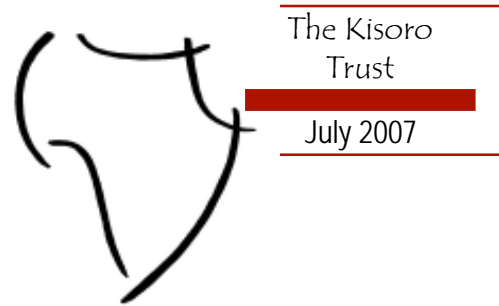


Kisoro Newsletter



A Personal Profile

Rev Ephraim Mbabazi is a founding director of the Kisoro School for Deaf Children, and we're delighted to bring you a brief personal profile:

Ephraim Mbabazi was born in 1952 into a typical African family. His parents were peasant farmers in the Kisoro District of southwestern Uganda. He was the eighth in a family of 12 (6 boys and 6 girls) and scarcity of food was always a problem at home.

Ephraim initially worked in telecommunications before entering full time church service in 1982, and being ordained in 1988. He has worked in pastoral ministry in rural communities, served in an orphan programme caring for 500 HIV/AIDS orphans, and is currently the Diocesan Director of planning and development of the church of Uganda, Diocese of Muhabura, a position he has held for 10 years. Ephraim was initially appointed to this post after returning from Scotland, having won a scholarship to do a Masters degree in Theology, Culture and Development at the University of Edinburgh. Thanks to financial support from friends in the USA, he is currently studying for a PhD in Church Development and Health Care by distance learning.



Ephraim Mbabazi pictured with Priscilla and Bright.

The name Mbabazi literary means mercy or grace, and Ephraim is passionately committed to the development of the rural poor, and especially the most vulnerable children in communities.

Ephraim says that his favourite verse from the Bible is John 15:17, "Love one another", and he clearly puts this into practice in his work, and at home - he and his wife Priscilla have taken three children, namely Bright, Beatrice and Barbra, into their own home to care for them.

News from Kisoro

The Kisoro School for Deaf Children has now reached its full complement of 7 primary classes, with a total of 58 pupils. At the end of the current academic year, the children in primary 7 will take their Primary Leaving Examinations; the school hopes to find sponsors who are willing to support these children so that they may go on to senior school.

During the last term, all the pupils took part in a wide range of activities beyond the normal academic curriculum. Of particular note was the two-day community reading exercise organised by the National Library of Uganda. Deaf children from Kisoro were among the 10 schools selected to participate in the activities, which included essay writing, quizzes, poetry, drawing, spelling, riddles and story-telling. There were many competitions, and some of the deaf pupils won prizes which included reading books, dictionaries and writing pads.

Deaf pupils also took part in a dramatic performance, promoting to the audience the message that deaf children can access education and perform just as well as do their hearing counterparts.



Scene from Act III: Deaf child returning to father's home after graduating from University.

Fundraising News

Kisoro Praise Night

On Saturday 21st April, over 70 people enjoyed a thoroughly uplifting evening of music and praise at Portobello United Free Church, Edinburgh, thanks to Ian White, Impromptu and the Liberton Kirk Praise Band. And a few weeks later, the Trustees of the Kisoro Trust were delighted to be invited back to accept a cheque for £700, the proceeds of the evening. The whole event was superbly organised by Louise Ogilvy, who now explains how the concert came about:

"Actually it started way back in May last year when I was trying to find a speaker for the United Ladies Day Away I help organise. We decided on the theme - Actions Speak Louder Than Words. After phoning around and people saying 'Sorry I can't help you but I know someone who might be able to', eventually I got in touch with Rosie Addis, Chair of the Kisoro Trust - and finally we had our speaker!

At the Away Day in October we heard about the Kisoro Trust, and Rosie patiently taught us to sign a song. As people went off for lunch, Rosie & I had a brainwave - how great it would be to have a Praise Night in aid of Kisoro.

I knew my church band - The Liberton Kirk Praise Band - was good, but what about a second? Through the grapevine came Impromptu from Sauchie. What was next? A celeb! I emailed Little Misty Music asking their advice. Who should email back but Ian White - now he's definitely a celebrity! Finally, after a quick phone call to a friend of many years, Rev Ralph Dunn of



Portobello UF Church, we had a venue and the night was almost complete. I have to admit I hadn't given a thought to the technical side of things, but the boys with their tech toys ensured that everything went smoothly on the night.

As the concert was in aid of Deaf Kids, we wanted to have the night signed. Louise Holden and Rosie agreed to share

the signing between them, and brought an added dimension to the praise. When Ian White surprised Louise by asking her to teach us signs to 'Rusty Nail', one of the songs on his new CD 'Move That Foot', she rose to the challenge - I haven't listened to that song in the same light since!

Now that the months of organising are over and all those cables have disappeared, you would never know there had been such a special night in the church. But I was privileged a couple of months later to be able to hand over to the Kisoro Trust cheques amounting to a massive £700. So to all the people who made the night one to remember - a massive THANKS."

And a big 'thankyou' to Louise from the Kisoro Trust for organising such a great night on our behalf.

The West Lothian Connection



Members of the Girls' Brigade - 2nd Bathgate Company - hold a signed singing display night and raise £250 for Kisoro.

To Make a Donation

I would like to make a donation to the Kisoro Trust. I enclose a cheque for £.....

Please send me a standing order form.

Name:

Address:

.....

.....

Tel:

Email:

If you are a UK taxpayer, you can increase the value of your gift by nearly a third, at no extra cost to yourself, by completing the Gift Aid Declaration below:

Please treat as Gift Aid Donations all donations made by me to the Kisoro Trust from 6th April 2001. I understand that I must pay sufficient tax each year to cover the amount to be reclaimed.

Signed:.....

The Kisoro Trust

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