

THE FIRST YEAR AS A CHARITY

**An edited version of the Annual Report to the Charity Commissioners
for the year 1st October 2002 to 30th September 2003**

Afrinspire was constituted as an organisation in May 2002 and was registered with the Charity Commissioners, on 11th December 2002. The Charity Constitution names the charity objects as 'to advance education, advance the Christian religion and relieve poverty in particular but not by way of limitation in Africa.' The Trustees of Afrinspire are Matthew Clements, Geoff Ding, Tommy Farrell, Tomas Lynn, Ian Sanderson, Peter Rootham-Smith, Chris Turner, Dennis Whitfield.

The scope of activity has been in the countries of Uganda, Zambia, Ethiopia and Rwanda. At this stage the activity towards Ethiopia and Rwanda has been exploratory without financial outlay. Afrinspire awards

- grants to individuals and to organisations to support education at all levels to university level.
- sends goods to Africa.
- supports entrepreneur schemes and the creation of jobs in Africa.
- looks for indigenous initiatives which it can support.

From 1st October 2002 Afrinspire began receiving donations for Kapeshi in Zambia, and from 1st January 2003 donations for Uganda. The donations received in the first financial year amounted to £16,536.30. The administration cost equates to 2.7% of the charity income.

We have sponsored two goods shipments to Uganda, in February and March 2003 in association with Tools With A Mission. Ten cubic meters left Histon during February 2003. Goods continue to be offered, collected and prepared. Afrinspire has a re-cycling process for personal computers with the aim of placing these into Uganda. Computers and books are collected and packed by Afrinspire. We have also sponsored the sending of tools, sewing machines and typewriters collected and prepared by Tools With A Mission. In Uganda these goods were distributed by Afrinspire contacts. The principle recipients are Training Resource Centres, Schools, Vocational Training Centres and a variety of Ugandan organisations. Some equipment is used for job creation to set up entrepreneurs in self-employment. Of note is that Afrinspire has sent two complete law libraries to Uganda, one to AIDTS in Mbarara and one to the Uganda Christian Lawyers Fraternity in Kampala.

Afrinspire is a principle supporter of AIDTS – The Agency for Integrated Development and Training Services which is constructing a Development Study Centre in Mbarara, Uganda. Through its trainers and consultancy work AIDTS is very active in development projects in Uganda and Rwanda. Afrinspire is seeking to build up this Centre from which many other smaller community development initiatives can be and are supported.

Afrinspire has also supported in Uganda:

- Some Sudanese refugees via a pastor in Arua.
- Some disabled people via the Foundation for People with Disabilities in Kabale.
- The community of Rwancereere and other communities in the border zone of Kigezi near Rwanda.

Through its scholarship fund Afrinspire has sponsored 14 individuals, 1 school and 1 training centre in Uganda, and 1 individual and 1 school in Zambia. Some of these sponsorships were already in place with on-going relationships with UK sponsors and Afrinspire has taken these on. Several new sponsorships have begun and there are more applicants under consideration at the year end. The selection of recipients is based on the personal knowledge of the Trustees and on the advice, verification and recommendation of key individuals in Africa. In all cases there is good verification through the indigenous Christian church and/or through the community bodies within the African country. Trustees in the UK see receipts, letters, education enrolment and graduation certificate and photographs of recipients. Also, when making visits to Africa, trustees have first hand contact with recipients, sight of projects and sight of goods in situ which have been sent from the UK. During the year four trustees visited Uganda, Tomas Lynn and Ian Sanderson in November 2002, Geoff Ding in May 2003 and Matthew Clements in July 2003. During the year one visitor from Uganda was received in the UK, Twino Buhungiro from Kabale. The majority of beneficiaries were seen during these visits. Assessments were also made of new applications for assistance.

Afrinspire wishes to thank the many individuals and companies who have donated computers and other goods. Afrinspire is grateful for facilities donated free of charge by

- Histon Baptist Church, who provide accommodation for collecting and preparing of donated goods.
- Breathe Interiors, who provide storage for packaged goods.
- Tools With A Mission for loading and administering the shipping of containers to Uganda

Afrinspire, through volunteers, provides expertise and skills in technology and development. Advice and support is offered freely to our network of contacts in Africa and to those in the UK who have links and relationships with Africa.