Natalya's Fund News

August 2022

Room to Learn

Building new classrooms for a Ugandan primary school burnt down 20 years ago in a terrorist insurgency

July 2022

Bughungu Primary School is in a small village in Kanyatsi parish, in western Uganda, only a few miles from the border with DRC (the Democratic Republic of Congo). Between 1997 and 2002 the school was affected by the ADF (Allied Democratic Forces) insurgencies - the families were displaced and the school structures burnt to ashes.

Overcrowded classes at Bughungu

Twenty years have passed without the school being affected by further conflict. Today the school is managing with only six classrooms for 780 pupils – 401 girls and 379 boys. It is seeking to build three more classrooms and an office, thereby reducing the average class size from 130 to 87. There are teachers already in place, funded by the Ugandan government, but they have no rooms in which to teach, so they currently assist the other teachers.

As their school year begins in February, it would make sense to have the new rooms ready by then.

The project is supported by Mr Muke Jovenal, a Government Representative who monitors schools in his sub-county, and also by the school management committee and the local community. The proposed site is on land that the school owns.

Ms Teddy Ithungu, deputy head, is acting project manager, working with a local builder who is ready to start. Teddy has experience in managing development projects at two other local schools. She confirmed that there is an adequate supply of labour, some paid but also some voluntary – from parents and community leaders. To build all four rooms would take about 3 months to complete, but hopefully if we were to build just one it would take less time. They would like it finished by December 2022.

We have decided to support this project, and will need to raise at least £4,400 to build each room. We hope to be able to build at least one room for their next school year, which means we would need to raise the funds by the end of this September. We have raised £1,000 so far, and one of our supporters is match-funding the next £1,000.

MATCH-FUNDED!

News of Other Projects

In Kaputu primary school, Malawi, there has been a dramatic reduction in schoolgirl absences since re-usable, sustainable sanitary pads were made available. In the 7 months before the pads were provided there were 192 days lost. That compares to a mere 6 days lost in the 12 months since their introduction – a huge reduction. There is scope to continue this project, at Kaputu or elsewhere in Malawi.

Also in Malawi, Mike, director of Lilongwe Youth, reports that the soap-manufacturing project has changed many lives; some are going back to school, and some supporting themselves and their relatives. The group is increasingly training other groups. Demand for the soap is also increasing. As a result they are raising funds to purchase advanced production equipment.

Meanwhile, in South Africa, we are also seeing if we can give further help to fatherless children via Helderberg Academy. The academy, a South African NGO, teaches life-skills, including leadership, through sport. They need to replace some sports kit and equipment with more durable items, and would like to provide uniforms for their older children who become coaches.

We are assessing the above three needs and may launch fundraising appeals in the coming weeks.

Opportunities to Help

Your prayers and gifts are vital for our work. But there are other ways you may be able to help:

1. Tell others. Pass on a copy of this newsletter to a friend or relative.
2. Become a champion, to represent us in your church or community.
3. Become a trustee, to help us run the charity.

If you are interested in serving as either a champion or a trustee, please get in touch (see below).

To Donate

Please send a cheque payable to 'Natalya's Fund' to our address below. Let us know if you would like a Gift Aid Declaration.

Or visit our website, where you can pay by card, PayPal or Direct Debit.

Keep in touch ...

If you have picked up or been given this newsletter and wish to go on the postal mailing list, or if you are on our postal list and no longer require our newsletters, please contact us using the details below.

Alternatively you can sign up on our website to the email version.

Contact Us

Natalya's Fund, Redwick House, Green Street, Redwick, NEWPORT. NP26 3DY

Telephone: 01633 889028

Text: 07746 122790

Website: www.natalyasfund.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/natalyasfund/