



FRIENDS OF
IBBA GIRLS SCHOOL
SOUTH SUDAN

NEWSLETTER
December 2014

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DONATE NOW



Cheques Payable to: Friends of Ibba Girls School
Send to: 12 Ash Grove, Chinley, High Peak, SK23
6BQ

Gary Bandy (Honorary Treasurer)
gary.bandy@mac.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.



Friends of Ibba Girls School (FIGS) South Sudan

Newsletter November 2014

Dear Friends and Supporters

Christmas greetings to all Friends of Ibba Girls School, across the world.

Groups of FIGS supporters are now emerging not just in the UK and South Sudan, but also in Europe, Australia, New Zealand, the USA and many other parts of Africa. All are united in the belief that girls' education is a basic human right, and crucial to the peaceful development of any country and culture.

Malala's Nobel Peace Prize is a reminder that establishing girls education as a reality involves a long courageous struggle in many countries, like Pakistan and South Sudan.

The Christmas faith is that light and love can break through darkness and hatred, and can bring hope of new life even in the bleakest times and places.

Here are 3 ways in which you can help to fulfil this vision, this Christmas:

1. Please Help Us To Find The Next Outstanding Head-Teacher To Lead IGBS

Join us in a worldwide search to find an outstanding Head-teacher to lead IGBS forward from Year 2 onwards - to build on the excellent foundations laid in Year 1 by our Australian volunteers, Paula and Jamie Sgherza, working closely with Betty, Yoane, Nama, Agnes and the rest of the Ibba School team.

Read below the kind of person the Trustees and Governors are looking for – and think whether this person might just be You - or one of your friends or colleagues? **Please pass the advert on and/or send us your suggestions, and we will follow them up. We have extended the deadline for expressions of interest until December 31.**



2. Please Sign Up A Monthly Standing Order To Sponsor A Class Of Students

If you have not already done so, please make this Christmas the time you sign up a standing order to give £27 per month (plus Gift Aid) to help support the first 80 girls at Ibba Girls School.

The crisis in South Sudan's conflict torn and oil dependent economy means that the full actual cost of supporting a girl student at IGBS (including all costs of teaching, equipment, boarding accommodation, food, electricity, transport, security, health and pastoral-care). – is currently 5 times the above amount.

So we need to find 400 people who will sign up to donate at least £27 per month so that we can cover the full costs of boarding schooling for all 80 girls.

Please do it now before you forget – and please ask your friends to do the same this Christmas. You will find the details at the end of this Newsletter.

3. Suggest organisations Who May Be Able to Help With Building Costs

As a result of great generosity from a number of individuals and organisations (see below) we have raised sufficient funding to commission Joseph Anzeti and the United Brothers Consortium (after a rigorous process of competitive tendering) to start building the extra dormitory, wash block, laundry and septic tank needed for the additional 40 ten year old girls due to arrive in Feb 2015.

We still need to raise the funding for:

- an extra kitchen - £3,831
- dining room - £25,541
- staff accommodation - £11,973 per unit

Part of the problem of building in South Sudan at present is that the costs of materials and transport have rocketed. A bag of cement and a jerry can of petrol now each costs around \$100 USD!



Our policy is always to use as much local labour and local materials as possible, and to ensure a very tight process of competitive tendering to get the best price and value for money for all work.

But there is still very little manufacture in South Sudan, and many items have to be imported from Uganda or Kenya and the cost of transport is sky high. Christmas has never come cheap – a sacrificial price has always been paid.

So please let us know of any organisations (e.g. churches, schools, trusts, foundations, corporates), who may be interested to contribute to these projects.

Finally warm thanks to the following...

- 1) **To the 60 or so FIGS supporters** who contributed to **raising over £60,000** for FIGS through the Christmas Big Give appeal on Dec 4, 5 and 6! It turned

out that the Big Give process was extremely complex and competitive (John Scouller said it felt like waiting for the over-crowded doors of the January sales to open to bargain hunters determined to get first pick) and some of our donors were frustrated or prevented by the not very user friendly technology. Nevertheless, raising £60k is a major achievement, so warmest thanks to all of you who persisted.

- 2) **Special thanks to Chernise Neo and John Scouller** who coordinated our application to Big Give and led FIGS supporters through the Big Give maze. You deserve a Big Hand of applause!

- 3) **The Joyce Carr Doughty Trust** who have generously agreed to fund the extra water storage and septic tank needed for the additional 40 girls arriving in Feb 2015. This is the 3rd grant from JCD, who are exemplary in their rapid response to practical needs. Thank you JCD for your commitment (shared by us) to getting things done quickly on the ground with the minimum of bureaucracy.

- 4) **Fields of Life** who have offered to help to install a rainwater harvesting system at IGBS. This has always been part of our plan, but we have lacked the funding up till now.

- 5) **Big thanks to Laurence Shepley** who has been doing FIGS book-keeping as a volunteer but who is now moving onwards and upwards to an apprenticeship. Congratulations Laurence and thanks for your quiet but essential work in the background

- 6) **Special thanks to the team at Totality Marketing** (Nick Jones, Jon Stevens, Cynthia Duku-Asamoah, Sarah Moor and Katie Mousley) **and at Leapfrog PR** (Felicity Broom, Melissa Patel and Willow Tonks) for their creative and energetic work in developing the Pencil Power campaign, via Facebook, Twitter, and other social media) and in launching the new FIGS logo, website and video film - Watch it [here](#) if you haven't done so yet.

- 7) **Finally, warmest thanks and fond farewells to Melissa Patel** from

Leapfrog PR who has looked after FIGS website and newsletters (on a pro bono basis) so carefully since the very beginning – but who is now moving to the USA. We won't forget you Mel (you have left your mark in the cloud) and we look forward to hearing of the start of FIGS USA.

Please follow the links to learn more, and then respond with action!

Best wishes, John Benington
On behalf of the UK Trustees Friends of Ibba Girls
School, South Sudan

P.S. There is still time to order your FIGS Christmas cards!

Cards cost £5 for a pack of 10; to order your cards,
contact: jean.hartley@open.ac.uk

Each pack contains 2 cards of each design with 'Christmas Greetings' message.

Head Teacher for Ibba Girls Boarding School (IGBS)

The Challenge - and the Opportunity of a Lifetime

We are looking for a qualified, committed, inspired and inspiring Head Teacher to help lead, develop and manage the new Ibba Girls Boarding School (IGBS), in Western Equatoria State, South Sudan.

IGBS' aim is to provide high quality residential education for 360 girls aged 10 to 18 plus (from Primary Level 4 through to Senior Level 4) from across the whole of Western Equatoria State, and to empower young women with the values, knowledge and skills for leadership in their local communities and in this newest African nation.



IGBS opened to its first 40 ten year old girls in March 2014. An additional intake of 40 girls will start in February 2015, and again in each year for the next 8 years, until the target of 360 students is reached in Feb 2022.

IGBS aims to provide high quality education rooted in Christian values, but open and welcoming to people of all faiths and none.

The Head Teacher

The UK and South Sudan Trustees and Governors for IGBS ideally would like to find an outstanding Head Teacher from South Sudan, Uganda, Kenya or rest of Africa, but we are also keen to search internationally (including the UK) to find the best possible candidate for this very important job.

This is a once in a generation opportunity to make a practical difference to the education and life chances of girls in South Sudan, the majority of whom traditionally get no schooling beyond the age of 10 - because of traditional and family pressures to help with domestic labour (fetching water and fire wood) and looking after younger children – and then early pregnancy and marriage (often as young as 14 years).



Expressions of interest in this post are therefore invited by Dec 31 from trained teachers of whatever age or background or country of origin. We are willing to offer a highly competitive salary, food, accommodation and vehicle at the school (which has solar electricity, running water and satellite internet) – but a clear vocation and personal calling to serve and improve girls education in South Sudan are even more important.

The person appointed must be committed to the core Christian vision and values which led the Founders and Trustees to set up the school, and to the educational guiding principles outlined in the job description.

Above all the Head Teacher must be able to lead and manage the school in a way which models and inspires high standards of teaching, a love of learning, a sense of safety and security, and a culture of caring for each other and for the wider community.



We need a person (whatever their age, background or experience) who can combine positive energy, clear leadership and warm inter-personal skills with a firm commitment to achieving the highest standards of teaching, learning and behaviour throughout the school, working in partnership with the UK and South Sudan Trustees and Board of Governors, and trying to combine the best of African and Western approaches to education.

Further details, the full job description, and a short film made in Ibba in June 2014, can be found on our website: www.ibbagirlsschool.org

Please send expressions of interest with CV and referees, by Dec 31 to:

John Benington: J.Benington@warwick.ac.uk (Chair of Trustees, Friends of Ibba Girls School)

Hon Pia Philip Michael: piaphilip2@yahoo.com (Vice Chair of the South Sudan Trustees for Friends of Ibba Girls School)

Commissioner Nagomoro Bridget: nagosb@yahoo.com (Chair of IGBS Board of Governors)

Sponsoring students at IGBS

A good number of people have shown interest in “adopting” a girl- child student at Ibba Girls’ Boarding School. Whilst FIGS is having to be very busy fundraising for buildings, many Friends of the school prefer to focus on the children, and are attracted to the more personal approach of girl student sponsorship.



We've not rushed into this, as FIGS did not want to set something up for just a few of our girls, or to be seen to be giving preferential treatment to them. How can you fairly choose which girls from a class of 40 to support? Rather our aspiration has been to identify sufficient sponsors to support an entire class of 40 girl students. With an increasing interest in such a scheme, our aim now is to run a sponsorship programme from the beginning of the next school year, in February 2015.

FIGS has been in discussions with Global Care about administering a sponsorship scheme for us. They are a British registered, Christian international children's charity. They have over 30 years' experience of running educational & welfare programmes, with a particularly strong presence in East Africa. We hope to reach a Memorandum of Understanding with them shortly.



The level of sponsorship being recommended is £27/per month (plus Gift Aid). Whilst this is higher than some child sponsorship schemes, this helps to reflect the

higher costs associated with running a residential school for adolescents, in the challenging conditions of South Sudan.

As a sponsor you would get regular news about the class of 40 girls as they progress through the school, until they 'graduate'. At minimum you would be sent information about the entire class of students twice a year, with their names and photos. It is intended that during their time at the school each of the girls in the class will have been profiled at least once in these reports, so that you will get to know about each of them individually.



Friends of Ibba Girls School and Global Care will regularly go out to visit Ibba, so both organisations will know personally the girls we are talking about in the updates. Hopefully some sponsors will have the opportunity to go out to Ibba and meet the girls as well.

If you are interested in supporting an Ibba girl student in this way, please email Gary Bandy (FIGS trustee and Hon Treasurer) at gary.bandy@mac.com. He will then send you more information, along with standing order & Gift Aid forms.

Pencil Power – Give A Girl The Power To Learn



Keep those Pencil Portraits coming in! All you need to do is take a pencil selfie (like our friend Harry Enfield) or draw a doodle selfie (like our friend Stephen Fry). Upload them to Twitter using #PencilPortrait and nominate your friends and family to do the same!

[Please remember to text PENCIL to 70660 to donate £5 to FIGS!](#)



Supporting The Running Costs Of The School

Warm thanks to the 500 of you who have donated so generously to get IGBS up and running. It simply would not have happened without your help!

The most urgent need now is to move forward from one off donations to regular giving through (Gift Aided) standing orders. So if you have not already done so please join the growing number of people who have decided to give monthly

standing orders to support the running costs of the school and the students (e.g. helping to pay for the teachers, books, equipment, accommodation and food)

[Before you forget, please sign up right now to contribute £10, £20 or £50 per month](#)

We will make sure you get regular progress reports from the school and about the 40 girls. Alternatively, there are 4 ways to make a donation:

1. **By Cheque payable to:** Friends of Ibba Girls School, to our Honorary Treasurer Gary Bandy at: 12 Ash Grove, Chinley, High Peak, SK23 6BQ
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. **By Text** by texting FIGS14 followed by the amount you wish to give to 70070
4. **Virgin Money Giving** please click on the 'Donate' button.

If you feel you're able to contribute please do so by clicking on the 'Donate' button below! Every contribution counts and anything you do will make a huge difference to our cause!

Thank you!

With our best wishes and warm thanks for your continued support and generosity.

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

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