



# Afrinspire Newsletter

November 2005

Afrinspire is proving to be an effective channel for the support of indigenous African development and poverty reduction. One reason is the network of people and partners around Afrinspire which continues to grow, not only in the UK but also in Africa.

We are currently planning our first mini-conference in early 2006 for our key contacts from Uganda, Sudan, Rwanda and Tanzania. To facilitate this we will use one of our principle partners in Uganda which is the Agency for Integrated Development and Training Services (AIDTS) and the Development Study Centre, which AIDTS is currently building. In this newsletter we want the primary focus to be on this Development Study Centre. This is because we have received an amazing offer at a critical time. A Trust has offered to match pound for pound all donations made to the Development Study Centre during the next six months, with the aim of completing it rapidly. We need the help of our supporters to realise this opportunity which is given to us. Please read on and consider what you can do to help.

## The Development Study Centre

The Development Study Centre is at the heart of the strategy of AIDTS and Afrinspire in helping community based organisations in their development programmes. AIDTS was founded in 1996 by Nkamuhebwa Willy, and since then has been assisting all types and sizes of organisation in their training, growth and development plans for their communities. The vision of AIDTS is to have a training and



resource centre of high calibre to serve the Great Lakes Region. This builds on a very sound track record of knowledge and expertise which exists within AIDTS, and is verified by the constant stream of clients looking for help. The Centre comprises of 4 main training rooms, a library, computer training centre, administration office, a large events hall / dining room and 16 rooms of accommodation to sleep 32 students. AIDTS already runs short course of further education at a high standard designed to especially suit the

development challenges of Central Africa, and these courses will increase significantly when the Centre becomes fully operational. Some key points about progress on the Centre so far.

- The DSC was conceived as a plan in 2000. There have been four years of construction.
- £25,000 has been spent so far. The main training rooms and library are fully operational.
- The accommodation and the main dining hall/kitchen block are constructed as shells, but still need substantial interior fitting out.
- 75% has been funded by income earned by AIDTS, and 25% has been from UK donations.
- The remaining work is estimated to cost £25,000.
- £1,000 will complete a twin room of accommodation and these rooms are the most pressing need to bring the Centre into fuller use, allowing trainees to stay at the Centre and avoid travelling to and using hotels which are both costly and inconvenient. The DSC will be a conducive and appropriate learning environment far superior to the current alternatives.

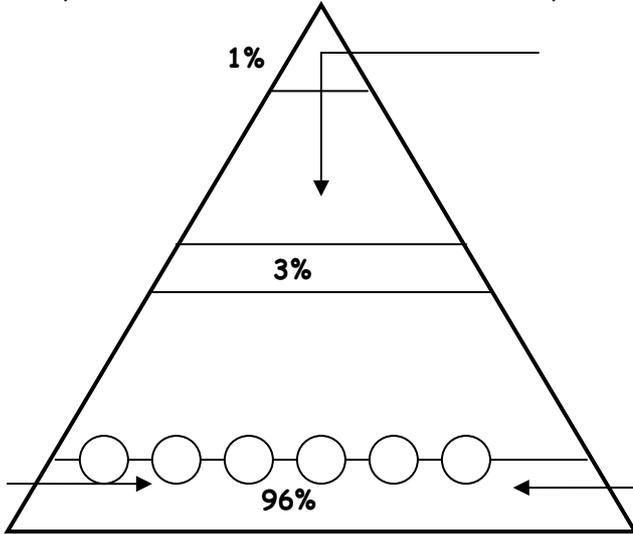
AIDTS became aware that it would take another five years at the current rate to bring this centre into full operational use. This is too slow. To avoid this delay an idea was mooted of looking for a soft loan of £25,000 so that the DSC could be completed in one year, bringing it into full operation and generating income to repay the loan. This need was promoted during the visit of Nkamuhebwa Willy to the UK in September and October.

### An Amazing Offer

But, instead of a loan, one Trust has made an amazing offer to match pound for pound any money which is donated for the Development Study Centre. For example, a donation of £100 which is gift aided becomes £128, then matched with £128 from the Trust it becomes a donation of £256 to the DSC. A donation of £1,000 becomes £2,000 if not gift aided, or £2,560 if a tax reclaim is possible. The one condition from the Trust is that this offer is only open for the next six months up to a ceiling of £12,500. I am sure you can appreciate the significance of this offer and I would like to ask that you help us in making the most of it. Donations are needed to release this money. The £25,000 to complete this Centre can be reached with your help.

## THE DEVELOPMENT TRIANGLE

We can learn much from a simple triangle. The apex represents the 1% rich people in Uganda. The middle band represents the 3% middle classes. The lower band represents the 96% of the population who live in abject poverty, as measured using any of the globally available statistics or definitions, such as income level per day, lack of access to health care, literacy, etc.



The top arrow represents the efforts of large aid organisations and governments which deliver aid through the apex, and results in only a small trickle of help reaching the abject poor.

The small circles are the community based self-help groups, often organised by the significant leaders within communities. This is the level at which Afrinspire operates. Each circle is one of our partner organisations, such as AIDTS, TUFU, AFRUDA, Association Misericorde, Kent College, Sani-Tayi Self Help, KTPFM, etc.

There are in fact many hundreds of links apart from Afrinspire which have been forged between the UK and Africa from school to school, church to church, community to community and municipality to municipality. Much is achieved through these links and the result will be that some of the abject poor rise out of the lower band.

So much large aid misses the mark. When the aid stream ends there is a reversion to the previous status quo. Spotting and supporting indigenous initiatives is our strategy because, when the people are making their own progress and are supported to achieve it faster, it is more likely to be of a lasting nature.

The range of what Afrinspire is doing can appear to be diverse, but is in fact very specifically selected to strengthen indigenous initiatives and respond to the needs of our partners.

## RWANDA CONTAINER ARRIVES

Afrinspire has a one third share in a container sent by Tools With A Mission in August to Rwanda. The container is now in Kigali and being cleared by Afrinspire partner, Association Misericorde, who will receive part of the goods along with the 'Youth At Risk' project at Shyogwe in Gitarama.

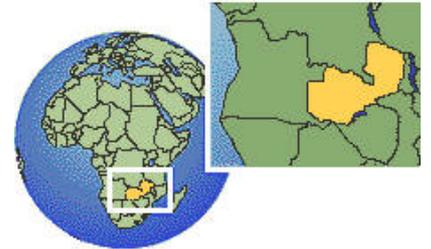


### And another on it's way

Meanwhile a quota of twenty cubic meters left Cambridgeshire on 3<sup>rd</sup> November to begin it's journey to Africa.. Computers, books, school science equipment and training resources are destined for approximately 20 organisations in Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania. In the same container will be a quota from TWAM to the Congo.

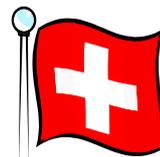
We are grateful to all the donors of goods but **our critical need is for the money to pay for shipping and transport costs** which is the limiting factor in our operations. About 30% of our November shipment has interested sponsors of the recipients. We would like to increase this, so if you would like to sponsor one of our recipients to receive their goods please contact us.

## EIGHT MORE FAMILIES



There was a remarkable response in the first week of October, in time for the Zambian planting season, which enabled us to send the necessary funds to assist eight more Zambian families in their attempt to break out of the poverty cycle.

## SWISS SUCCESS



We would like to congratulate the Living Links Group from Basel Anglican Church who won second prize in the Micah Challenge run by Stoparmut/Tearfund Switzerland. They entered with the link they have through Afrinspire to the Kaharo Tree Planting and Food Multiplication Project. Debbie Pickering promoted Afrinspire at the "Ehrung" in Berne and received the prize of 1,000 Swiss Francs for the KTPFM Project. An Afrinspire Support group is being formed in Basel.

*With thanks to our development expert, Nkamuhebwa Willy for this contribution to our newsletter*

# THE GIRL CHILD WAS LEFT AT HOME

Women make up fifty one percent of the Ugandan population and the majority of women are illiterate and living in poverty. Why is there this illiteracy among adult women? Rose Ekitwe, of the Baptist Union of Uganda, explains the problem, "The average family size in Uganda is ten people with a low income. The women, who are central to the family group, grew up in a time when there was no universal primary education. (this was brought in by the Ugandan government using UK government aid in 1997) Many boys had an elementary education and some excelled to reach higher education. On the other hand the girl child was left at home to look after the home and be married off at 18 years old or sometimes even earlier. There was also polygamy which impacted the women and their role. In the past families had cattle as a source of food and income, but these have been lost over time due to natural causes.

The Baptist Union of Uganda Women's Section, headed by Rose, has produced a programme to uplift women by providing an opportunity for them to read and write. This will raise their self-image and their confidence in their communities. The purpose of the programme is to empower the less privileged and disadvantaged women with skills and education to improve their quality of life. If successful, it has potential for these women to transform their families and communities.



What does this mean in practice? In January 2006 a six month literacy course will be launched in Masindi District. **Twenty women will be taught to read and write and how to be literacy trainers. After six months they will begin to train others.** The training is more holistic because, included alongside the literacy skills will be elements on preventative health care, income generating activities and confidence building.

Monitoring, evaluation and follow-up will continue after the initial module. The first course is planned for Masindi District in the north west of Uganda. The second in Mbale District in the east of Uganda. **At the end of 2006 these 40 trainers could reach and benefit 2,000 women within two years. When you consider the effect of an empowered woman in a family group of ten it is easy to see that this simple program will influence the lives of 20,000.** If these two initial courses succeed and there is funding, the project could extend to five more districts in 2007. The Baptist Union of Uganda has a network covering sixty districts in eight regions of the country. The BUU is a solid organisation with a network at grass roots level and natural on-going support structure for the trainers. Even a partial success of this programme will be worthwhile, but much can be expected once begun.



How much will it cost? Afrinspire and the Baptist Union of Uganda have put in a small amount of seed funding but more is needed. Each six month module to train twenty trainers will cost 2,815,000 Ugandan Shillings (sterling £900). A total of £1,800 is needed for the first year. Follow-up funds will be needed to support the forty trainers as they extend to the two thousand women. Rose has the ability and leadership skills to organise such a project and **we invite you to be involved from the start in something which will advance and assist many women and their families around them.**

*The full project proposal is available on request and any questions are welcome. We invite your interest and involvement. Above all, donations of any size will help launch this programme. Please consider giving a regular gift.*

This project arose from the expression of the needs of women in Uganda at a fringe meeting at the Baptist World Alliance Congress in Birmingham UK, where Rose and several other Ugandan women were delegates of the Baptist Church of Uganda.



**VOLUNTEER BEGINS** Afrinspire has partnered with VSO Uganda and the Foundation of People with Disabilities, to enable a volunteer to begin work in early December. An agreement was signed in November for Afrinspire to provide the in-country funding costs of the volunteer. The objective is to assess the status of FPD and provide a strategy plan to strengthen the organisation for the future. This will be a seven month placement and may be followed by a further 2 year volunteer placement. There will be much interest in the findings, with a potential benefit for the few thousand disabled people in the Kabale area. Afrinspire needs further partners in this endeavour, particularly to take it into the next phase.

## LONDON GROUP

The first Afrinspire Support Group Meeting in London took place in October, when the retired Bishop Jerome Bamunoba from Mbarara joined the group to bring news about Kent Foundation College. We heard about the Antokia Childrens Charity from Barbara and Ian Bradford (see [www.antokia.org.uk](http://www.antokia.org.uk)) and we appreciated the excellent venue and hospitality provided by our London based trustee.

*Interested in future London meetings? Tell us and we'll make sure you get an invitation.*

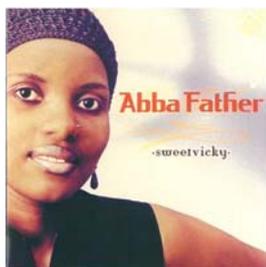
# CONGRATULATIONS

In September 2005 we welcomed Nkamuhebwa Willy of AIDTS in the UK. Willy came to receive his PhD which he achieved through distance learning. We offer him



our congratulations and commend his work. His thesis is titled "Does a training function help an organisation reach it's objectives?" and is an assessment of the effectiveness and relevancy of training in the growth and

development of community based organisations in Uganda. This a subject where Willy is an expert, with twenty years experience working in this field. Willy studied ten organisations in Uganda and four in Rwanda to produce his analysis. AIDTS has a new website at [www.devtrain.info](http://www.devtrain.info). We recommend you look at the 'accomplishments' to see the range of work done. It lists the clients of AIDTS and the courses provided over the past few years. A written profile of AIDTS is also available from AIDTS or Afrinspire on request.



**+Fire Music** is a multi-cultural band with members from Uganda, Congo, and Tanzania. Fronted by their lead singer, Sweet Vicky, with seven instrumentalists and four backing vocalists, they have original lyrics and music. They

describe it as a mixture of reggae, souskous, zouk and gospel, Afro traditional and contemporary beats played with an Afro fusion style. Their CD 'Abba Father' is available from Afrinspire for £10. 50% is being donated by +Fire in support of Afrinspire. Order today, from the address below.

**Shopping through Afrinspire** If you do any shopping on the internet, then try the Afrinspire shop at website <http://buy.at/afrinspire> This offers top internet retailers including Amazon, Marks and Spencers, Comet, CO-OP Electricals, Blackwells Books and many more. If you make your purchase through the portal <http://www.afrinspire.org.uk/shop.html> there is no difference in cost to you but Afrinspire will get a commission from the sale.



Emeritus Bishop Y K Bamunoba is the Founder Chairman and Director of Kent Foundation College. He writes

"The college aims at training the less privileged school leavers to qualify for social and economic participation. Afrinspire has made a substantial contribution.

Amos 2001-2003. Amos was abandoned by his parents. He was assisted by the Afrinspire fund to train in Business Management. He is now working with the Red Cross in Uganda.

Scovia 2001 -2003. Scovia was received after being dismissed from school due to lack of fees. She trained in secretarial studies sponsored by the Afrinspire fund. She is now Office Assistant and College Cashier of Homestead Management.

Celestine 2002-2004. Celestine lost both his parents. He was supported by Afrinspire to train in Carpentry and Joinery. He is now employed in a carpentry workshop in Mbarara.

Henry 2002-2004. Henry lost his father through a motor accident. His mother had a nervous breakdown. With the support of Afrinspire, Henry was trained in Catering and Management. He is now a game warden at Lake Mburo National Park.

Three others are under training now, two girls and one boy, sponsored by Afrinspire. The little which is given uplifts the less privileged child to make it in life with 'skills for life'. Thank you, Afrinspire, for the photocopier, duplicator, typewriters, carpentry tools and money to support me for promotion and management of Kent Foundation College."

JKBamunoba

Kent College favours the disadvantaged young people who cannot enter the mainstream schools due to a lack of money. It was started by the Bishop in his retirement. He is now looking to secure the future of the school with the right board, structure and supporters to carry it on when he is no longer able to do so. Afrinspire is already a channel of support and is willing to be a focus for the various supporters to come together. The school will be featured more fully in a future edition.

AFRINSPIRE is a Christian charity and action group supporting indigenous African initiatives which relieve poverty.

People and projects are supported in Uganda, Zambia, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Sudan and Tanzania.

Afrinspire is a UK Registered Charity Number 1095001. Donations can be made and further information can be obtained from AFRINSPIRE, 22 Melvin Way, Histon, CAMBRIDGE, CB4 9HY, UK email: [uk@afrinspire.org.uk](mailto:uk@afrinspire.org.uk)

Donations may be gift aided if you are a tax payer. Donations can be made via our website [www.afrinspire.org.uk](http://www.afrinspire.org.uk)