



OLIVE BEARERS

SHOWING THE LOVE OF CHRIST IN A PRACTICAL WAY

Making Every Penny Count!

EVERY PENNY DONATED GOES TO POINT OF NEED – NO OVERHEADS!

BULLETIN No. 9 CHARITY NO: 1186167 February 2022

Website: www.olivebearers.org.uk

Email: info@olivebearers.org.uk

Well here we are, by God's abounding grace and loving kindness - already, almost two months into 2022. So much is happening globally that it can be overwhelming and cause the natural response to withdraw into self-protection. But folks, we still are here only to serve God.

In Him alone we live and breathe and have our being. Rise up in Him and be an abiding over-comer, stand on the Rock of Truth, lift our light higher and do all as unto Him who will redeem us, just as He said in, and it could be very soon.
Jesus is The Way!

We thank God that, although circumstances and situations in our lives may be challenging, there is only One Constant and His Name is Jesus. His Name will calm the raging storms, bring peace and comfort where there should be none, and provide for every need – according to His riches in glory!

If you don't know Jesus personally, and would like to know more, you can fix that right now... please get in touch.

And if I go and
prepare a place for you,
I will come back
and take you to be with me
that you also may be where I am.
You know the way
to the place where I am going."
John 14:3-4



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS AT ST ANNES

Once again, we had the privilege to share in the Christmas Celebrations at St Annes via Zoom. You could almost feel the warmth of the sun through the images! Grateful thanks to Ps Ben and Lily – and their lovely daughter, Janny, who directed the camera throughout. A quick screen shot during the zoom meeting showed her making sure everything was in order. Well done, Janny – you did a good job!



In the past, some sponsors have requested to send funds for their specific children for Christmas. This was of course wonderful for the

children concerned, but it also meant that the majority of children at St Annes and all of their families were not so blessed. This really touched our hearts and after much prayer and application, we were privileged to send funds to be used so that ALL the families/guardians and siblings of our school children could benefit from a small gift to enable them to enjoy their Christmas. The Appeal is called 'Food 4 Families'. They were given maize, beans, a small amount of sugar and a few KES – not much – but a small gift to many to show that we care.



Leah Awuor's grandmother – a most needy lady who has experienced much hardship in her life and cannot even walk straight due to serious back problems. Her grandson, Joseph, take responsibility of cooking, cleaning and washing clothes. Both Leah and Joseph are sponsored through the Olive Bearers Sponsorship Program

Just two of our sponsored adults receiving their small gift from their children's sponsors and Olive Bearers as part of the FOOD4FAMILIES Appeal



...and Rose Kange, mother of two of our sponsored children. Rose had serious health issues which limited her working as a water carrier to support her children – even to the point of losing their home. With the help of Ps Ben & Lily and Olive Bearers supporters, she received medical treatment and advice and is thanking God for a real breakthrough and new beginning. Please continue to pray for Rose to receive a complete healing touch from the Master.

Again, just a couple of screenshots showing two of our sponsored children receiving their Christmas Gifts from St Annes School – a new pair of school shoes and a second-hand school bag. We thank God for being able to bless these children in such a practical way.



Report from Olive Bearers Chair – Derek Wills

One of our original Trustees, John Sharman, expressed a desire to step down as Trustee at the end of last year.

Although John's involvement as a Trustee was all too short, his tireless dedication and attention to detail was an inspiration which has taken the charity to a whole new level.

John will be sadly missed as a Trustee but we know that God has other plans for him and we pray that he will continue to truly bless others - even more than he has done with Olive Bearers and BVCBO in the past and we know will continue into the future.

In order for us to continue to grow as a vibrant charity which is able to both improve and develop Trustees with essential skills, we would like to offer an opportunity for someone to join us who has a heart for our mission and a desire to become part of our dedicated team, particularly focusing on IT and/or Web Design skills.

We have put together a Profile as a guideline - but the most important aspect of this role is to have a heart for the mission and we believe God will be our teacher as He leads us forward, one step at a time.

If you are interested in applying, please email: info@olivebearers.org.uk



CHARITY NO: 1186167

OLIVE BEARERS

Website Design / IT Co-ordinator

Role:

Web designers plan, create and code internet sites and web pages, many of which combine text with sounds, pictures, graphics and video clips.

Tasks:

1. Testing and improving the design of the website
2. Creating or improving the website which is user-friendly, effective and appealing
1. Conceptualizing creative ideas
2. Maintaining the appearance of websites by enforcing content standards
3. Incorporating functionalities and features into websites.
Designing sample pages including colours and fonts

Skills and knowledge:

- visual design skills
- Desirable - Up-to-date experience with international web protocols, standards, and technologies
- Creative and open to new ideas
- Excellent communication skills

STATUS REPORT FROM PS BEN

ST. ANNES BUMALA EDUCATION CENTRE, JANUARY 2022

We take this chance to amicably share with you of the current status of St. Annes Education Centre. This is to make us aware of the progress that the school has made and the major developments and adjustments that have to be considered so as to properly secure our children's education.

CURRENT STATUS OF THE SCHOOL.

St. Annes has recorded a commendable increase in population especially after growing from ECDE Centre to Primary. Since it's also **the only Christian oriented school in Bumala** it has attracted the attention of many parents. In the near future, the school population might outburst the school's capacity!

CLASSROOMS

The school currently only has one (1) permanent ECDE block with only three classrooms. Due to increase in population and upgrade to primary, some of the ECDE classrooms had to be partitioned so as to at least make room for another class. Since the partitions decrease the class capacity, there has been **congestion** due to the increased population. **Disruptions** from pupils in the other class especially during lessons have been a prevalent

problem between the partitioned classes hence altering the effectiveness of our children's learning.



<< Partitioned classroom >>.



Poultry houses for classrooms!

Since the block could not accommodate all the primary classes even with the partitions, the school

lacked otherwise but to turn **poultry houses** into Grades 3 and 4.

Grade 5 class needed urgently

The school is currently at grade 4 who are graduating to grade 5 by April this year and yet there is not any room to accommodate them.

RECOMMENDATION - Construction of more classes

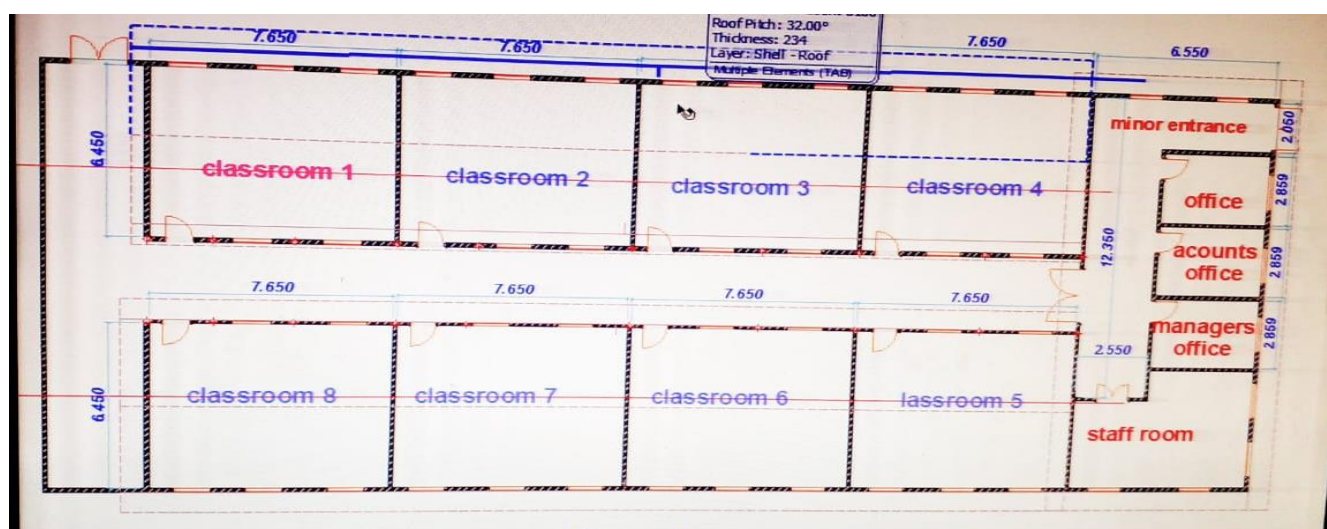
The above briefs indicate that there is an urgency for more classrooms with enough capacity to :

1. Handle the continual surge in population.
2. Make it easy for grade 4 pupils' transitions to grade 5.
3. Removal of partitions in other classes to leave more space.

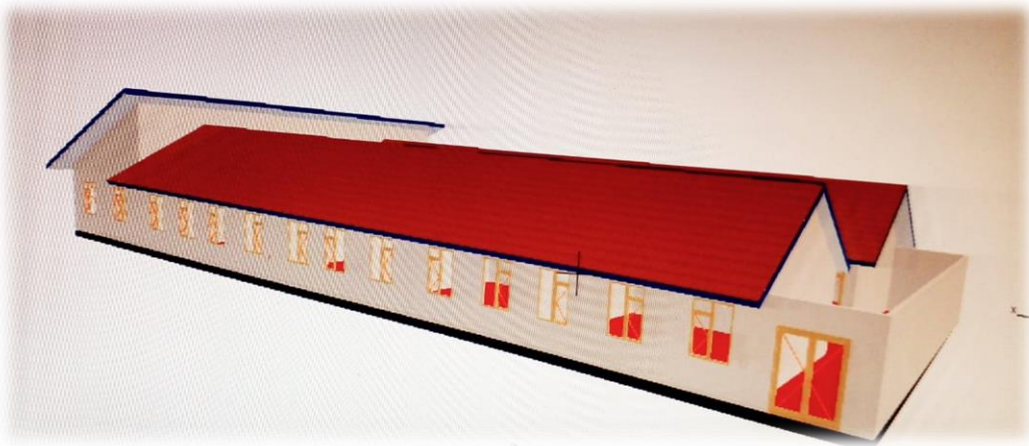
This has therefore made the management to anticipate for the construction of new classrooms.

The Building Plan

By the help of God we have therefore conceived an eight classroom plan as displayed below



The plan also includes a staffroom and school offices which the school has been operating without, - below is a vertical design.



The completion of this plan will enable us to have at least a complete school that will accommodate both ECDE, Primary and Junior secondary.

Swapped land parcel



We thank God for the land-owner of the land parcel bordering our school (behind the ECDE block) who accepted to swap his land with ours which is slopey.

This will ease the construction process since it is less costly to build on level ground as compared to a slopey land.



FIRST MATERIALS ARRIVING FOR THE NEW CLASSROOMS !

A call for support

The school therefore calls for supporters and donors to help in raising the funds required for the construction in order to preserve hope and a brighter future for our enthusiastic children who GOD has entrusted us with.

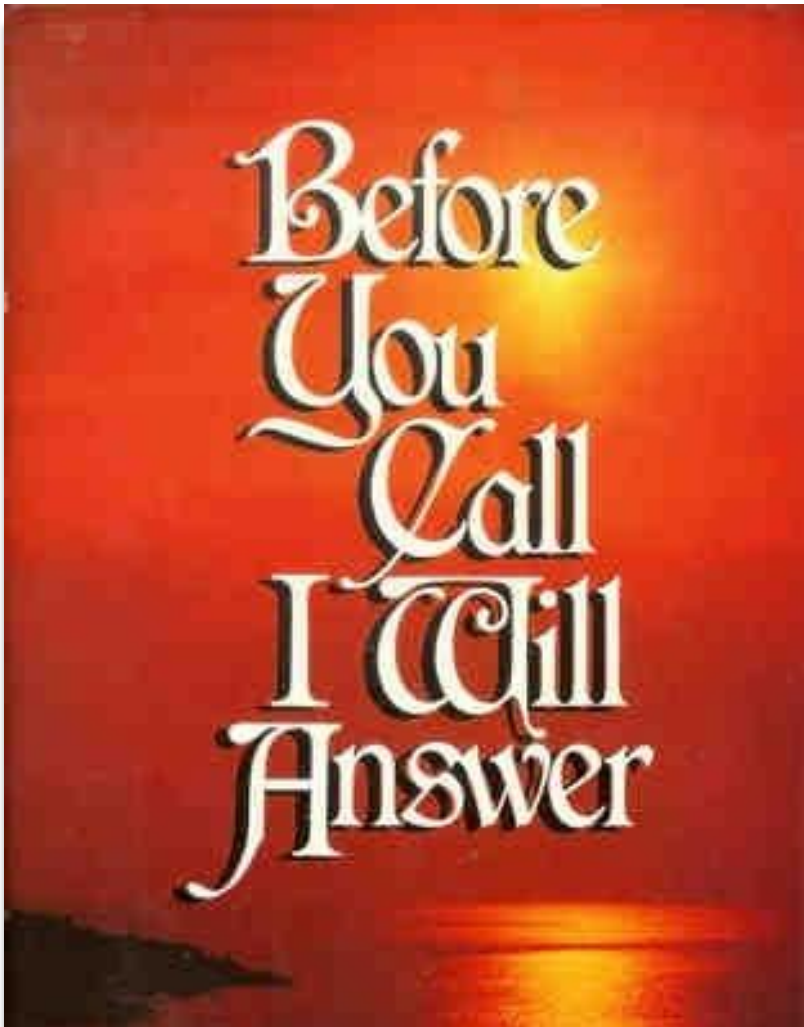
We thank God for Olive Bearers, for the splendid support and willingness to pour into these young lives. We also thank Bumala Vision CBO for amiable sacrifice and other partners who have expressed their big hearts in ensuring nothing less but hope and a smile for our children.

WE LOVE YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

Ps Ben, Lily and all at St Annes School, Bumala

Fundraising Update – Main Focus – New School Buildings

Isaiah 65 v 24 says, “...before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear...”



We truly thank God for the most generous donations received so far of just over £10,000 – some in the most unusual of ways – from face masks to lavender mice!! – and some significant donations, one of which was anonymous. We believe that God has a plan and will also provide every need according to His riches in glory.

On 5th February, we have been both **PRIVILEGED AND BLESSED** to be able to send **KES 1,926,286 (£12,603.07)** TO ENABLE THE BUILDING OF TWO CLASSROOMS TO BE CONSTRUCTED BY APRIL 2022. **BWANA ASIFIWE!!!**

This is within our grasp and will take care of the most urgent needs and give us time to continue to fundraise and seek grants to enable the remaining classroom block and offices to be completed.

We know from experiences in UK how the cost of building supplies is rocketing and are often not even available. Today, the cost of the 8 classroom block is almost as much as the two-storey building we were looking to erect just a few years ago.

Please help us by praying into this great need and by joining us in helping our School grow sufficiently in the years to come.



STUDENTS SETTING A FINE EXAMPLE : PRAYING !!

HUGE THANKS TO.....

We are so **very grateful** to everyone who gives to Olive Bearers – either on a regular basis or a ‘one off’. Once again, a number of folk have really stepped up their giving to Olive Bearers. Here are just a few.....



CHRIS WILLIAMS (aka ‘YBIC’ (Your Brother In Christ) has been a supporter since the very beginning.

During Lockdown1, he decided to **grow his hair** and use as a sponsorship fundraiser!



Then came the day when his barber had a field day!!... and we got our old Chris back!!

This initiative has brought in a total of almost **£500** which has gone towards the new school build, and the appeal



In the past, these simple events have provided opportunities for us to get together, share ideas, receive updates on the mission at St Annes. They have also made a significant impact on the lives of ordinary folk in Bumala – not least by providing for all their Christmas activities (including gifts for both staff at St Annes and every sponsored child – but for enabling FOOD4FAMILIES to become a reality.

We hope very much that you will be able to join us at these events and be a part of a massive blessing where there would otherwise be none

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.....



Sat 14th May & Sat 14th September

Bring & Buy & Windyridge

Sat 19th November

Christmas Craft Fayre



Prayer Points

- Thanksgiving – we thank the Lord that THIS far He has brought us all and protected us.
- Pray for all Board Members of BVCBO for wisdom and integrity
- Strength, peace, health and wisdom for all teachers & staff at St Annes School. Also pray for all children and guardians/parents as they deal with the pressures of the current education timetable
- Pray for the children not yet sponsored that they will not lose hope
- Pray for existing and new sponsors
- Pray for doors of opportunity to be opened in schools and churches in UK to share the mission and the journey
- Pray for God to make a way for the new school to be built to cater for Grade 5 by May 2022 and Grades 6, 7 & 8 in the near future.

THANK YOU so very much for all your help and support.

Without you, Olive Bearers would not exist and, more to the point, neither would ST ANNES SCHOOL, BUMALA.

So many lives are being changed daily because of your sacrificial giving and we are so grateful.

From Ps Ben, Lily and Olive Bearers Trustees

To keep up to date with our activities and get in touch, please visit: -

www.olivebearers.org.uk

email: info@olivebearers.org.uk



Another Way You Can Help

In these days of COVID restrictions, we continue to seek ways to raise funds. One effortless and cost effective way is to shop online using SmileAmazon.co.uk at no extra cost to you or our Charity.

THANK YOU to our supporters who have already helped boost our funds by shopping this way

TYPE IN 'AMAZONSMILE' INTO YOUR WEB BROWSER, LOG IN AND SELECT OLIVE BEARERS AS YOUR CHOSEN CHARITY