



‘I want opportunity rather than sympathy’: Timothy Ndotu and the savings scheme that’s regenerating a community

ALSO INSIDE

Corporate fundraising: the staff who are going that extra mile for Build Africa

.....
The late Mr. Aege Charles Joseph: one man’s lasting legacy to the school that he loved

HABARI

A voice for young people in Africa



Welcome

Welcome to the Summer 2012 edition of Habari.

In this edition we feature stories that illustrate the long-term impact that our Build a Livelihood and Build a School programmes are having on the communities that we work in. The CV on page 3 is an example of the career potential that our education programme is helping to unlock, while on page 4 we hear from a group revitalized by their savings training and committed to the regeneration of their community.

We never forget that all of our activities are only possible because of your generous support – thank you. On page 6 we hear from the winners of our Ultimate Londoner event, recently returned from an emotional tour of two Build Africa-supported schools. And on page 8 there is a round-up of all the fantastic corporate fundraising that's happening this year.

However you get involved please remember that your support is vital. Are you a quiz buff? If so, get signed up for our City Quiz Night in London on September 12. Hosted by bestselling author and Xfm Breakfast Show presenter, Danny Wallace, the event isn't to be missed. See back page for details.

I hope you enjoy Habari. We are always delighted to receive feedback so do let us know what you think. And please pass it on when you're finished!

C. Pearson

Chris Pearson,
Editor

INSIDE

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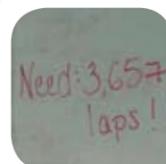
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A headmaster on a mission: Wilson Bowen and the challenges facing teachers in rural Africa

Many believe that teaching in Africa is in a state of crisis, and it is true that in the remote and under-resourced rural areas where Build Africa works a combination of factors (ranging from uncomfortable living and working conditions to poor pay) have eroded teacher motivation and threatened the quality of education that the children receive.

How Build a School is improving the morale and status of teachers

Not surprisingly teaching issues are high on the list of development goals drawn up by our schools. At Kanorero Primary School, for example, we are raising money to buy teaching resources and furniture, as well as providing a variety of training opportunities (in child-centred teaching methods; in the role and responsibilities of a health club patron; in child protection, gender and disability awareness and in the preparation of mock exams) that will improve both the status and the motivation of the staff at the school.

Kanorero's headmaster, Wilson Bowen, has been a member of staff at more than one Build Africa supported school: his CV is a fantastic example of the impact that one dedicated and talented teacher can have on his community, with the help of Build Africa's education programme:

Curriculum vitae

Name: Wilson Bowen
Position: Headmaster, Kanorero Primary School
Address: Gilgil, Kenya



Work Experience:

2007: I was lucky to be posted to Kapkures Primary School in 2007. It is during this period that Build Africa started working with the school and I was selected to be the first health club patron, a move that really turned my career around.

Having attended Build Africa's seminars and workshops I was able to train teachers and pupils on various pupil issues, including early marriage. I introduced a health club notice board and question box, which highlighted the issues for weekly discussion, and we composed songs and dances to educate the community. We got many invitations to perform during national holidays and public events. Whenever an opportunity arose I would talk to the parents on the need to support their children and avoid some negative cultural practices. This made me very famous in the region.

2008: I completed a three-year distance learning course in special needs education, attending classes during the school holidays, and was awarded a diploma from the Kenya Institute of Special Education.

I also joined Elementaita Primary school in 2008, where I had a successful time, using the knowledge I had acquired at Kapkures to establish a health club.

2009: I was promoted to Ndebai Primary school, one of the best performing schools in the district, as the deputy head teacher. I managed to introduce a health club and establish a library.

2012: I was posted to Kanorero Primary School as head teacher.



...children are confident and free with me'

Gaining skills and fulfilling potential

Wilson represents all the talented staff that are realising their potential through the Build a School programme. He is confident that with your continued support he really can make a difference to the lives of the pupils in his charge:

"Build Africa is one of the organizations that are playing a key role in improving the future of teaching. I am one of their beneficiaries: through their training programmes I have gained skills which have seen me rise through the ranks."

By providing water, improving school facilities and the training opportunities available to teachers, parents and pupils Build Africa really are helping Kanorero fill in the gaps that prevent the school from providing a good education."



The meeting: there is always respect for the procedures, rules and regulations

Establishing paths to prosperity: the Ukila Tui savings group, Machakos, Kenya

We believe that long term impact is only possible if we give our beneficiaries the resources and opportunities that make prosperity possible, as well as the freedom to make their own decisions based on what they think is best for them.

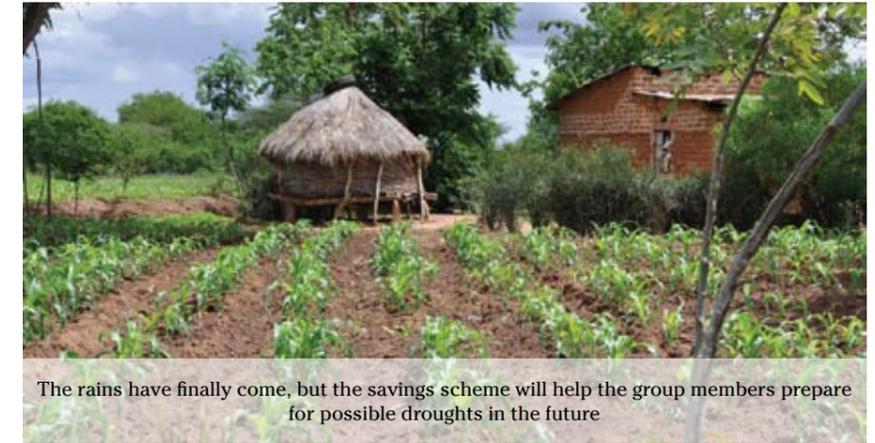
In this way savings groups like Ulika Tui in Kenya are better prepared for those periods of economic, climatic and social upheaval that periodically threaten the communities of rural Africa.

We asked six members of the group what the savings scheme meant to them in terms of the long term prosperity of the community.

A community ravaged by drought

"The community was on the rocks because of the drought," says Timothy Ndotu, group treasurer. "Many of the local businesses had closed, including my grocery shop which I had to sell to pay for my four daughters' school fees. We were truly desperate."

.....
"I want opportunity rather than sympathy and that is why we came out here to be with these people"



The rains have finally come, but the savings scheme will help the group members prepare for possible droughts in the future

"But then Build Africa came to tell us that forming a savings group could help alleviate the poverty in the area. Some people didn't take it seriously but now that they can see how successful the scheme is they want to join. It allows people to act as a cooperative, regenerating the community."



Timothy Ndotu
group treasurer

Mary Muthini,
saver

Agnes Wayua
saver

Joseph Ngula
saver

Agnes Muema
saver

Victoria Ngomo
saver

"I want opportunity rather than sympathy and that is why we came out here to be with these people. Now that the rains have come again I am determined to re-establish my shop. My wife, Elizabeth, is a member as well. We hope that when harvest time comes we can get a loan that we can put into the business".

"I am grateful because with the proceeds of my first loan I was able to grow potatoes and onions as well as the cabbages and tomatoes that I already grew. I also sell paraffin, ropes and ladies wraps now, and I am about to start selling braids for ladies hair. In the near future I will get a bigger loan to do greater things".

"I have a greengrocer business. But now I have expanded to sell maize flour, sugar, green beans and paw paws. The group is doing well because when we get loans it boosts our businesses. I can now pay for my children's school fees and if we continue like this I will sell clothes as well".

"I have a catering business but it isn't reliable. So at times I find myself without money. I had a son in secondary school but I had problems with school fees. But with a loan from the group I was able to pay the fees, provide food for the family and put some money into the catering business".

"Before I joined the group I stayed at home. But after I joined I was able to take out a loan and use the money to rent a stall at the market. I go to Mwala Town to buy cow's heads. I cook them and then sell meat and soup. I'm happy because I will get further loans and use them to first buy a goat and then a cow, building my assets and my security".

"I was already a member of a savings group and had a business, but because I had a child in school I used all of the proceeds to pay for school fees and materials. But now I can use the money from Build Africa's group to put into the business as well. I have been trying to get on with the farm but the drought has pulled me back. Now I can at least use the money from the group to keep the business going".



Kerry with some of the 'cheeky and noisy' children of Kapkures

“Go Build Africa!”: our Ultimate Londoners back from rural Kenya



Walking like an Egyptian beneath Cleopatra's Needle



Feeding a bear in Paddington Station



A photo with the Queen outside the Bank of England

They've walked like Egyptians on the banks of the Thames, fed a bear his favourite snack in Paddington Station and flashed a tenner in Threadneedle Street. As the first team to solve all the cryptic clues and reach the 'checkpoints' dotted around the capital, Kerry Eaton and Guilhem Duport were deservedly crowned our Ultimate Londoners in September 2011.

Their prize was an opportunity to see our projects in rural Kenya. Here is Kerry's fascinating travelogue:

"A French bloke and a Welsh girl never expected to be stood in the middle of Regent's Park being photographed and crowned The Ultimate Londoners. Fast forward six months and it was even more dazzling to step off a plane into the dusty heat of Nairobi.

Thank you Build Africa for sharing some of your work with us. The charming Rose Joy, Alfred and Joseph were our Build Africa hosts for two school visits that more than touched our hearts. A three-hour drive to the first school took us from the dust and din of Nairobi's rush hour traffic, through rustic villages and some of the most spectacular volcanic scenery imaginable. Our jeep finally grunted its way up a steep dirt track to our destination; a couple of ramshackle buildings perched high on a hill."



New to Build Africa: Songloi Primary School

"At the time of our visit Build Africa had been working with this school for just a few weeks and frankly it showed: the school buildings comprised basic wooden shacks with holes in the walls and no discernible windows. Dark crowded classrooms held desks so big that children spend the seven-hour school day standing, or with arms painfully outstretched in order to read or write. On the school field kids were playing barefoot with footballs made of string.

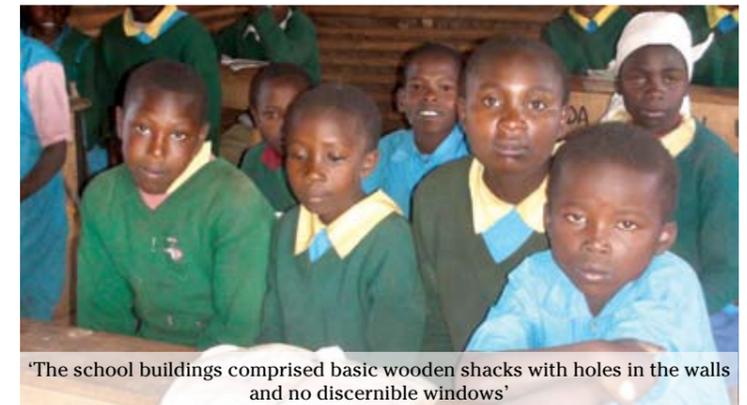
There was so much dirt and dust that within minutes our feet and clothes were filthy. Add to this a lack of running water and the most basic toilet facilities and it is no surprise that sickness is rife.

Teachers and children alike were polite and shy in communication, reticent to speak to us. We met two little kids, aged six and nine, who have no one looking after them at home but still walk ten miles to school and back every day.

This story is by no means unusual. Yet, in spite of their challenges, the teachers and parents made us welcome with a special meal cooked in our honour and even announced that from now on one of the school buildings will be named after Guilhem."



Introductions at Songloi Primary School



'The school buildings comprised basic wooden shacks with holes in the walls and no discernible windows'

An established partner: Kapkures Primary School

"What a difference we saw in the second school where we were greeted by a dynamic and vibrant deputy head teacher and a dedicated teaching staff who waxed lyrical about their three-year partnership with Build Africa over home-made pancakes and soft drinks. Six teachers and about a hundred excited students proudly escorted us around smart new school buildings with proper floors, fixed blackboards and correctly sized desks.

Yet the relationship with Build Africa has not been about hand outs but about educating and empowering the school stakeholders (parents, teachers, local authorities) to work together and deliver results themselves.

The school has moved from last to third place in academic league tables since the partnership started. They have even learnt a way to convert the steam from volcanic rocks into a permanent water supply stored in large tanks next to the school buildings.

And even more than the improved facilities and hygiene, they have discovered a palpable sense of unity and pride throughout the school, the feeling of something valued and shared. This for me was the discernible move forward.

The children here were cheeky and noisy, following me and Guilhem at a slight distance then darting forward to touch my skin or pull my hair, racing away giggling. Staff members walked tall: justifiably proud of their school, their pupils and their achievements. The day ended with a lively dance performance by the pupils and a rousing song dedicated to the Build Africa team.

This school has got rhythm.

Go Build Africa!"



'Six teachers and about a hundred excited pupils proudly escorted us around'



2012 Corporate Spotlight



Ollie at the 250-mile mark

We are grateful to all of our corporate supporters for their innovative, dedicated and courageous fundraising efforts this year. Without them we simply wouldn't be able to deliver our programmes in East Africa.

Microsoft

Since 2011 Microsoft UK have been raising funds for Mumbuni B Primary School in Machakos, Kenya, with their staff's fundraising efforts being matched by the company.

Annuity and Renewals Manager Daniel Langton has been leading the way in creating new engagement opportunities between Build Africa, Microsoft and its partners around the world. Some of these partners are now working with Build Africa to deliver a series of projects that will help us to improve our internal communications and data collection systems, increase our digital marketing and social media opportunities and upgrade our accounting system in the UK.

Daniel also visited the school in June, spending time with the school community, learning about the issues they are facing and cutting the 'red ribbon' to open the new classrooms that his staff had raised money for in 2011.



Microsoft UK's Daniel Langton visiting Mumbuni B Primary School

Thank you to Microsoft UK, not only for supporting the development of Mumbuni B Primary School, but for helping us to increase our impact and improve our systems as well.

beds & bars

Beds & Bars, a company with a rapidly growing chain of hostels and bars across Europe, have really been going the distance to raise money for Minalala Primary School in Mwala, Kenya:

'Beds & Handlebars'

A great name for a three-day, 250km cycle ride from Bruges to Amsterdam. With £11,500 raised for Minalala, the fifteen brave cyclists celebrated with a well-deserved finishing party at The Flying Pig Pub in Amsterdam.



The 'Beds and Handlebars' crew

'The Water Run'

Ollie Mason is raising awareness about water issues in the developing world by walking the 1,000 miles from John O'Groats to Land's End. Not only that, he will be spending the 60 days on the road with 20 litres of water slung across his shoulder. Beds & Bars are hosting welcome parties for Ollie at their various sites across the UK, and funds raised at each party will go towards Build Africa's water projects.

Beds & Bars have a varied and creative fundraising programme that also includes raffles organised for their Australia Day and St. Patrick's Day parties, a door charge for the Rugby World Cup and a £1 donation for every burger sold at their American style Beluschi's bars and for every returned key card deposit that their guests are willing to waiver.

We are so grateful for their creative fundraising ideas and we can't wait to hear what they get up to next. We also look forward to bringing two representatives from Beds & Bars to Minalala in October to show them how their company has changed hundreds of lives since 2011.

The staff of Cripps Harries Hall, a law firm based just up the road from Build Africa's office in Tunbridge Wells, have chosen to support Build Africa for a second year running and their fundraising just gets bigger and better. They have already raised £18,000 this year and nearly £30,000 to date to build classrooms and provide learning materials at Kong'asis Primary School in Gilgil, Kenya.



Bill Mackie and Mike Vos visiting each class at Kong'asis



The ground-breaking ceremony

Climbing Kili

In June, Bill Mackie and Mike Vos, partners at the firm, successfully ascended Mount Kilimanjaro, raising close to £8,000. After their intrepid climb, the two men travelled to the remote district of Gilgil to visit Kong'asis Primary School, where they took part in a ground-breaking ceremony for a new classroom block that Cripps Harries Hall are fundraising for. The two partners, one of whom visited the school last year, also toured the existing classrooms that the company helped fund in 2011, playing a game of Rounders with the children and meeting with the parents and teachers to discuss the future of the school.

Walking Hadrian's Wall

A group of Cripps employees also completed a wet and windy Hadrian's Wall Trek in June, raising £1,673 for Kong'asis Primary School. Despite the chronic fatigue, the aching legs and burning blisters, the walkers "marched on for the Build Africa cause knowing that failure was not an option!" (Becca Hawley).

26 miles of wall successfully walked



Aside from challenges, the firm has also hosted a range of its own fundraising events, including quiz nights (with some Build Africa staff joining in on the fun), a family fun day, a choir concert, and the firm's famous 'bun runs', raising thousands of pounds in the process.

All this has been made possible because Cripps Harries Hall has made its fundraising partnership with Build Africa a truly integral part of the firm's culture and ethos, bringing the firm closer together and keeping staff motivated and inspired throughout the year.

Thank you to everyone at Cripps Harries Hall for your on-going support and well done on your incredible fundraising efforts.



Debtwire, part of the Mergermarket Group, is a provider of data and intelligence within the financial markets industry.

Eight members of staff recently took part in London's Superhero Run, raising £2,000 with the help of their company's match-giving scheme. Thirteen employees will also be running the Royal Parks Half Marathon in October for Build Africa, and if that wasn't tiring enough, Mergermarket staff are also planning a London to Paris Bike Ride next year.

Thank you Mergermarket staff for all your 'heroic' efforts.



A super hero every one!

The late Mr. Aege's legacy of land

Leaving a legacy is one of the most personal and permanent donations an individual can make: it can leave a mark on a community that will be remembered for generations to come.

When Aege Charles Joseph died recently at the age of 76, his greatest wish was to leave his land to the local primary school.

"I do not have much land but I am giving what I have because that is the best I can offer in this world", he told us.

In rural Africa, where land is prized as one of the few assets that can be passed from one generation to the next, this sort of gift is extremely generous. But for Charles it was just the culmination of a life-long commitment to the development of his community. In 2008 he had already offered two acres of land for the construction of both a church and the Build Africa-supported school that now bears his name.



"I can think of no better gift to the children of Otimonga than the gift of land"

The late Aege Charles Joseph



Specioza Kiwanuka, Build Africa Uganda's Country Director, opening a new classroom block that Charles helped make possible



Charles (centre) with district education officials, parents, teachers and Build Africa staff



Some classes are still taught in temporary structures at Otimonga

Charles loved the school he helped to establish: he would monitor its progress daily, and contributed as much money as he could afford towards its immediate needs, including the salaries of its volunteer teachers. But as a long-serving member of the School Management Committee he was also concerned with his community's long-term prosperity:

"This village is poor simply because many people here are illiterate. I am offering my land to cultivate a generation of educated people who will develop this community".

"We have lost an irreplaceable figure in this school and community", the head teacher of Aege Otimonga Primary School, Jane Francis, told us. But Charles's legacy is great. His beneficiaries are the school children of Otimonga: for as long as their school provides them with an education, and with Build Africa's help an education that is getting better all the time, Charles will not be forgotten.

By leaving Build Africa a legacy we can give communities like Otimonga a better future.



A Build Africa legacy would give children a more comfortable and rewarding time at school

Frequently asked questions about leaving a legacy

Leaving a legacy to charity in your Will may be something you've already given some thought to. Understandably, you might have a few questions about how to go about it so we've put together a few FAQs and answers which will help.

Can I save tax by leaving a legacy?

This April the Government reduced Inheritance Tax (IHT) for those leaving a legacy to charity. Now, anyone who leaves a minimum of 10% of their estate to charity will benefit from a reduced rate of 36% instead of 40% IHT, thus increasing the value of the rest of your estate left to other beneficiaries.

How do I leave a legacy to charity?

Leaving a legacy to charity simply involves adding a short clause to your Will. Build Africa can provide you with suggested wording for the clause, but we suggest you take professional advice on this.

What if I don't have a solicitor?

You can search via The Law Society's 'Find a Solicitor' option on their website for local solicitors specialising in Wills and Probate (www.lawsociety.org.uk or call 020 7242 1222). Alternatively, if you would prefer a local and fully insured Specialist Will Writer to visit you in the comfort of your own home, you can find one via the Institute of Professional Will Writers (www.ipw.org.uk or call 0345 257 2570).

What type of legacy can I leave?

You can either leave a specific lump sum, or a percentage share of your estate. The latter is often considered the best method in case your estate changes substantially over the time since writing your Will. Again, do seek professional advice about what is best for you.

How much should I give?

Loved ones must of course come first in your thoughts and there is no set amount on what you should leave as a gift to charity. Any legacy, whatever the amount, really makes a huge difference to the lives of the children and their families we work with.

Can I leave a legacy to support a specific school?

The work we do and schools we work with changes over time according to the needs of the communities we work with. We can use your legacy in the most effective and flexible way if we can put it towards where the need is greatest so we can have the maximum impact on the people who need it most. We will of course let your family and friends know how the legacy has been used.

What do I do if I've already left you a legacy?

Nothing at all, but we really would like to thank you for your support. Please do get in touch to let us know so we can thank you personally and show you the difference your gift will make to children like those at Otimonga.



The grateful parents of Otimonga

If you have any further questions or would like to find out more about leaving a gift to Build Africa in your Will, please call Abi on 01892 519619 or email abi@build-africa.org.uk

Fundraising News

Calling all quiz buffs

The date: Wednesday 12th September 2012

The place: The Railway Tavern, opposite Liverpool Street tube, London EC2M 4NX

The occasion: A corporate fundraising quiz to raise money for our Build a School campaign

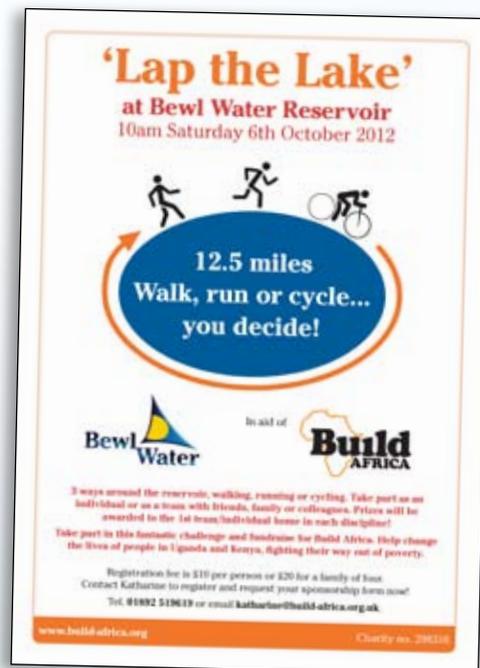


Hosted by bestselling author and Xfm Breakfast Show presenter, Danny Wallace, we promise your company team a fun and rewarding evening of quizzing.



Contact Chloe Laurence at chloe@build-africa.org for more details and to book a table at the corporate fundraising quiz event of the year.

Join us for a jaunt round Bewl Water in Kent



Making a splash for Kanorero Primary School



The girls making a splash for Build Africa

On 24th February eleven sixth formers from Casterton School completed a remarkable sporting challenge in support of Kanorero Primary School in Kenya. The goal was to swim the 65km length of Lake Naivasha, without leaving their school pool. With the staggering 3,657 lengths completed in under six hours, the girls were understandably overjoyed at their achievement:

"Swimming the last four lengths all together gave us all a great feeling knowing we had completed our challenge and we had succeeded in raising a lot of money for such a worthwhile cause", Harriet Ashworth told us.

