



FRIENDS OF
IBBA GIRLS SCHOOL
SOUTH SUDAN

NEWSLETTER
December 2015

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DONATE NOW



Cheques Payable to: Friends of Ibba Girls School
Send to: 12 Ash Grove, Chinley, High Peak, SK23
6BQ

Gary Bandy (Honorary Treasurer)
gary.bandy@mac.com



moneygiving

If you feel you're able to contribute please do so through our link [HERE](#) to Virgin Money Giving! Every contribution counts and anything you do will make a huge difference to our cause! Thank you, from all of us.



Enjoy Figs This Christmas!

Dear Friends

We send you warm greetings for Christmas, and heartfelt thanks for your loyal support and positive encouragement throughout this past year. It has been a time of continued difficulty in and for South Sudan, but mercifully Ibba Girls School (IGBS) has continued not only to survive but also to thrive, and to move forward with some notable achievements.

We ask you to join us in campaigning and praying for peace and justice in South Sudan - where, like Jesus in the disruptive story of the first Christmas, many children are still born without safe shelter, and have to flee for their lives as refugees from conflict. (*Read* Brother Bill's Solidarity report [here](#) about the long hard road to peace in South Sudan. And *Read more* [here](#) about the urgent need for investment in education in South Sudan as part of the peace-making process.)

In this brief final FIGS Newsletter of 2016 we want to thank and celebrate 3 groups of special people – **and to invite you to add a 4th thank you (see below)**

Join us in thanking:

1. ***School Governors, Staff and Students:*** We celebrate the successful completion of the second full year of Ibba Girls Boarding School (IGBS). We thank the school governors, staff and students on the work and teaching and learning they have achieved together over this past year – in spite of intermittent insecurity in Western Equatoria State. In troubled times like these, to keep the school open and provide high quality education for 83 girls is a major achievement in itself – a small beacon of light, showing what a peace dividend can look like in practical terms. We send our admiration and congratulations to all of them for their courage and commitment. *Read the encouraging reports of their progress at IGBS, [here](#).*



2. **Volunteers:** We want to put on record our appreciation for the work of literally hundreds of FIGS volunteers who have committed their time freely to help support the development of FIGS and IGBS over the past year, including:

- The IGBS Trustees and Board of Governors in South Sudan



- The 12 FIGS Trustees who meet 4 times a year in the UK.



- The working groups of UK volunteers on fund-raising; PR and communications; education development; and social enterprise
- Members of the South Sudan diaspora in the UK



- Literally hundreds of individuals who give their time to raise funds for the school in imaginative and original ways. See www.ibbagirlsschool.com for details of how to volunteer.



3. Donors: We also give thanks for the extra-ordinary generosity of over 600 people and organisations (individuals, churches, schools, small Trusts and Foundations), who over the past 3 years have donated around £675k to pay for the initial buildings, infrastructure and staffing for the school – the first classrooms, dormitories, staff accommodation, kitchen, solar powered water, electricity and internet.

See below for some of the latest examples of generous giving through Big Give, student sponsorships, and by generous individuals of all ages and means.

1. Sarah's Story



Sarah heard about Ibba Girls Boarding School over the local radio station, and her family had also heard people talking about a new school which would be girls-only, and would have lots of teaching and reading materials. Her parents had always been committed to Sarah's education - she used to travel 30 minutes by motorcycle on dusty mud roads to get to her previous school. It takes much

longer for Sarah to travel to IGBS and she's not keen on the "bush environment". But she thinks it's well worth it for the "fantastic teachers and teaching, security, food, beautiful accommodation and [solar electric] power." One of her suggestions to improve the school is to build a swimming pool!

Through what she's learning at IGBS and the opportunities available to her to read in her own time, Sarah loves being able to "acquire more skills and knowledge". She's confident that studying at this school will make a difference to her future.

2. A big thank you to our latest donors!

Progress report from Chernise Neo



Big Give

We're thrilled to say that Friends of Ibba Girls School received a massive £46,034 for new school facilities in 2016-17 from your online donations, matching funds and Gift Aid in the Big Give. The final tally will increase to around £50k once our match funders (pledgers) fulfil their pledges by mid-January. So a huge thank-you to all of you, our generous supporters who donated – and especially to Tim Royle who helped us to mobilise sponsors. Your donations are an important step in the journey as Ibba Girls School plans to double in capacity first from 80 to 120 girls in Feb 2016, and then to 160 girl students by Feb 2017.

Student Sponsors

We now have 40 Student Sponsors, each giving at least £27 a month, often more, to support the living and learning costs of the Ibba girl students. This feels like a great milestone to celebrate - representing the sponsorship of our first whole cohort of 40 girl students. Thank you to all our Student Sponsors for your committed generosity; if you haven't already received it, a copy of our first Student Sponsorship report will be winging its way to you very soon. We are now looking for 80 more sponsors to sign up by Feb 2016 in order to provide support for all 120 students who will be in school at that point. **See below for how to do this now**



School Text Books

Warm thanks to those of you who gave towards our textbooks appeal, including all the friends and family of Paul and Julia Sanders, who ran a crowdfunding campaign for this need. You may be pleased to know that the target of £2,500 was met, and then exceeded. We will put all excess donations towards textbooks for the next cohort of girl students arriving in Feb 2017.

The Horne Family Foundation

We also wish to especially thank Rachel Horne and the Horne Family Foundation for their further gift of 15,000 Canadian dollars (approx. £7,200) to FIGS, on top of their ongoing commitment to 40,000 Canadian dollars per year.

Your commitment to the Ibba girl students is extremely heartening and we are very thankful for this support.

Sale of Christmas cards

Thanks to Zsofia Ilona for helping to design and organise sales of our FIGS Christmas cards this year, and especially to Mia Kiefer for selling so many at her Earlsdon primary school Christmas Fayre.

3. Please add another Ibba girl to your Christmas present list



Please consider giving one extra special gift this Christmas - sponsoring the schooling of Ibba students like Sarah John Athana above (£27 per month – around the cost of a mobile phone subscription). Sign up [here](#) and now.

So we send you our warm thanks for your continued support for FIGS and IGBS.

May Christmas bring us great joy and peace – and continue to disrupt and turn the world upside down!

With best wishes and warm thanks to you all,

John Benington

On behalf of the Trustees and Friends of Ibba Girls School

P.S. Watch our brief film from Ibba (immediately after the Queens Speech?)

Thank you!

With our best wishes and warm thanks,

John Benington Chair, on behalf of the Trustees and Friends of Ibba Girls School

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