

WESTERN REGION SCHOOL CHECK 12TH -16TH OCTOBER 2015.

We bless the almighty God who granted us journey mercies from the beginning of the journey to the end as it was a long distance drive with heavy rains and cold weather.

On 12.10.2015 we set off from Vision for Africa at 5:00 am and reached Fort Portal at 9:30 am. At around 11:00 am we went to **Fort Portal Secondary school** and checked on our two S.4 candidates. We were able to talk to Milka Night and the second girl was already doing final examinations.

Towards lunch time we checked on the **new** school **KYEBAMBE GIRLS SECONDARY SCHOOL** which is situated about 1km from Fort Portal town.

Kyebambe Girls is an Anglican founded single school, and it is a traditional school that has been in existence since **1910**. It has an enrollment of **1100** students from western Uganda and upcountry. It is strictly a boarding school with 56 teachers in total and **23** are non-teaching staff.

We did not get an opportunity of touring around the entire school because National examinations were in progress and the head teacher was not in school so we simply took one photograph in front of the Administration block.



We proceeded to another **new** school (**ST.LEO'S COLLEGE KYEGOBE**) about 3km from the center of Fort Portal town. St. Leo's is a traditional catholic founded since **1921** with a population of **600** students.

It is a boarding boy's school with a total of 51 teachers and 44 non-teachings staff members. S.1 selection is strictly first grade however for organizational partnership the cut-off can be locally administered. African development Bank has managed to sponsor the construction of 2 blocks in the school that is the computer lab and Library.

The head teacher was excited about the partnership and he allowed us to take a walk around the school.



St. Leo's has enough buildings like a well-equipped computer lab, a school library as seen in the picture above and enough class rooms however,

Challenges

- The dormitories and toilets are dirty.
- S.4 results for 2014 were withheld by UNEB (Uganda National Examination Board) for example, over 100 students sat examinations and only 55 were released; otherwise the performance is good.

MARIA PREAN PRIMARY SCHOOL-KASENDA

On Tuesday 13th October, we visited the school at 8:00 am and talked to the head teacher concerning our visit and he helped organizing sponsored pupils as well as parents for a meeting.

Concerning pupils, most of them were present but half of the pupils didn't have shoes. Majority were dressed in a school uniform apart from those (02) that joined the school in third term.

We addressed sponsorship key issues to our children like letter writing, sexual purity (P.4-P7), discipline, academics, and conferences among others. We also talked about God and distributed quiet time manuals to P.6 and P.7 pupils.

Evaluation forms were filled in instantly and we carried them back. Pupils looked happy and were glad to receive us as shown in the pictures below.

Meeting with Pupils.



Parent's Meeting.



Parents' meeting-Parents were glad to have a meeting. The turn up was good and **148** guardians turned up for the meeting out of 170 expected guardians.

During the meeting, guardians listened attentively and asked relevant questions both towards the school administration and VFAI. Their questions were answered well and they were so thankful to hear more about VFAI and requested for more meetings if possible.

We communicated to parents that we had checked on the **new schools in Fort Portal** that is Kyebambe girl and St. Leo's college secondary schools and they were so excited to hear this. Many wanted to change their children even this term but we had to brief parents about the procedures of changing schools.

We had an interpreter from the school who delivered the message well from us to the parents, this made our communication easy and each point was clearly understood.

Development

The school management has established a good boarding section structure for both boys and girls to enable pupils concentrate on their studies however, we suggested that male teachers should not be accommodated in the same wing, also distancing boys from girls because some are really grown up and therefore we would like to keep our children sexually pure.

YESU NATAMBA PRIMARY SCHOOL.

On 14.10.2015, we traveled to Yesu Natamba p/s to meet parents and children. We were so unfortunate that there was a miss communication about the dates of a parents' meeting. A parents' meeting was meant to be on 14th instead parents were told 15th/09/15. We pushed to have it but majority of the parents didn't have phones so we had no means of calling them.

We only had an opportunity of meeting our sponsored pupils and they were glad to receive us. We communicated our expectations as VFAI and shared the Word of God.

Out of the expected **16** pupils, only **3** were absent due to different reasons.

Break Time.



Challenges

- Our sponsored children in day section are neither given lunch nor cup of porridge for lunch yet we pay for lunch. This was discussed with the new head teacher and he promised to work it out.
- Children do not want to put on shoes which is unhealthy. We cautioned them about this issue and they promised to put them on daily.
- There are some children we pay for in boarding section but the school didn't inform them so they are still commuting from home.

Development

- There is a newly constructed block for girls in boarding section at the Reverend's premises.
- Re painting of class room blocks.

RUTOOMA VOCATIONAL INSTITUTE

At around 12:00 pm we arrived at Rutooma Vocational and we met the principal. Our two sponsored children were present, we talked to them about our expectations and they did not have any complaint.



Attached is the picture of the girl's dormitory with only 2 decker beds and it was only our students were accommodated for boarding.

We did not observe any development at this school and the total number of children in the school is just reducing.

CRANE HIGH SCHOOL -KASHENYI

We finalized at Crane high school at around 2:30 pm and we found S.4 students in examinations. We met the head teacher who organized our sponsored children.

The head teacher and resident director informed us about the **indiscipline** of four of our children all in S.4.

One of them was expelled from St. Kaggwa Bushenyi because he bullied his fellow student, we requested Crane high school to admit him so that he may sit S.4 but still he was suspended because he wanted to lead a strike. He is sitting examination while commuting from home.

We met with the expected number of children in school (20) and none was absent. We communicated our expectations and they also told us their **challenges** in school:

- Poor sanitation because the kitchen is not too far from the toilets, poor toilets and impure water due to heavy rains since their well is located in a valley.

We were unable to have a parents' meeting due to the misunderstanding of the meeting dates.

ST.KAGGWA HIGH SCHOOL BUSHENYI

On 15.10.15 we had a meeting with both parents and children in this school. We arrived to the school at 10:00 am and met the school administrators. The school had communicated the meeting earlier but parents didn't keep time. We started talking to students until parents started coming at around 12:00pm.

Out of the **48** sponsored students, **6** were S.4's and writing national examinations so we didn't see them.

One of our students in S.3, the school informed us that this child has less interest in studying and we talked to him concerning his future.

Parents' meeting:

The meeting was 2 hours late from the intended start time. **19** guardians attended out of **46** and they were attentive and thankful for coming. They appreciate the work VFAI is rendering to them and their children.

Parents were not having challenges with the school administration.

Development

- All buildings in the school were repainted and the school looks neat and bright.
- The construction of a new better gate.



KAMPALA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY (KIU) - Western Campus

On our way to St. Kaggwa High school, we branched off to KIU to check on one of our students, but she was not picking up the calls. She called us when we were at St. Kaggwa and she met us there.

ST. KAGWA PRIMARY SCHOOL-(New)

We checked on this new primary school which is located closely to St. Kaggwa high school Bushenyi. It is an Anglican founded day and boarding school and was established in 1945, with a total population of **911** pupils.

It is also the second best Universal Primary Education affiliated (UPE) school in Bushenyi district. It has **32** teaching staff members and **24** support staff.

The school has enough space, enough class rooms and toilets at different locations, different water sources and a dining room. Children are fed on a balanced diet and indeed they look healthy.

Security: The school has lightening arrestors and security guards.

Main Building



Administration block



New Dormitories under construction



KYEIZOBA GIRLS SECODARY SCHOOL

At 4:00 pm we were ready at this school for a parents and children meeting. Out of the expected **36** students, **34** were present while **2** were absent due to the following reasons:

Scovia S.1 got pregnant and Bibian got married.

We communicated our expectations to the children, they wrote letters and we took their pictures.

Students like the school. They were happy and not complaining.

Parents' meeting

Parents indeed kept time for this meeting, out of the expected 36 guardians, 26 attended the meeting. Parents were thankful for knowing more about VFAI, our expectations and their responsibilities. After the communication, they asked questions which we responded to.

Parents did not have any challenge with the school administration.

Development- Completion of the new class room block.



UGANDA TECHNICAL INSTITUTE (U.T.C-Bushenyi);

We were able to meet our two sponsored students late in the evening that is Patience and Jerome. They were doing well at school and didn't have any challenge. We gave them the quiet time manuals and reminded them of our expectations.

MAYANJA MEMORIAL INSTITUTE (Medical Institute)

On 16.10.2015 we drove to Mayanja Memorial Institute. We were able to meet a few students because some had gone on ward round at Mbarara Hospital. Agatha one of our students took us to the hospital and we were able to meet all students who were on the ward.

We had a good discussion with the students; five of them were present and only Blessing M. was absent. Blessing is a first year who will be joining school in November-2015.

Development:



Formerly, the nursing training school was conducting studies inside the hospital but of recent the training institute constructed a good building where students are studying separately out of the hospital.

MBARARA UNIVERSITY:

We proceeded to Mbarara University with some of these student nurses who were on ward to meet their fellows at Mbarara University. These students didn't know each other and they were happy to find out that their colleagues were just close. Out of the expected 6 students 4 were present and 2 were absent.

RONALD RUTA PRIMARY SCHOOL

By 2:00 pm we were at the school and we talked to the new head teacher. All the 5 children were in school. Their health was good apart from Emmanuel Anyebwembeine who had a sight problem. We advised him to come to our clinic with his parent as soon as they get holidays.

Challenges:

The children were not given a full uniform set as paid by Vision for Africa, some of our children missed sportswear, some missed a class uniform and others sweaters. None of them had a full school uniform.

We talked to the head teacher concerning the uniform issue and he promised to clear it, that he was new in the school and didn't know much concerning sponsored children.

BLESSED SACRAMENT S.S

We arrived to the school at 4:00 pm and met the school bursar. Out of the 18 children 12 were in school. One of the missing children was expelled from school, others were sick.

We expect those who were missing at school to visit us in our office during the holiday.

We give God the Glory for the time we spent with our children.

Compiled by Esther and TEAM (Milly, Gideon and Alex)