



Africa Christian Teaching Service

Education in Action

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Charity Commission
For England & Wales

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Herridge update September 2024

Thank you for your prayers, love and partnership. We have been amazed by God's grace concerning two very pertinent needs: God answered our prayers

funds allowing us to build dormitories
the provision of Trustees.

Thankfully we now have another new Trustee who is highly capable and willing to share some of the responsibility of running ACTS.

We will tell you in this letter about God's hand on the construction of the Herridge dormitories project.

Once we had enough funds to start work, we began the tedious transfer of the money to the school account (it can only be moved to Burundi at £1000 per day).

Although Karusi is developing fast, the centre still lacks some basic infrastructure, so much had to be brought from Bujumbura, about 100 miles away from the school. Even basic construction materials (such as cement, corrugated iron and structural metal tubes for the roof) could not be found locally. The issues of transport, loading and unloading of these and other specialised products were resolved once a lorry was secured and enough diesel was sourced for the journey.

The costs for the main stages of the construction work to take the work to a safe break point had been agreed with the builder.

The laying of the foundations, framing/ walls and roofing was secured.

A contract was made with a supplier of bricks who, as a proud former Herridge pupil, gave us the best price and the best bricks available.



The initial work for laying foundations was not simple, and required many God-sent helpers, governor, head of the police, head teachers, business men, all of whom gave much assistance.

Builders needed a lorry to bring sand, gravel and stones to lay the foundation. Diesel is needed at all time for transporting this construction material, and also to operate the generator when there is no electricity.

To stand a chance of getting diesel, you need a well-connected businessman to inform you that a diesel tanker is on its way from Tanzania, a petrol station attendant to advise which petrol station to go to, and authority recommendation to make sure you get served.

Georgette continues:

We had major obstacles at each stage, not surprising given the enormity of the task, each block being 36M by 60M. Welders worked well, and when they had finished assembling roof structures, they embarked on windows and doors.

Each block has 46 windows. 92 to make altogether and 12 doors, the other 48 doors are wooden as will be the bunk beds. Some material was underestimated and I had to source what extras were needed and negotiate prices, mainly concrete, iron, rivets and nails of different sizes.



More bricks, cement, concrete and iron were needed for drainage work. This work is progressing well and is nearly complete.

Builders are currently working on sewage management and drainage, welding windows/doors and the ceiling. Sand and cement rendering is in progress, the exterior walls are done.

Next on the list is electrical installation before finishing the ceiling work.

Other remaining tasks and purchases to make are:

- Metallic edge trims to finish corrugated iron roof and gutters.
- Flooring (concrete and cement; cannot afford tiles).
- Paint.
- Fixtures (sink, taps, lighting...)
- Ground work

I had to extend my stay as my presence was critical, and I wanted also to meet the new pupils. The new academic year started on 16th September 2024, as fixed by the ministry of education

Back in UK, I'm still on the phone much of the time: builders still expect their requests for missing equipment to be instantly met.



It is so wonderful though to see this dream project being realised. We know you are fully behind it and praying for Herridge to prosper.

Thank you so much again for making Herridge what it is, and for the changed lives. We hope to be able to see you all at the St Mary's Christmas Fair.

Every Blessing.
Geoffrey and Georgette