Our Christmas 2023 Newsletter

Faith in Action
Community Development

Celebrating 10 years!

This Christmas, we are joyfully celebrating 10 years of Faith in Action Community Development. Transforming children's lives with high quality, sustainable education, to help lift their community out of poverty.

A decade ago, we came together with your help to support the remote community of Katete in Uganda. Their essentials were a valley tank to provide year-round clean drinking water, and giving more children a much needed education. We expanded Faith Aguha's sponsorship programme to help more of the poorest children go to school, and ten years later, Katete has its own school – soon to celebrate its 5 years' anniversary!

There is much to be thankful for this Christmas. Isaiah School now has 200 pupils of girls and boys, and this is the first year it has a Primary 7 top class, a milestone of a complete set of year groups. Isaiah's more senior pupils in Primary 7 recently achieved great success, attaining top third status in the district in their national mock exams.

From the heart of Katete to the heart of Claygate and its surrounding towns and villages, we thank you for your continued support. You make a huge difference to the children's lives of Isaiah School.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

God Bless, Steve

Steve Cramer
Chair of Trustees

Please join our Christmas Prayers

Pray for Isaiah's Primary 7 school leavers – from this strong foundation, they will continue into secondary education and flourish with their families' support.

Pray for Isaiah School – increasing pupil numbers by reaching more of the poorest children, giving them an excellent education in safe school buildings.

Give thanks for Head Teacher Denis, for his continuing hard work and dedication. Pray for wisdom for the charity's trustees in their decisions.

Some of Isaiah School's Primary 7 pupils, November 2023

Welcoming Steve Cramer to the Chair

Steve Cramer is our new Chair of Trustees. Many of you know Steve from Connections and The Six at Holy Trinity Church Claygate. Steve spent a number of years working in relief and development in Africa, and became one of our founding trustees. He has passion for our work and brings considerable strategic experience. We are grateful for Linda Morgan's last 10 years of leadership as chair, and are delighted that she'll be continuing as a trustee.

Our prayer is that through us all, the Lord will bring hope and a brighter future to Isaiah School and village.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

Celebrating our ex-students

We are proud of each of our sponsored children. With your support, Faith in Action sponsored Allen, Fred and Nelson with their higher education, and each returned to support Isaiah!

After graduating from college, **Allen became Isaiah's first ever teacher**, for the Nursery class. After leaving to look after her family, Allen has since returned to be a vital part of the School Management Committee.

Fred helped run Isaiah School for two years, ensuring the school was properly run and financed before Denis was appointed as Head Teacher. Fred now works in the security sector and enjoys great success.

Following his business degree, Nelson now works in Kampala, but he visits Isaiah School every fortnight to help Head Teacher Denis. **Nelson also chairs the School Management Committee** (replacing Revd. Stuart, who moved to a diocese educational role).

"I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve my community, and also give back to the foundation that made me who I am. I am forever indebted to Faith in Action for improving lives in our community."

Nelson (on the left, with Fred on the right), Chair of the School Management Committee

Funding building repairs

Running a school in Uganda has its challenges, one of which is the large amount of rainfall. Uganda has two rainy seasons a year, each lasting three months!

Unlike the new classroom blocks, the original buildings are weakening, made worse by heavy rainfall. These buildings house the nursery classes and teachers' accommodation. The impoverished community of Katete don't have the financial means to fund repairs. While Isaiah School is still in its infancy, Faith in Action continues to partly fund it on a termly basis, **and we now need to raise extra funds to reinforce roof timbers, remove termite infestations, install extra guttering to prevent further erosion, and re-cement brick surrounds. Making sure the school buildings are safe for Isaiah pupils and teachers alike.**

Primary 7 pupils working hard in preparation for their National exams in Mathematics, Social Studies, Science and English, April 2023.

Trustees visit with Roger & Jill Marsden and Dale Todd, April 2023.

Below: End of Term Two, Sept 2023.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT US:

EMAIL Sarah at sarahslater32@gmail.com to join our Prayer Team, or Steve at steve@cramers.co.uk to make a donation

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