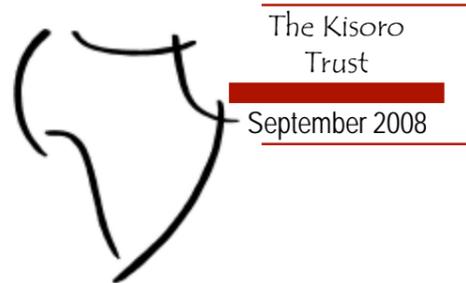


Kisoro Newsletter



The Kisoro Trust

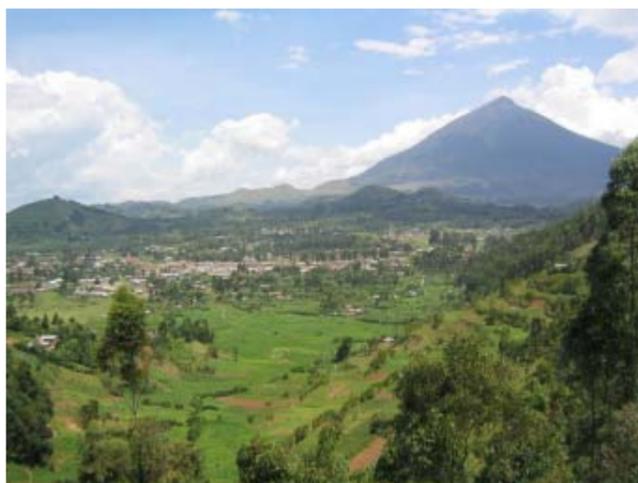
September 2008

Pretty Pictures



At the end of June, we were delighted to welcome to Edinburgh Brian & Sheila Pretty, who had recently returned from a visit to Kisoro. Brian is a retired builder, and he and Sheila live in the south of England. They have visited Uganda many times in the past, doing voluntary work for the Church of Uganda in Muhabura District, where Kisoro is situated. During these working visits they became closely associated with the deaf school, staying in a house close by, and regularly sitting in on classes and getting to know the children. We were especially pleased that the Prettys found the time to come to Edinburgh to bring us the latest news and photographs from Kisoro. Several supporters of the Kisoro Trust were able to join us for lunch, and a very informative and enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

Here is a very brief snapshot from Brian's slide show:



View of Kisoro, with the 14,000 ft Mountain Muhabura in the background.

Right: Latest arrival in Primary 1 proudly showing off his new uniform. This young lad is also slowly going blind.



Below: New shoes being presented by Sheila Pretty to all of the children.

Bottom: Senior girls and boys giving dance of thanks for the kindness of all you donors.



Update from Uganda

During the last term, the deaf pupils continued to work hard at their studies. They also took part in competitive athletics, excelling in high jump, shot put, and relay races. As well as competing with the hearing pupils of the mainstream Seseme Primary School, the deaf pupils participated in an athletics competition involving a number of other other local schools.

Another extra-curricular activity is debating, and the deaf pupils, especially the girls, participated actively in opposing the motion, 'to educate a woman is a waste of time'. They put forward the view that by educating a woman you educate a nation, as the mother is the one who lays the foundation for a child from birth, and that women spend far more time with their children than men do. If the girls are correct, then by educating them, the Kisoro Trust could ultimately have an impact as wide as the whole country of Uganda!

However, the school still faces challenging times, as indicated in our last newsletter. To start to address the issue of deaf-blindness which is beginning to affect four of the school's pupils, one teacher travelled to Kampala to attend a workshop on how to teach children who are both deaf and blind. The four pupils are now learning Braille and tactile sign language, in the hope that they will be able to gain good enough communication skills using these methods before they completely lose their sight.

Another problem is the ongoing conflict between rival factions in the local area, which also has an impact upon the school. Most recently, this conflict has manifested itself in the form of a dispute over ownership of the land on which the accommodation for the deaf children is situated. Tensions have been running high lately, so in order to keep the children at a safe distance from a potentially volatile situation, a decision was taken by those on the ground to relocate the deaf children in a neighbouring school, which accommodates both blind and sighted children.

As the teachers and house parents have been moved along with the deaf children, the pupils are able to continue with their lessons, albeit it in different surroundings, and they continue to be well cared for. It is hoped that this situation can soon be resolved to the satisfaction of everyone involved, but particularly for the sake of the children.

In view of the current difficulties, it is perhaps appropriate that the deaf pupils recently took part in a training workshop organised in conjunction with the British High Commission, which aimed to help keep children in school, empower them with knowledge of their rights, and mitigate the problem of violent conflicts, child abuse and neglect. The deaf pupils were some of the best participants in the workshop, contributing freely and intelligently to the discussion.

Many Happy Returns



In May of this year, yet another birthday girl chose to help the children of Kisoro by asking her friends to make donations to the Kisoro Trust, instead of buying presents for her birthday party. Seven-year old Ruth Quill raised the fantastic sum of over £140 for Kisoro. Well done Ruth!

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:

.....

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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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