



The Mary Wood Trust Christmas Update 2021

Christmas is almost upon us, and it is hard to believe that we are all still suffering from the restrictions caused by the coronavirus. However, I believe that we in the West must be so grateful for the opportunity to be able to receive the vaccinations and the booster. It is readily available for most of the population and yes, education has been disrupted but nothing like in third world countries.

Obviously, the Mary Wood Trust's focus is in a particularly remote area of Uganda, where the challenges still remain huge. The Diocese of Kinkiizi has recognised these problems and has embarked on a post Covid-19 rehabilitation Program. Some of the outcomes of the first sessions have thrown up some very worrying statistics, which concern us in particular as we are involved in girls' education. According to Kanungu District Police 1400 girls were reported as having been raped and more than 2000 girl-child pregnancies were reported in local hospitals of Kanungu District.

(If you would like to read more about the report then please do get in touch and I can send you a copy).

Recent communications with the headmistress of Nyakabungo Girls Secondary School, Molly Musinguzi, brings us up to date with the situation there.

She tells us that "The lockdowns over the past two years have greatly affected the non-candidate classes, who have lost almost two years of schooling. Despite this all students will be promoted to the next class as soon as schools reopen, hopefully in January 2022. The ministry of education and sports is planning to have all schools do online teaching and learning but this is going to be particularly difficult for girls from humble school and home backgrounds, who can't afford to pay for this style of learning. Despite this the 2020 O and A Level candidates performed fairly well. We hope that all schools will reopen in January 2022, once all teachers and other adults have received 2 doses of the vaccine".

All schools have remained closed since July. This month we have once again sent money to provide food for the staff and the families of the children who would normally attend Ruth Memorial Nursery School - flour, rice and beans - perfect timing to show our care and concern at Christmas time.

All the teachers at Nyakabungo Girls Secondary School will also be receiving a small monetary gift this month - a small Christmas gesture to show them that we care.

The disruption to education caused by the coronavirus is not going to end tomorrow. But we go forward in hope. Hope of a better future for all.

And in the words of the NGSS headteacher, Molly, "Despite the challenges that the education system has undergone in the past two years due to Covid-19, there is hope for those who are patient and focussed".

As always, we are so grateful to you all for the support you give to the Mary Wood Trust, whether with prayers, financial support or items to sell on e bay.

We wish you a Happy and Blessed Christmas time.

Thank you

Clare, Peter, Pippa, Ann and Kath

It will be some time before any of us can visit Uganda again. However, here are just a few photos taken over the past years to remind us of all of the beautiful country and some of the people that we support.

