

PALLETS OF EQUIPMENT AIR FREIGHTED TO ADDIS ABABA

Afrinspire has air-freighted three pallets of new machine equipment and tools to Ethiopia to aid the start-up of a not for profit workshop aiming to create jobs and provide appropriate technology. After two years of planning and a meticulous buying process the goods were airborne in February and are now being used to start up a new enterprise.

Roland Sims is married to Muna, an Ethiopian, and with their two children they live as a family in Addis Adaba. Roland is an associate member of Great Shelford Free Church and so is known here in Cambridgeshire. After working for aid agencies for eight years Roland came to the conclusion that the best form of aid would be to provide jobs with technical skills. He believes this to be the most effective measure against the ongoing poverty. Research revealed a market in Ethiopia for emergency lighting, solar lighting and other electrical services. To this end Roland set about registering an ethical Christian Not-for-Profit company with the purpose of manufacturing these items. This would create jobs and meet a need in the country.

Registering such an organisation in Ethiopia was a lengthy and time consuming process with many frustrations and much red tape. After trying to get this project going for over two years the development authorities were finally satisfied and suddenly gave approval for the project in November 2003 allowing tools for the workshop Roland has built to be imported duty free (normally 100%).

Roland is personally known by Chris Turner, one of the trustees of Afrinspire. Chris visited Ethiopia in 2002 to see at first hand the possibilities and so with confidence worked to achieve the sending of this workshop.



Afrinspire was immediately able to buy the long list of equipment and machinery to tool up the new enterprise. Shipping by sea to Ethiopia is almost impossible so the route was by air and so with a sense of success the equipment arrived in February. Roland is now doing the hard work of getting DiverseTech up and running. Production and jobs should follow soon.

The tools have been supplied to DiverseTech on an agreement that should DiverseTech cease trading for any reason the tools will go to an Aid Agency or NGO in Ethiopia.

Some of the recipients of goods in Uganda

AIDTS - Agency for Integrated Development and Training Services, Mbarara
Rubaga Girls School, Kampala
Kent Foundation College, Mbarara
ACE - Agency for Children's Empowerment, Kabwohe
Uganda Development Services, Kamuli
Rwancereere Community and associated groups
African International Christian Ministry AICM, Kabale

Pastor John Noah Komi, Arua
Rukungiri Secondary School
Bexhill Secondary School, Masaka
Bubaare Secondary School, Kabale
CREATE, Kumi
Foundation for People With Disabilities, Kabale
Uganda Christian Lawyers Fraternity
Mukono University - Law Library
Misericorde, Kigali, Rwanda

Some of the donors of computers, books and equipment

Cambridgeshire County Library Service
The Technical Glass Company, Haverhill
Cambridge University Engineering Dept
World Vision, Head Office Milton Keynes
Oxford University Theology Faculty Library
Sally Ball Book Club, Oxford
Swavesey Junior School
Huntingdon Regional College

First Connect
Cambridge-Pharma
Mothers Union Ely Diocese
The Institute of Export
Sawston Village College
Cambridge University Press
Many many individuals

Organon Laboratories Ltd
RadcliffesLeBrasseur, London
Jay, Benning & Peltz, London
Chefaro Proprietaries Ltd
Organon Teknika
OXFAM
Barwell
Christian Lawyers Fraternity

New Tea Rooms in Histon. Relax have a chat or read the newspapers at the Thursday Tea Rooms located at Histon Baptist Church Station Road Histon. Open 10am to 2pm on Thursdays. The very best tea's and coffee, home made cakes and scones. Any proceeds go to the Registered Charity AFRINSPIRE helping the poor of Africa help themselves

