

DAVID'S NEWS

Village Mission Team | IRIS Uganda | Making a Difference

IRIS UGANDA

Carolyn, with the backing of her team, has asked me to join the IRIS Uganda Board, which after prayer and consultation with my Well Church (UK) senior pastor Rick Oldland, I have accepted.

It is good to be back fully in the IRIS missionary family and my compound here in Bweyogerere will be known locally as IRIS OASIS campus. Nationally and Internationally we will be IRIS Global Uganda, Kampala campus.

This is a significant development for my senior boys from IRIS South Sudan; it helps them know where they belong. The IRIS missionaries and Mamas have been their most significant family, during their formative teenage years.

IRIS senior boys

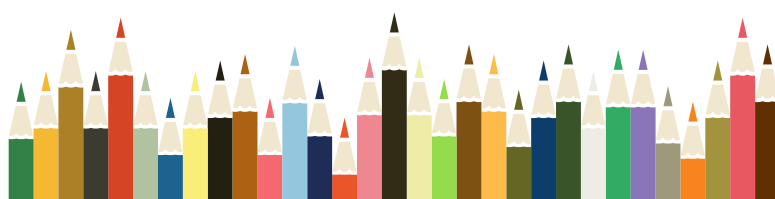
The photo is some of the next generation of senior IRIS boys who are at different levels of the school system. I'm looking forward to more interaction with these boys as they move toward 'A' level high school or Vocational Training, whichever is most appropriate for each one.



More about IRIS Uganda

Most of you will know that Uganda has been very good and welcoming to IRIS South Sudan, but the 'rules' for working with children are much more developed here than they ever were in South Sudan.

We have known for sometime that 18+ year olds, whatever their ability, are not allowed in the same compound as children. Last week, Thursday, we had another inspection and were told that the older ones had to go; and we have 40 over 18! Friday, we got a reprieve on the basis that when we build on our own land; the accommodation for the 18+ year olds will be built first with their own compound separate from the children's compound. God is so good at getting things properly arranged; and thank you Uganda.





Encounter Retreat

An Encounter Retreat is completely free to the Participants. One of our Regional Team organises a Church or group of Churches for the ER.

- We pay transport for our Regional Coordinator (RC) to visit the Church(es) that are interested in coming on a Retreat to prepare them for the work the Holy Spirit wants to do.
- We send transport money to our RC for him to escort the participants to reach the Oasis Retreat House here in our compound at Bweyogerere.
- Generally on arrival here they have a late breakfast of tea, bread and Blue Band
- The Retreat starts and there is a break for a simple Rolex lunch. (2-egg omelette with onion and tomato rolled in one or two Chapatis.
- Afternoon and evening modules and stop in time for a nutritious supper before 8pm.
- Watch a Christian film, shower and bed; ready for day two and half day three.
- Travel home in the afternoon of third day.

OASIS VILLAGE MISSION TEAM

My January Newsletter included our first 2019 village seminars and crusades with Fernando from Portugal.

Encounter Retreat

11 March was our first Encounter Retreat of 2019 and it was a significant breakthrough for us in the time taken in teaching. Those of you who are familiar with the Partners in Harvest/Catch the Fire Encounter Retreat will know that the teaching is intended to be short, as it is in the ministry times that lives are changed.

For the first couple of years I did the teaching and Alex and Emmy translated into the local language. Early in this time Alex translated the workbook into Luganda and slowly one module at a time Alex took on the teaching. For the past year Alex has done all the teaching and the past few months Emmy has started teaching a module at a time.

After each Encounter course Alex has been able to fine tune the Luganda Workbook to make understanding easier and to include some scriptures from the Teacher's Manual. These small changes one by one have enabled us to reduce the Retreat from three days to two and a half days. This has had a significant effect upon our costs and the times that the Church leaders are away from home.



So James Kazungu escorted the group from Malagulya in Kamulii District and from



Kaliro District villages on 11 March and John Musano the following Retreat on 25 March. Pray for the next ER starting tomorrow (8 April) that has again been arranged by James. Another will be 22 April arranged by John.

Encounter Retreat Testimonies

I left this until last as I need help from Alex, who is doing some Church leadership studies at God's Centre of Blessing this afternoon. Now I have run out of time and space, so allow me to give testimonies next month, which will help you understand why ER is such a good discipleship remorse here in Uganda.

Making a Difference

It is still not easy to communicate with Malik in Kapoeta, South Sudan, but last Thursday he said "I am OK here, not in a comfort zone, but I try my best so that I can stay safe and keep away from trouble as much as I can."

The rebel leadership have started coming back into town and next month there is going to be distribution and assignment to new posts of these rebels and a new government. So there is hope that things will get better."

I was able to question him, because my thinking said 'how is the Government going to respond to the rebels'. Malik replied "The rebels are in after arranging with the Government and they are being guarded by the Government forces." Even so I think we need to cover him and the situation in prayer.

Malik's plan after his 6-month contract here was to accept a job for a season and save up to do his Masters by day and work in one of the good labs evenings in Kampala. However those who know Malik and the miracles that he received to reach Bachelors will remember that his vision was to be a doctor of Medicine. This never went completely away, but he settled to be the one who enabled doctors to make good decisions. However his desire to do Medicine has been rekindled, he says "I have seen how limited help/medication patients get here. Patients get abused and mistreated. It has made me more interested in going for Medicine. I will stay here longer to save more and then decide my future personal development."

Anthony Ruhanya who is studying Bachelors Social Work Sciences at Nkumba University has been unanimously as Member of the University Parliament for the department of Social Sciences. So proud of him following in the first footsteps of Edward Lemi and then Malik in similar positions where they were at IHSU, now renamed Clarke International University.

Emma Tombura is applying to two universities in South Africa to study Computer Science, Engineering next year. This is his second option if studying on Portugal does not work out for him.

Our future minister of Agriculture, South Sudan is working hard on his Masters Sustainable Agriculture; recently he did a three-week trip to West Nile to discuss with Regional Government and forestry farming communities for his Research project. He is working hard, lectures and developing his project before planning another search trip to West Nile again.

Kennedy is completing his Internship with MAF Uganda; he will have done five months this time instead of the original 3-month plan. MAF Uganda would like to employ Kennedy to enable him to get his Aeronautical Engineering licence, but the employment laws of Uganda favour Ugandans and they have already got their full complement of foreigners. We think there is a way forward, which I hope I will be able to share next month.