



Africa Christian Teaching Service

Education in Action

ACTS Year 2024 Activities Summary

Regulatory Authority:
Charity Commission
For England & Wales

Register Address:
15 Crestwood Close
Crewe
Cheshire
CW12 6TB

Internet Address:
www.acts-africa.net

Trustees:
Revd. Kevin Jones
Anne-Marie Jones
Geoffrey Butera
Georgette Butera
Anne Jarvis
Elaine Bingham
Claire Campbell Smith

Dear Partners,

We trust that you are well and enjoying God's goodness. We are so grateful for improved health and all the amazing things you have enabled ACTS to achieve. As most of you are aware, we have been praying diligently for funds to sustain the charity and for new Trustees for a good part of the last two years. In His time, God answered in the way we did not expect. We had the privilege of welcoming two outstanding ladies as Trustees, Elaine and Claire.

Elaine has been involved with Burundi since the 1980 s. As a teacher of French, she acted as interpreter and host to visiting bishops who did not then speak English. Her church, St Marks, has had a direct church connection since 1975 and visited Burundi herself in 1989.

Claire is an active member of St Mary Magdalene, Ashton on Mersey, one of ACTS' supporting churches, where she serves as a worship leader, a member of the Missions Committee and Pastoral Care team, and a teacher of ESOL at classes initially set up in response to the arrival of Ukrainian refugees. She also teaches English to asylum seekers living in a local hotel. Claire's interest in Africa began while living in a multi-cultural community in south London in the 1980s and she has travelled to many countries on the continent in her previous role as a producer for BBC Religion & Ethics or as a volunteer. Since retiring from full-time music teaching, she is keen to support ACTS in whatever way she can and maybe even to travel to Burundi for the first time.

1) ACTS in Uganda.

Partner Stephen

The Neema Mission School began in 2011 when Stephen Dhairawa finished his training at the YWAM University of the Nations Jinja. With help from ACTS and other donors he established a School in Iganga that later moved to a large rural site in Bulange. We saw Stephen through his education and he is now ordained in the Methodist Episcopal Church of South Africa.

At Neema we teach primary 1 to 7. We have 514 children on roll, many of them orphans, of these 321 sleep at the base in very basic conditions. A further 193 are cared for by local friends & families.

There are 21 teachers and 3 non-teaching staff. Our head Teacher is Mr Ziraba Babalanda. Stephen Dhairawa is the director of studies and local Minister.

The buildings began with a small residential block, classroom and office, with many temporary wooden classrooms and a well for the community. The current building project, a large classroom block with office space and a multipurpose use, needs approximately £2000 to complete the work. The size of the new building is 45 by 100ft.

We also run a feeding project where 321 children are feed daily at the base. We additionally help feed some families as many of them are not well off. All the funding for the school comes through private donations.

Students who have graduated from the Neema School have gone on to Iganga progressive school where we have 17 fee paying students currently. Others are at Haq primary school, Musana school and Hands of Hope. We have 7 of our children doing Nursing, training and one at KAMPALA UNIVERSITY DOING MEDICINE, a further 7 are at YWAM doing the Discipleship training School (DTS). The best way to find Neema online is through their face book page. www.facebook.com/groups/Neemamission



The New Classroom block up to the beam level December 2024. Teaching Staff and some of the children at the neema mission School .



Partner Jeninah

Our partner in Uganda has tracked the progress of the children formerly supported by ACTS. She praised their achievements and is full of gratitude for your generosity and faithfulness, loving children you have never met. Six have graduated and are in employment, two in managerial positions. Three of them are no longer in touch. The education of the remaining three, still in her care with ACTS support, Justine, Barbara and Elisha, is progressing well.

2) ACTS in Kenya

Partner William's report

William has retired from the Church's active service and is now involved in fuel dispensing business to supplement his meagre pension. He is still looking after Florence who is at college, training in electric and electronics engineering. Six children, Bentley, Colins, Lizzy, Martha, Charlton and Previa are still in secondary education.

3) ACTS in Burundi, Herridge news

Herridge news

Teaching and Finances

All year round, the fuel crisis and high food prices which have been hurting the Burundian economy for a few years persisted, if anything got worse. Life is good at Herridge though, pupils are reasonably shielded from food shortage struggles. We have purposely kept the number around 90, to ensure the classrooms are not overcrowded and that there is food for everyone during the whole of the academic year.

The overall end of the year results were as follows:

- Year 1, 25/30 pupils passed the exams, i.e 83 %; average score 60%.
- Year 2, 35/36 pupils passed the exams, i.e 97 %, average score 65%.
- Year 3, 24/24 pupils passed the exams, i.e 100 %, average score 62%.

The average is lower than in previous years, but both pupils and staff have worked very hard to overcome the circumstances prevailing in the country.

Final year students completed all their assignments and apprenticeships in various corners of the country wherever the opportunities were found.

The new academic year 2024-2025 which started on 16th September is well underway. The usual summer activities of food stocking and salaries were successfully completed, all contracts were finalised mid September 2024. Georgette, as a U.K. representative was at the school to welcome the new cohort.



Year ten students sitting end of term exams.

Thank you for sustaining the school and for the way you continue to respond to new demands. Having completed the first two requirements of providing a recreational area and building a solid fence, we embarked on the final demand of building dormitories in order

to increase the number of students.

The aim was to build two blocks similar to the artistic view as the shown picture on the right.



The dormitories' story so far:

The project to build dormitories was launched in 2022. The Project Proposal was written in English, translated and adapted for potential French Supporters.

There were stories bandied about that Western Embassies in Burundi were giving grants for educational projects such as ours. Georgette packed her suitcases and went for four months. On Sunday evening, 21st May 2023, she was introduced to a business woman well connected, whose husband had worked with banks on many projects. "Funding for any amount would not be a problem", she said. They met a couple of times more, had dinner together then things started cooling down. Eventually, a date was set for a business meeting. Georgette was to bring with her the charity status documents, proof of school accreditation, charity bank details and a polished Project Proposal. At the end of the review, all was in order except minor modifications to the Project Proposal. "All is in order but to guarantee success we suggest that you take out all references to Christianity in your application". With all the calm in the world Georgette told them to forget she even came to see them, "Keep your money. It is because we are Christians that the school takes any child without discrimination. Come and see, next year, the dormitories will be built".

At the end of March 2024, the appeal fund stood at twenty thousand pounds, approximately a tenth of the sum required. By any statistics, ACTS had a long way to go before getting anywhere! .

Unexpectedly, a large donation was received, enabling us to start the construction work. The first challenge was the endless task of transferring the money to the school account. Building at Herridge has always been costly and it has not been different on

this occasion. Although Karusi is developing fast, the centre is still lacking in basic infrastructure and specialised products.

Construction materials that could not be sourced locally, such as cement, corrugated iron and metal bars for structural support of the roof were bought in Bujumbura, about 100miles away from the school.

Problems of gathering and accounting for the construction material from different supplier locations to one collection point, loading and unloading were resolved once a lorry was secured and enough diesel was gathered for the journey.

The costs for the main stages of the construction work were agreed with the builder to make sure that the funds won't run out before reaching a convenient safe point to pause. These were: the laying of the foundations, building the walls and roofing. A contract had been agreed also with the supplier of bricks. Being a proud former Herridge pupil, he gave the best price and the best bricks available.

Two more pictures are shown to illustrate the daunting task welders had to accomplish.



Not only things are expensive but also difficult to get hold of. Diesel is needed constantly for transporting construction material and operating the generator when there is no electricity. We had major obstacles at each stage, not surprising given the enormity of the task, each block being 30M by 36M.

Welders worked hard, when they finished assembling roof structures, they embarked on

windows and doors.

Each block has 46 windows, 92 to make altogether and 12 doors, the other 48 doors are wooden as will be the bunk beds



All electrical installations, ceiling, drainage and sewage management need only finishing touches.

It is so wonderful to see this dream project being realised. We know you are fully behind it and praying for Herridge to prosper.

The dormitory fund has been exhausted and we had to use part of the running costs budget to secure the buildings against the elements.

Status of the buildings at the end of year 2024:



Other remaining tasks and purchases to make are:

- Paint.
- Fixtures (sink, taps, lighting.)
- Floor tiling and
- Ground work.

We hope to complete everything early Spring 2025 at approximately £20000.

Thank you so much for your prayers and partnership. Please continue to pray for Burundi, safety during the upcoming elections. Pray also for ACTS and Herridge to be guided in all decisions making and for provision of all future school needs. Thank you so much again for making Herridge what it is and for the changed lives.

Every Blessing.

. *Registered Charity Liverpool 1003479*