



# Africa Christian Teaching Service

## Education in Action

### Christmas 2023 Newsletter

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For England & Wales

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Dear Partners,

Greetings and welcome to Herridge's annual newsletter medley. Thank you so much for your generosity and faithfulness, all your gifts were received with deep gratitude. We trust that you are keeping well. The year started well for us, looking forward to the final challenge of putting Herridge on a firm footing..

### Christmas and Easter terms 2023.

We were encouraged by a very generous response to our appeal for the building of dormitories project in 2022. Unfortunately, 2023 has seen very little change, the funds still stand at £15,000, a far cry to the sum of £200,000 needed.

Discouragement and frustration set in, fuelled by harsh realities of the financial chaos facing the country and indeed the whole world.

December was a season of debilitating diseases for the maintenance staff akin to vitiligo. They all recovered and were slowly eased back into work. Teaching was not adversely affected, the curriculum remained on schedule except the vast marketing course where weekend teaching was implemented in order to catch up.

All activities, educational, spiritual, and cultural progressed normally. Moreover, 23 final-year students completed their internship. The training took place in 11 hotels located in 4 provinces of Burundi: A successful supervision and mentoring mission was carried out during the Easter vacation period.

### Summer 2023.



Georgette went to Burundi late April for about four months for a variety of functions. She had the privilege of attending oral exams of the final year students. Among the tasks completed were:

- Appraisal of teaching staff which included observing random lessons for each teacher in order to validate the Head teacher performance reviews.

- Control of school documents namely
  - a) Audit of the annual finances to comply with the UK Charity Commission requirement and then the records held to comply with the Burundian government regulations (monthly receipts for pension, income tax and subscription to health insurance for each school employee).
  - b) Students' identification files and the archives of their school exam results.
- Supporting and enhancing Students worship and outreach.
- Networking with local and national education authorities and also new contacts in an effort to garner support for funding the dormitories project.

**From September 2023 onwards.**

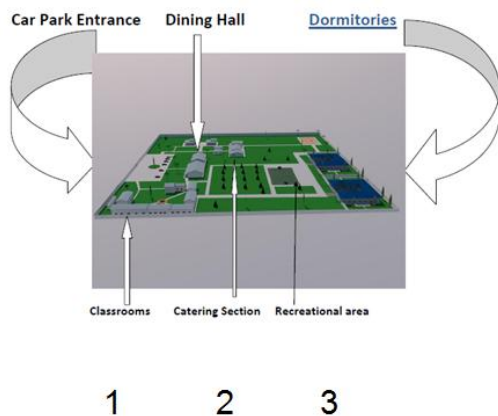


The important work of protecting the corrugated iron roof with a new coat of paint was completed early September. The classrooms are now in a pristine condition.

Herridge reopened after three hectic months for a new academic year 2023-2024. The school currently has 95 pupils (63 girls and 32boys). The age range this year is 15 to 29 years old.

Two new additional members of staff were appointed and are getting on very well.

A few pictures are inserted here for the sake of those who have not seen the premises for a while via a quick guide to Herridge construction phases.



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Phase 1, construction of the classrooms, administration block, dining hall and two houses for Teachers completed in September 2007.



Some of the classrooms shown with pupils, in line per class, for morning singing of the national anthem before the start of the lessons.

Phase 2, construction of the catering section, roof not painted yet on the far right. The fence is visible when the picture is expanded. .



Behind the dining hall, the catering section.



Phase 3, construction of the basketball court and fencing the school also completed. Phase 4 planning and fundraising started last year.

### **Herridge's future**

We had another smooth and successful year at Herridge, national test exams passed with flying colours by each pupil, scoring 57 to 73%, high enough to be admitted to University if they get means. Yet again, all graduates have found employment.

Georgette's mission was successful in all aspects bar funding from local sources. The sum required to build dormitories of about £200000 for the fourth phase is a hard ask but it can be done. In view of our diminishing faculties and a small number of Trustees and Volunteers to help with the running of ACTS, the idea of establishing regional steering committees will be explored further.

We are also inviting friends of Herridge to consider making special gifts at Christmas, birthday or any other important date. This project, like any other before, is vital for the continuity of Herridge. Please do share with us either directly on 07947675783 or via the website ways in which we can move forward. Let's finish building Herridge.

**Whatever you are doing, rejoice and treasure the words of Proverbs 17:22 "A joyful heart is good medicine but a broken spirit dries the bones". We wish you a merry Christmas and a wonderful new year!**

. Every Blessing.

*Registered Charity Liverpool 1003479*