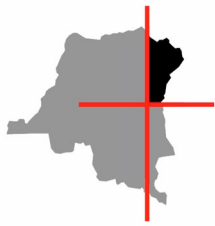


'...helping to bring hope to the people of the democratic republic of congo.'



friends of cme trust

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February 2010

Dear friends,

Update on Nyankunde Schools Appeal

Last newsletter we launched an urgent appeal to raise immediate funds for the schools in Nyankunde. We were running out of money to continue funding the education of Nyankunde's 5,500 school children. We have been so encouraged by the generous response to that appeal. Our target was to raise at least £2,200 a month to pay the 234 teachers' salaries.

In response to our appeal we have received £10,000 plus £1,000 committed for each month going forward. With the £3,500 we had before our appeal, we now have enough to support the teachers until at least December 2010. This is a wonderful answer to what was becoming a desperate situation and we thank all of you who helped financially and prayerfully for the situation.



We have received some personal testimonies of thanks from students, parents and staff benefitting from this money:

One student, Mufarani (photo left), writes: "Your donation allows us to work in a good atmosphere with our teachers. Some among us were abandoned. Your contribution eases greatly the heavy burden on our parents."



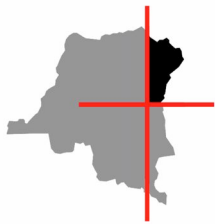
The local chief, Jean Gaston (Photo right, handing over his letter of thanks), writes on behalf of his community: "Thank you for helping us until our Government gets organized. Across the various schools we thank you and cannot repay you except to ask God's blessing on you all."

In December, I was able to meet a delegation of DRC MPs who reconfirmed their governments' commitment to provide free primary education in 2010. The caveat was that they don't know where the funds are going to come from!

Building Project

Work continues on the Operating Theatre and Intensive Care buildings at Sosé, near Beni, with finishing touches being made, as shown in the photographs below (taken between December and January). When the next construction – a ward – (for which we have raised 1/3 of the £30,000 needed) is finished, CME Beni hopes to move to the site and thus save the \$1,000 a month it spends on rent as well as having purpose-built facilities rather than the make-shift ones it is currently in.

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Operating Theatre bathrooms



Operating Theatre painting



Intensive Care Unit Building

Other CME news

We have heard good news that Samaritan's Purse are increasing their investment in the reconstruction work at Nyankunde hospital, in particular, re-building the Operating Theatre and ICU under the supervision of Ruth and Rich (who previously lived and worked at Nyankunde for many years). In Bunia progress has been made recently by installing a clean water supply to the hospital. The incidences of typhoid fell immediately.

A general update of our support for CME (in addition to the specific Nyankunde school and Beni building projects funding) is as follows. CME receives £1,600 from us each month. These funds provide a nutritional diet for around 150 children, a pre- and post-natal advice service for mothers, schooling for orphans in Beni, a small entrepreneurial project for women, and help for those unable to pay their hospital fees. Across all its sites CME operates with 216 staff, including 3 specialist doctors, 11 generalists, 3 pharmacists, and 98 nurses. Over 10,500 patients received outpatients' consultations in the first semester of 2009 and 2,000 operations were performed. One of the three hospitals reported that of 4,500 patients admitted in this semester (60% of which were children), 95% of the patients were healed, 1% transferred elsewhere, 1% remained unwell and 3% died.

Fundraisers

Friends of CME Trust is so grateful for the efforts of individuals and teams who undertake organized fundraising activities for our cause. We were delighted that Dennis Tailor (photo right) organized a team to complete the *Three Peaks' Challenge*, thereby raising £2,777 for the forthcoming Ward building project at Sosé (Beni) hospital site.

Thank you for your ongoing interest in our work. We hope you find this quarterly update useful, but should you wish to unsubscribe, please email: info@friendsofcme.com.



Best wishes,

Chris
(On behalf of the Trustees)