



UK Registered Charity 1110998

Gambia Education and Teaching Support NEWSLETTER

Issue 12 February 2011

Celebrating Sunrise!

**New Staff
New Hopes
New Dreams**

**After a tiring week and 18 interviews the
following staff were appointed with effect
1st January 2011**



We are delighted to present:

Education Director – Alieu Batchilly. Alieu has been Acting Director at the centre since February 2005. He has held a number of positions over the years, teacher, laboratory technician, examinations Assistant and general manager of a beach lodge. He is married with children and lives very close to the centre.

Snr Nursery Teacher - Kaddy Jawara. Kaddy has been teaching in nursery and primary schools since 1998 and qualified as an Early Childhood Development (ECD) Teacher in August 2005. Since 2006 she has been working with Project Aid as an ECD teacher in Bwiam. Kaddy is married to the Chairman of Brikama Area Council.

ECD Teacher – Fatou Cham. Fatou has been employed with GETS since 2005 as a teacher at our school in Bakoteh. This year, GETS decided to sponsor her for her ECD qualification at Gambia College, she is due to complete this in 2013. Fatou is married with 2 children.

Skills teacher (Tye dye & Batik) – Buba carr Fayinkeh. Buba has been employed at the skills centre since March 2006 and learned his skill from his parents. Buba is married with a daughter.

Snr Skills teacher (sewing & cookery) – Joanna Mendy. Joanna was a teacher at the skills centre but due to financial constraints left early last year. She completed her certificates in 1980 and then went on to serve with the Ministry of Education in 1982.

Classroom assistant—Fatou Sanneh (kindly funded by Tony Bounds and Erica Wren for two terms). Fatou has since 2006 been an unqualified teacher in the centre. She impressed the panel of interviewers – 'she is a natural born teacher'. It is felt the position of classroom assistant will enhance her development in the future and give us the extra support needed during the transition.

Skills teacher (maths & english) – Ali Bah. Ali came highly recommended. He taught maths at one of the local primary schools for 3 years before embarking on an accountancy course at University. As soon as he finishes teaching at the Sunrise, he rushes off to study at University until 8pm each day.

Skills Classroom Assistant (sewing) – Baboucarr Diallo. Baboucarr was employed in a voluntary capacity by the village development committee in the Centre. Although he is only on a fixed term contract until the end of the academic year, his sewing skills and his ability to repair the treadle sewing machines are invaluable ! Baboucarr is newly married.

<http://gets-sunrise.org/>

Tie-Dye Crazy!



Students preparing the tie-dyed fabric



The Finished article



The uniforms being skillfully sewn



New Uniforms for Staff and Students!

You might have noticed on page one the beautiful bright clothes that the new staff were wearing. These are the uniforms which the staff and children will wear, made by the tie-dye students at Sunrise. We also have badges on order, being made locally in Gambia.



Students trying out badge sizes



And it's not just uniforms—Gambians use Tie-Dye fabrics all over their homes, so it's a really valuable skill to have.



Glamorous model Helen



Get Involved!

WANTED!

The following items are desperately needed at our sunrise centre:

- *Educational CDs for nursery (ages 4-7)
- *Educational DVDs for nursery (ages 4-7)
- *Scissors suitable for nursery children
- *Bean bags
- *Skipping ropes
- *Pritt Childs Play Glue
- *Erasers
- *Pritt sticks
- *School exercise books

Your help with any of these items would be so gratefully received!



Extra Baggage Allowance for GETS Charity Items!

Thomas Cook has kindly agreed to allow passengers visiting the GETS Sunrise centre to take extra items for the centre with them at no extra charge. The extra allowance has to be pre-booked, and is a maximum of 20kg extra per person. If you are planning a trip out to the Gambia, why not start collecting some of the 'requested items' or books from our Amazon Wishlist?

To reserve extra baggage please contact Sheila for more information and an authorisation letter at enquiries@gets-sunrise.org.



If you are a regular Amazon shopper, why not consider taking a peek at our book wishlist? Supporters can now buy a book or books from our wishlist and take it with them when they visit the Gambia—delivering it personally to the classroom in which it will be used! Your donation could benefit the wider community as well as the school.

To view our wishlist, visit:

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/registry/registry.html?ie=UTF8&type=wishlist&id=1A2CTB5I4XJ1X>



Date for your Diary:

2011 AGM

The next AGM is scheduled for Saturday 3rd September 2011 in Nash, Newport.

RAISE FUNDS FOR GETSuk FREE WHEN YOU SHOP OR BROWSE ONLINE!

All you need to do is log on to the easyfundraising site at
www.easyfundraising.org.uk/gambiaeducationteaching



New teachers, new school

*A report from Erica Wren on the Sunrise staff appointments
in November 2010*



Helen Touray and Tony Nelson arranged the first visit for Tony Bound and I to the Bakoteh Community Centre in November 2009, when we met Alieu Batchilly, who showed us around. He spoke so passionately about his hopes for the future of the children and young adults there, if GETS were able to take over, that we were inspired to offer to help GETS in any way we could. Our idea was that we would be needed for building and other practical activities - in fact we ended up writing job descriptions, helping draft the advert for the local press, devising selection questions and finally interviewing teachers for Sunrise Centre in November 2010!

In addition to the excellent support of Helen and Tony N, who had already selected a shortlist, we were joined in this task by a most remarkable lady - Fatoumata Chow. She is a long-term friend of Helen and recently retired from her role as Headteacher of the local Lower Basic (primary) school, where she was responsible for almost 100 teachers working with 3500 children! Perhaps not surprisingly, she is known (throughout The Gambia it seems) as "The Iron Lady"... Her support was absolutely invaluable as we worked through the initial interviews of 18 candidates for a total of 6 posts, in just 3 days. She has accepted our invitation to visit us when she is next in the UK to see her son's family and we are really looking forward to introducing her to our local schools. Her most recent experience of speaking to junior-school pupils in the UK included being asked "Do you live in trees?" and "Do you have television?".

Naturally, some candidates were disappointed that they were unsuccessful but we all felt that for each post we had selected the best available person to recommend to the Trustees for appointment. We were desperately worried that there was no suitable candidate for the Maths/English post for the Skills students but, having declared herself "GETS' first Gambian volunteer", Mrs Chow produced a splendid young teacher who had worked in her former school before going to university to study as an accountant. Ali Bah was interviewed by Helen and appointed as soon as she had been able to consult the other Trustees. You can find photos of the teachers and a little about them on http://www.gets-sunrise.org/Our_Staff.htm

The trustees would like to thank Erica Wren, Tony Bound and Mrs Chow and Tony Nelson for all their hard work, without their help we would not have achieved this difficult task.

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The Sunrise interview panel: Erica Wren, Tony Bound and Fatoumata Chow.