

Growing Pains

This year saw a record entry of 124 new students. The School is consequently over-stretched for staff to teach & furniture to sit on. This class is compelled to sit 3 to a desk, where 2 is the right number. We are seeking to address both issues of teachers & furniture. The total School numbers are now 284 – over 100 more than this time last year. Many had to be turned away even before the Headmaster went on Juba Radio to advertise the School. We shall need several new classrooms before we reach the School's potential total of 360.



Watch This Space



Our picture shows the site for the intended construction of a Girls Boarding House. The importance of this project cannot be stressed enough. The School is trying to achieve parity between boys & girls (currently the balance is 57.1% boys against 42.9% girls). A Boarding House will provide security for girls who at present may have to walk some miles to & from school, with attendant risks. It will also prevent their education being disrupted by domestic demands at home, while a good matron could feed in all sorts of training in hygiene & domestic skills. The idea of a Boarding House is welcomed by all at the School & will help parents currently sending daughters to be educated in Uganda. It will be costly, but we hope the project may attract support from such charities as Comic Relief & Children in Need.

Holding Their Breath

The whole of Juba is holding its breath at present. The reason? Their future depends on the result of the Referendum to be held on January 9th to determine the future status of Southern Sudan: will it remain in some sort of federal relationship with the (Arab & Muslim) North? Or will it decide to secede & become a separate, new country? People in the South are predominantly Christian or animist, & are ethnically closer to the peoples of Uganda than to their Northern neighbours. A complication of the issue is the fact that Sudan's oil reserves lie on the North-South border. The predominance of the Southern Sudanese flag (see photo) suggests the likelihood of secession. We must pray that the issue will be resolved peacefully, as the Archbishop is urging. The decision will affect our School's progress & development.



A Vital Statistic

The School has achieved a percentage which is likely to become as well known as the 97% proudly proclaimed by Mma Ramotswa's assistant (well known to lovers of the No.1 Ladies Detective Agency). Our first intake has now completed their 3 years of schooling, & in the Sudan



Gasim Philip



Robert Kei

School Certificate this year produced a success rate of 72.9%. This is quite remarkable for a school's first entry in the exam. Already most of our leavers have applied to continue their studies at Juba University. The new Headmaster, Gasim Philip (above left) is already building on this sure foundation & has achieved a record registration of new pupils. All credit is due to the staff headed by Robert Kei (above right) who was Acting Head in the run-up to the exams & during the interregnum.



Joy preparing food

Joy Cometh In The Morning

In one corner of the site, Joy & her assistant prepare lunch for the students. A nourishing bowl of beans with a bread roll sells for about 50p. Our Headmaster plans to expand this facility & build a restaurant on site. It is important that students are not tempted to wander outside the security fence to buy lunch.

"Let There Be Light!"

Dr Margaret Griffin & Canon Richard Askew from the Salisbury Support Group visited the school between 2nd & 11th July. For Dr Margaret this was her eighth visit to the Sudan: she is a distinguished educationalist & a great asset to the group. Of her visit Margaret writes:

"The progress that the School has made since my last visit is phenomenal. There is a sense of pride & success that permeates the whole community which encourages both high expectations & excellent standards in behaviour & achievement. As the School is now known & recognised within the whole town, we must capitalise on this prominence & ensure the future development & success of the site & its facilities".

Richard is a recycled Sudani who, with his wife (also Margaret) began his working life with 2 years in the British council in Khartoum in the 60's. They were sent out to Juba in 1984 to represent Salisbury at the consecration of five bishops. Richard adds:

"It was a privilege & a pleasure to return to a vastly changed Juba & to see the School for the first time. My impressions are of a harmonious staff led by a dedicated & gifted Headmaster & Deputy. Good order & high standards prevail. What problems there are are problems of growth. The School lives up to its claim of Christian standards & lives out its motto – "Let there be Light"



Thank you for your prayers and your gifts. Both are essential to the continuance of the school.

For further details of how you can help:

Bursaries: Mrs.Jane Talbot, c/o Parish Office, St.Francis Church, Salisbury. SP1 3PN

School Running Expenses: Mr.Ian Pinder, 5, Napiers Way, Sutton Waldron, Dorset. DT11 8PE 01747 811253