



Third Year girls who will be taking Sudan School Certificate in March.
(l. to r. Rebecca, Sophie, Viola and Christine.)

A Report from Richard Dean of the Sudan Link Committee

Richard has just returned from a visit to a Secondary School in Juba which has been an ongoing project for several years.

Around and About

Final Report on Visit to Juba Secondary School

On the final evening in Juba our Sudanese friends, including all the teachers, took us out to a chicken and chips supper where speeches were made. Our main host, Moses Kose, the Juba Diocese Secretary, was called away half way through the meal as his wife, Rose, had just been taken into hospital for the birth of her 4th baby. As he departed, Jessica, the Mother's Union lady who was with us, called after him: 'If it's a boy name him Richard and if a girl, Margaret!' (We heard next day that it was an 8 lb boy who has indeed been called Richard!)

Returning to our hotel from the restaurant we were in high spirits feeling that our mission was completed. On arrival at the hotel we found the main gate shut due to road surfacing just outside the gate. We got out of the car to enter by the pedestrian gate. In the darkness I fell into a monsoon drain just over a metre deep, at the bottom of which was liquid tar. I was badly shocked though, mercifully, no bones were broken. We believe this escape was God's hand in answering your prayers for our safety. Thank you and thanks be to God.

On the journey home Margaret and I had a 10 hour wait in transit at Entebbe Airport in Uganda. Margaret had access to the Executive lounge and took me along as her guest. It was very relaxing. As well as watching an FA Cup tie (Tottenham versus Leeds) on TV, (me not Margaret!), we took time to look back over our visit and we wrote down what we felt had been achieved. Here is a summary:



The Interviewing panel with the new Headmaster

Teaching Staff

1. The appointment of a substantive Headmaster. (Gasim Philip Logun)
2. The appointment of a substantive Deputy Head. (Robert Kei)
3. Secured the contract for 7 full-time teachers who had proved their worth over the 2 terms since they had joined the school. Secured the release of the one teacher, Mirembe Lilian, who has not been satisfactory.
4. Identified the need for 2 full-time teachers, Physics and Maths or English, one of whom needs to be Female.
Students.
5. Visited Juba University to find out courses available for our students on leaving School. Full range of courses available. Diploma courses for those gaining 5 passes in Sudan School Certificate and Degree courses for those gaining 7 passes. The University fees are about the same as School fees and include food and accommodation. This opens the door to allow our students to fulfil their dreams for higher education.
6. Visited the Ministry of Education and found that the secondary school curriculum will not be changing, at least pro temp, from the present 3 years to 4 years as we had feared; this would have necessitated an increase in staff and classrooms.
7. Recruitment of students for 2010/ 11 intake. Margaret designed and printed an attractive registration form. Ian Pinder visited 5 ECS Primary Schools where he spoke to the Head Teachers and the final year students. Many are eager to come to JDMSS.
8. An audit of all the students was carried out with class photographs taken of the girls and boys in each class. (12 photos in all.)
9. An audit of those students with bursaries was carried out and some problems addressed.
10. Made good personal contacts with some individual students.

Development of the School

11. With 3 Sudanese we worked together to produce a '5-year Plan' which was accepted by the Board of Governors.
12. Girl's Boarding House for 30 girls. We found a great desire for this amongst everyone we spoke to; a site next to the School has been agreed and a design is underway. An application for funding will be made to 'Comic Relief', a charity which is very sympathetic to girls education in Africa.
13. Water and Sanitation. Discussions took place. Nick Gardner, a civil engineer from Salisbury who is based in Juba and working for the UN on road construction, is willing to assist in this project as our 'man on the spot'.
14. Connecting the School to Mains Electricity. We had a 'God appointment' in meeting a man called Edward Joshi who is an electrical contractor. Following a site meeting he and the Juba Diocese Engineer, Dan Kure are each producing estimates to complete the work and it looks as if there is enough money in the Building Fund to go ahead.

Management of the School

15. Board of Governors. Obtained agreement that the Chairman should be re-appointed annually. Secured 2 capable new members of the Board.
16. Agreement that 2 sub-committees be formed to assist the Headmaster. ('Finance' and 'Buildings'.)
17. Agreement that an annual Speech Day and Prizegiving be held. (Probably in September after School Certificate results in July.)

18. Communications. Achieved recognition of the vital importance of good communication. Provided funds to carry out a 1-month trial to connect the School to e-mail.

Financial

19. Audited the Building Fund and Operating Fund and found no impropriety. Prepared reports on these Funds for the Support Group in Salisbury.

20. Prepared a draft Budget for the School for 2010/11.

21. Dick Beath trained the School Finance Officer in better accounting methods, in better use of his computer and improved security procedures.



Key members of staff, Taban Cosmas the Finance Officer and Robert Kei the new Deputy Head.

Spiritual

22. Saw evidence of increased Christian commitment and activity amongst both staff and students.

Contacts

23. Besides having good discussions with Archbishop Daniel Deng, Rev. Trevor and Tina Stubbs, Nick Gardner, Charlie Goldsmith and Nic Ramsden, we made other important contacts including:

- (i) The assistant British Representative in Juba, Richard Warner
- (ii) The Director of the British Council in Sudan, Richard Weyers
- (iii) Director of the Windle Trust, Mrs. Anne Lloyd-Williams
- (iv) Representative of the World Bank, Mr. David Rudge.

Other Matters

24. Margaret had meetings with Archbishop Daniel and his staff about strategy for expansion of ECS secondary schools in the Province.

25. Ian Pinder visited ECS Primary Schools to investigate and establish 'links' with Primary Schools in Salisbury Diocese.

In summary we are deeply grateful to God for the way he guided and strengthened us, enabling so much to be achieved in the 10 days we were in Juba. And we thank you for your wholehearted support and your prayers surrounding us on this trip.

Sincerely in Christ

Richard Dean

Please note: On Sunday 14 February Richard will be talking on the BBC Wilts hire breakfast show sometime between 0700 and 0900. The frequency is 104.3 or 103.5.
