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Quarterly Newsletter: April 2010

February Visit

I visited Mwanza again in February 2010 to meet the headmasters, teachers, orphanage directors and children. I am delighted to report that all is going well, that the children are working hard and that the BTP donations are being well used.

Watoto Wa Africa

I met Josephat and Rosemary Kirutu who run WWA Orphanage (pictured below) and spent a long time talking through how the BTP could best help their children. The BTP has taken over the sponsorship of Elizabeth, Antonio, Suzie, Raphael, Ghati, Veronica and Marwa to ensure that these children are able to stay in school. This helps the directors concentrate their resources on the many other needs of the orphanage. I visited Nundu and St Helens schools, which the children attend, and was able to talk to the headmasters about the children's progress.



Hands of Mercy

I met Joel and Gloria who run Hands of Mercy Orphanage, just a couple of kilometres from WWA. While the pressures of running an orphanage were evident, they were grateful for the sponsorship provided by BTP donors. I met the children again and paid deposits to the schools to allow the children to stay in school. I have been in touch with the Director of a Canadian charity which hopes to take up this sponsorship later in the year. Two of the children at the orphanage had been selected to play in the Street Kids World Cup in South Africa in March 2010, a precursor to the approaching Football World Cup. All concerned were very excited.

Sunrise Secondary School



It was good to visit the teachers and children at Sunrise School again (pictured above). The sponsored orphans are progressing very well. All the current Form Three students gained at least a C grade in their external Form Two exams, the criterion for them retaining their sponsorship. Their tuition fees and school meals have now been paid for the rest of the year and, if funds allow, books, bags and transport costs may also be covered later in the year. I met the School Manager (Chairman of the Governors) who recognised the efforts made by BTP donors to keep the orphans in school. Her teachers take a keen interest in the progress of these children and regular feedback is received.

Lake Secondary School

Donald, Daudi and Paul continue to work hard at Lake as they approach their final exams. They have had their tuition fees, meals and many other school expenses paid by the BTP. Daudi is also receiving extra maths tuition. I met the School Manager, Headmaster and several teachers who are all aware of the children's situation and are keen to stay in touch about their progress. The school accountant has been particularly helpful to the children.

Thank you

Thank you for your interest in, and support of, *The Banana Tree Project*. Many deserving children are getting a better start to life as a result of BTP donations.

Ed Beavington

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