



# New Hope for Africa (UK)

Newsletter – May 2020

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It will come as no surprise to you that the planned visits to the school in May and June have had to be postponed due to both travel restrictions in the UK and immigration controls in Uganda as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic. Uganda reported the first case of the virus on March 15<sup>th</sup> and shortly after that the Ugandan government closed all schools and universities and by the end of the month economic life had more or less come to a standstill and a 7pm curfew was imposed by the security services.

Sadly, the various fund raising initiatives associated with these team visits could not take place either. A visit in October by a team from 360 Vision for Africa in the USA is unlikely to go ahead but donations from child sponsors in the US have helped with providing much needed food for 100 families.

The pandemic has had a huge impact on the New Hope school. The day pupils must now stay at home and all the term time boarders had to return to their guardians or nearest relative. The teaching staff are doing all they can to maintain a degree of learning, using a WhatsApp group for day pupils and the staff who live nearby are helping as many pupils as they can.

It has been particularly difficult for the 100+ children and young people for whom the school is also their permanent home. Many families who attend the New Hope Believer's Church have "adopted" the majority of these students into their own homes with 31 still remaining at the school during this time. The school is trying to provide these families with the extra food they will need as they care for these children and young people until the restrictions are lifted.

The limited availability of food has pushed up prices considerably and real hardship is being experienced. It is vital at this time that the teaching staff and their families are supported as they have no other source of income other than what comes from the UK. There is no government furlough scheme to provide financial assistance. Without a teaching staff there would be no school so it is vital for the future of the school to do all we can to help them through these difficult times.



The directors of the school give thanks to God that no child or staff member has contracted the virus and they express their appreciation that the salaries were paid in full last month and some food supplies were purchased.

The absence of pupils equates to an absence of school fees which provide the income to purchase food, hygiene products, energy and other consumable items associated with running the school.

As of today there have been no deaths in Uganda associated with the virus but the government has given no indication when the current restrictions will be relaxed. There are no plans for teams from the UK to visit this year.

Thank you to everyone who supports the charity, your generosity brings enormous benefits to these children and young people and may God bless you through your giving.

Steve, Pat, Sue, Julia and Maxene – trustees NHfA(UK)

*"For I was hungry, and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was a stranger and you invited me into your home. I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you cared for me"  
I assure you, when you did it to the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me"  
Matthew 25:35-36, 40*



**NEW HOPE FOR AFRICA (UK) Registered Charity Number 1125726**  
**Transforming lives of vulnerable children and young people in Uganda**