



Gambia Education and Teaching Support NEWSLETTER

Issue 13 April 2011

Parties and Progress

If you'd like to offer us support of any kind please contact us; see page 3 for details

How your support goes such a long way in The Gambia

Letter from the Chair

Welcome to the latest GETS Newsletter which is again filled with news and pictures of our work in Gambia. Recent newsletters have concentrated on our exciting new project at the Sunrise Centre in Bakoteh and we will continue to bring you news and pictures of major developments at the Centre.

During my recent visit to Gambia, I delivered the toys and classroom equipment generously donated by staff at Domino UK Ltd, EMBL-EBI and the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute and which were enthusiastically received by both staff and students.

A bantaba for the Skills students, which will give them a shady area to work, is currently being built, generously funded by a GETS advisor. A recent donation of £1000 has allowed us to build a hut for the watchmen. It is planned that this building work will be completed before the start of the rainy season.



"Thanks to all staff at The Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute. EMBL-EBI and Domino UK Ltd for their generous donations to Sunrise"



If you're lucky enough to visit the Gambia, why not contact us to find out what items are on our current 'wish list'. Don't forget that Thomas Cook are offering a free extra luggage allowance for any donations you bring to us!

Future newsletters will have short articles from Skills students currently at Sunrise, explaining how GETS funding is helping them.

However, we must not forget that Sunrise is only part of the work that we do in Gambia. We are still administering the sponsorship of 70 individual students. We will try to include stories and pictures of these students in future newsletters and also follow up stories from students who have finished their education.

In this edition, 2 students, Sendeng Suso and Ebou Jarjue, who were sponsored by GETS, tell how it changed their lives.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Sheila

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

Sponsorship Updates



Alieu Beyai



Banding Bayo

GETS members support several Grade 12 students who will be sitting their final exams this year. We wish them 'Good Luck' in their exams and for the future.

Alieu Beyai attends a school called Nusrat Senior Secondary School in grade 12 c 3n. Alieu has been sponsored since March 2006 by the same sponsor. Banding Bayo attends Gambia Senior Secondary School in grade 12 am. Banding has been sponsored via GETS for 2 years

The difference your sponsorship can make...

"First of all, I would like to say I like the job I am doing. I am working as an administrator in Sunrise Centre which gives me the opportunity to put into practice the knowledge I acquired during my course of study.

GETS Sponsorship has completely turned a new page in my life because it provided me with the most precious resources which enabled me to obtain a Graduate Diploma in Management Studies. The sponsorship empowered me to be able to face challenges in life without problems and also take viable decisions when it comes to being a successful person in life.

Finally, I would be delighted if am given another opportunity to gain more experience in my education career. I believe with education all difficulties in life could be turned into opportunities to make life a success."



Sendeng Suso now works as an office administrator in the GETS office for Sunrise



Ebou Jarjue, now an IT Technician with help from GETS supporters

"I am currently working with a private Network company called MSBMTech. At MSBMTech we do a lot of IT Field works, for example we do LAN and WAN Networking, Computer Hardware maintenance, Printers and UPS Repairs, Software Installation and many others. It is through the help of GETS that I am now an IT Technician.

If GETS, was not here to support me. Well I'll say my dreams of becoming what I am would be in doubt, because my family is not in the position to pay for my tuition fees for all the IT Courses I studied.

I would like to thank GETS for making it possible for me to achieve some of my biggest dreams. My sincere thanks goes to Francis, Helen and former staffs of GETS who were so kind to me whenever I visited GETS. I would also thank Tony Nelson, for helping me achieve one of my wildest dreams of my life."

Sunrise Update



On Wednesday 9th March 2011, new Sunrise school uniforms were handed out to some very excited 4-6 year olds.

Each uniform in vivid orange and yellow is supplied with a woven schools badge in the form of the Sunrise Centre logo. Joanna Mendy reports that the girls have a smart smock style dress designed without buttons or zips. This ensures that the uniforms stay smart through out their life. The boys have simple shirts and brown shorts. The materials were designed and made using the tie dye method in the skills centre. The dresses and tops designed and made at the centre in the sewing class....a truly joint effort by all at the centre!

Sweet Treats— Gambian Style!



Joanna Mendy, the Senior Skills teacher made banana and rice cake for us. She makes a batter for the mix, using bananas, rice flour, oil and water.

Wet sand is put into the bottom of a large cooking pot which then goes over the log fire to heat up the sand. When it's hot, the cake mixture in a loaf tin goes into the pot, a lid is put on the top and hot charcoal placed on the lid. So the tin becomes an oven with heat from the top and the bottom. The cake was delicious and quickly consumed by my work colleagues back in the UK. — Sheila Plaister

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You are invited to attend our 2011 AGM which will be held on **Sat 3rd September at **12 noon** and will be at:**

**Nash Community Hall
West Nash Road
Nash, Newport
Gwent
NP18 2BZ**

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



Ebbeh Day!

Friday 25 Feb 2011, the Sunrise Centre held its first Ebbeh day. This is a great opportunity for all the school and others from the community to get together for some good food and to dance. The food is the centre piece and 'Ebbeh' is the dish that everybody wants to eat, and hence is the name given to these events. 'What is Ebbeh?' I asked The dish originates in Nigeria but has been adapted to the staple foods available in The Gambia and forms a spicy stew, deep red in colour with a variety of seafood and vegetables.



All the food was prepared on site by Joanna Mendy aided by the cookery skills classes.

Around 250 attended the event that started at 12.00 and finished at 17.00.

First food was served and then the dancing began. Fatgan and Madam from the skill classes said the food was great but the dancing was best. It was also good to meet up with friends from other schools in the area. 'When can we do it again?' they asked!



Fufu – This is a thick dough or porridge that is dipped into a soup made from Okra.

Chacri – This is a cold sweet made with sour milk and sweet couscous.

Naanburu – This is a cold sweet made with powdered rice, milk and Boabao juice

Ebbeh Recipe:

Ingredients – Cassava (or sweet potatoes), palm oil, smoked fish, cat fish, crab, oysters, chilli pepper, lime, daharr (spice), jumbo (salty spice).



Method

1. boil water and add chopped up cassava (or sweet potatoes).
2. when cassava is cooked remove from water and pound/mash to pulp and then return to pot.
3. add palm oil and leave to simmer for 5 mins
4. add remaining ingredients and simmer until cooked.
5. Serve in a dish – should be deep red, thick and spicy.



Sendeng Suso (see page 2) celebrated her 25th birthday on 7th March. We would all like to wish her a very happy belated Birthday!