

# Friends of AICM Newsletter

December 2008

## A Visit to Uganda



Early on the morning of Friday, 3rd October, Colin Townsend and Lawrance Titterton, both Trustees of Friends of AICM, took off from Gatwick for Uganda. Although there were to be a few days of relaxation, the main reasons for this trip were to be fact finding and training and also, rather poignantly, to represent the Friends at a ceremony of dedication of the newly equipped workshop to the memory of Graeme Naish, until recently an honorary Trustee.

terms of equipment, infrastructure, software and skills.

To address this and to provide the students of the VTC with the best possible chance or acquiring life changing skills that will make them self sufficient, the Friends of AICM plans to establish an upgrade project that will address each of the issues currently facing the VTC. We are looking for an experienced and skilled project manager to take ownership of, and manage this project. Working closely with a Trustee of The Friends of AICM, the project manager will take responsibility for part or all of the following: planning, resource acquisition and transportation, commissioning, training and implementing maintenance processes.

If you have IT experience and feel that the time is right to give something back to a community, this may be the opportunity for you. If you are interested in either of these tasks, please get in touch with any Trustee or email [enquiries@aicm.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@aicm.org.uk) giving some details of yourself.

### Enoch's Travels

The Lambeth Conference for Bishops of the Anglican Communion takes place every ten years at the invitation of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Bishop Enoch Kayeeye, who founded AICM, attended in July with his wife, Phoebe and made the trip more memorable by arriving early to visit many old friends and acquaintances.

Whilst at Lambeth he was invited to a bishops` course at Canterbury starting on Jan 23rd. He is now going to arrive in Oxford about the 9th January and will be in Scotland from the 10th, Belfast from the 15th, Manchester from the 20th, back to London for the 22nd, then on to Canterbury for the course. On Saturday 31st, he arrives in Kent, then on to Jersey for the 3rd and back to Oxford for the 9th. If you're interested in meeting up with him, get in touch with any Trustee.



### Contacts

Treasurer: Canon John Tapper, Mill Cottage, Mill Lane, Sissinghurst, Kent, TN17 2HX.

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The roads between Kampala and Kabale seemed to be getting worse, but the travellers had a warm and loving welcome when they arrived at AICM after 8½ hours on the Saturday evening. Sunday was rest and worship, but on

Monday they visited the VTC outlet shop opposite the Queen’s Hotel to see how business was and to look at the quality of the furniture.

On Tuesday 7th, Colin visited the workshop, whilst Lawrance checked out the PC lab. Colin was impressed with the competence and knowledge shown by the staff of four. Two, Johnson and Blessing, were the “production” team, whilst Everest and Samuel were responsible



for training ten students. High humidity made difficult conditions worse, but in general, the staff operated well within safety limits, although Colin was able to do much in improving their use and understanding of the machines they had.

Lawrance found problems in the computer lab with a number of the PCs inoperable and the remainder with a range of operating systems from Windows 95 up to XP. This made uniform training impossible and the lack of networking prevented effective maintenance and management of the PC suite. A lack of PC accessories (boards and projectors) made teaching difficult and this was compounded by the frequent power outages. It is apparent that a change to the PC provisioning policy is



required to overcome these problems. On Wednesday 8th, C and L visited a Batwa settlement with Richard, the Field Co-ordinator, after purchasing some clothing as gifts. Dreadful poverty was

Also present were the Chairperson, Deputy Executive Director and Members of the AICM Board supported by the department staff.

All spoke very warmly of Graeme. He was well remembered and much loved. Colin was able to tell everyone what a positive occasion his funeral had been, and how much he had served his Lord in the UK as well as Africa. There was much excitement and joy about how well the workshop had been equipped. After the speeches, everyone burst into song:



*“Tukutendereza Yesu!  
Yesu Omwana gwe ndiga,  
Omusayi gwo’gunaziza!  
N’ebaza Yesu O’mulokozi!”*      *“We thank and praise Jesus!  
Jesus, the lamb of God,  
Whose blood washes away all sins!  
We thank Jesus the Saviour!”*



This is the popular Luganda chorus, which was composed by members of the 1935 East African Revival, which started in the Kigezi region (and which strengthened the Evangelical movement and the Anglican Church in East and Central Africa). The photo shows Timothy, Colin, Robinah Barintuma (Dep Dir-Gen) and Lawrance at the unveiling.

The ceremony was a fitting way of remembering a lovely man who did a great deal of good for very many people.

### HELP

A number of volunteers are required, with details on the website, but for those without access, they are basically for general fundraisers and a specific one to project manage the VTC PC lab improvements.

For fundraising, we are just after people who are creative and innovative and can turn challenges into successful ways of raising some money for the needy in south-western Uganda.

The VTC one is more specific and involves the PC lab where basic computer courses are offered. This area is severely under resourced in