Pia Philip, Minister for Education, Wesern Equatoria State: piaphilip2@yahoo.com
2. Chair of the Board of Governors: Commissioner Bridget Nagomoro, Commissioner for Ibba County: nagosb@yahoo.com
3. Chair of the UK Friends of Ibba Girls School: John Benington: J.Benington@warwick.ac.uk

The closing date for applications is Tuesday Jan 21 2014

Making a Donation

There are 3 ways to make a donation:

1. **By Cheque** payable to: Friends of Ibba Girls School, to our Honorary Treasurer Eric Shepley 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:** 08-92-99
Please add your name as reference.
3. **Virgin Money Giving** please click on the 'Donate' button below:

Thank you!

With our best wishes and thanks, John Benington Chair, on behalf of the Trustees and Friends of Ibba Girls School

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