

Newsletter: July 2009

EducAid in the Global Recession

The dramatic drop in the value of the UK pound has hit EducAid hard, and we are facing a shortfall that might require cutbacks in staff. This in turn would lead to a cutback in student places. Fortunately, we received an unexpected and extremely generous donation from a big City Charity Day. We are very grateful to all those involved!

We are committed to meeting our goals and maximising donor contributions, and the Trustees will do everything they can to ensure our students continue getting the education they deserve.

Paris to Brussels Sponsored Bike Ride 11th - 13th September 2009.

If you would like to get involved either in sponsoring, collecting sponsors, joining the bike ride or doing a parallel one at the same time in a more moderate style, please contact Janetbroadhurst@aol.com for details and further information.

In 2007, 40 cyclists made nearly £20,000 for EducAid. With your support let's make this even more successful.

Great fun and in a great cause.

EducAid's Growing Presence on the Internet

This month we are launching our new and enhanced website (address remains the same at www.educaid.org.uk) with many useful features, including a facility for online donation, information on our partner schools in the UK, reports from volunteers who have been to Sierra Leone, and individual histories of successful students.

In other online news, we have set up a 'Friends of EducAid Sierra Leone' page on Facebook and welcome new members. We also have established an up-to-the-minute update in the form of our blog, which can be found at

www.educaidsierraleone.blogspot.com.

Many donors and supporters are finding this a useful tool, particularly those individuals, schools, churches and organisations who have a long-term relationship with EducAid.



Please pray for:

The families of Aminata Kabia and Mohamed Kargbo, Magbeni students who died last term

The swift recovery of teacher Raymond Koker who has very serious TB

The appropriate diagnosis and treatment to be accessed by head boy Abu Bakarr Koroma who nearly died of unidentified abdominal ascites and infections in March but who cannot be treated in Sierra Leone.



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Patron Alex Ross.

As we come to the end of our ninth year of school, we are starting to see some of our first students coming to the end of their studies.

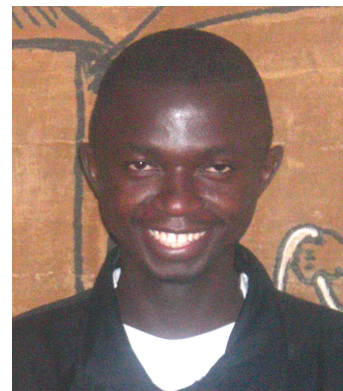
Founder pupil, Ezekiel Nonie, who had been out of school for seven years, never expecting to be able to finish his education, qualifies as a teacher this summer. He was living in a small kiosk when he first attended EducAid and would regularly fall asleep in class. When he moved into the school he improved considerably and was in the first group to sit his junior public exams. On finishing senior secondary school he served as a junior member of staff, teaching in Rolal and Maronka and was identified for sponsorship by an old friend of EducAid. He did his teaching practice in EducAid Lumley last year and we will be delighted to offer him a full time job in September.

Mohamed Sannoh who has been with EducAid for even longer than Ezekiel, in that he was part of the original sponsorship programme from the age of approximately ten, finishes his accounting degree this summer. Mohamed fled the war when he was around six and ended up in Freetown by a circuitous route landing eventually in a homeless boys' centre where he first came across EducAid and received initial sponsorship. When one visitor to EducAid accompanied him back to the village he had fled so long before he told him his whole story. The full transcript can be found on:

http://www.educaid.org.uk/EducAid_Sierra_Leone/Mohamed_Sannoh.html

Those of you who have heard Miriam speak will have probably heard her say that the 'big picture' in Sierra Leone is incredibly daunting - thinking about the endless corruption, mortality statistics and endless forms of poverty is discouraging at times to the point of being overwhelming. It is contemplating the 'small picture' that makes it possible to keep going. The small picture is the individuals, the likes of Ezekiel, Mohamed and so many others whose courage in the face of unbelievable challenges makes it a privilege to work with them.

EducAid is in the extraordinary position of being something like a catalyst for some amazing youngsters, unprovided for by their own government, to realise their potential and contribute to the building of their country. Education in Sierra Leone is traditionally the preserve of the wealthy and is generally used by the elite to maintain their control. We are very proud of the different attitude of our youngsters as they gain their education.



Ezekiel Nonie



Mohamed Sannoh

Some past EducAid Students about to start tertiary studies:



Janet Mbayo - Community Health



Issa Fowai - Engineering