

LATEST NEWS

Education, Empowerment, Change

Our Visit

As we write this we are based in the village of Kyansi in Uganda, about one hour's drive from the busy town of Masaka, near to Lake Victoria. The village is set in the middle of banana plantations, maize crops and many trees. It's quite hilly and is traversed by many narrow, red-dirt roads - driving along them is certainly an art and without help we would never find our way out!

Father Boniface

St James Kyansi is the parish in which Father Boniface now works and it is here that he has again begun to find children who are in need of an education, food, love and the opportunity for a childhood. These children are being educated in St Matia Malumba Elementary School in the nearby village of Kyankoole. Although he is no longer near to St Kizito the first school which he was involved with and which is in his previous parish, he still directs the school and maintains a vital interest in what happens



St Matia Malumba

Some fifteen minutes by car from Kyansi, this is the private elementary school at which some of the children sponsored from England are registered. At present there are 155 children, 27 of whom are on the sponsorship programme. School fees are paid by the parents of the rest of the children. The classes are small and there is a calm, happy and caring atmosphere in which learning is taking place. Classrooms in the recently built school building are large, but there is a need for much





Margaret and Rose

The week we arrived here in Uganda Margaret, aged 5 and Rose aged 7 began school in St Matia Malumba. They had not been in school and had been living with their grandparents because their parents are dead. Unfortunately they were not being fed properly and were sometimes beaten if the grandmother was drunk. Before we left England we were able to find sponsors for them and so they are now based in the dormitory in the school. They had no shoes, nor any of the other equipment they needed for school, but now this has been provided and they feel that they are like the other children. When asked, they were very sure that they are happiest when they are in school. Both are behind in their studies, but are being given the help necessary to make progress. They are beginning to smile and, for maybe the first time, they are experiencing a loving and caring environment. The money given to sponsor them is helping to transform their lives and will help give them a future with greater opportunities.

more basic school equipment in order that more creative teaching and learning can take place.

Our sponsored children have a breakfast of porridge; lunch and supper are comprised of beans and posho, a staple food here, which is made from maize. They sleep in two small dormitories, but these are rapidly becoming too small for the number of children who are needing help. The plans for a new boys' and a new girls' dormitory, together with a kitchen, have been drawn up, but at present the money needed to build this is not available. Please join with us in praying that the £20,000 needed for this project will be provided and that the two month building project will be able to move forward. Although there is a source of clean water nearby, there is a steep walk down to the well and the water is not suitable for drinking. The children collect the water twice each day in 10 litre containers, but it would be good to have a water pump or other means of collecting water actually on the site.

