

# FRIENDS OF KAIRA KONKO

EMERGENCY NEWSLETTER  
7<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2008



Dear Sponsors and Friends,

The Fellowship is currently experiencing difficult times. The Dalasi, Gambia's currency, has dramatically devalued by a third in the last year. This has had a huge impact on our budget. It means we have to find more sponsors and donations if we are to maintain our current commitments, the priorities being the rice fund and education. In real terms, a sack of rice is costing us £12 instead of £9.

In addition, the refurbishment of the main hall at Kaira Konko is costing over £2,000 more than anticipated. This is £2,000 we don't have and has resulted in the project being put on hold. This is due to building materials being in short supply and therefore the prices haven't risen dramatically. Demand for building materials is high in Africa in general with South Africa being the largest buyer as they will host the next football World Cup and so construction there is on a very large scale.

We now have a more pressing problem. The Kolley Family's mud block home is falling down. Their elderly father is disabled and can no longer move without crutches. His five children are sponsored through school and are members of the Scout Group at KK spending their spare time there. We also provide rice for the family. Pa Kolley had always worked hard on the land but is very poor. He can no longer support his family due to his disability and this is causing him great distress.

Having looked at the home last December we thought we could make repairs to the roof but it has deteriorated so badly that only a new build is feasible. The new home will have solid foundations, clay blocks which will be plastered, wooden trusses and a corrugate roof. There will be four rooms in the block each opening onto the veranda. This is a pretty basic but solid construction and will serve them well for years to come. Currently the only safe place to sleep is in an old tent under the stars.

With Kinteh's guidance and estimates we have agreed to fund £1,800 to build the block. The money has been loaned to us, interest free, enabling work to commence next week. It must be completed before the start of the rainy season.

With this in mind we desperately need more sponsors and donations. Please give some thought to any friends, family or work associates who may be able to help either through sponsorship or fundraising and show them the newsletters. We have enclosed a sponsorship/donation form which you are free to photocopy. You may wish to increase your sponsorship too.

Collectively we have made a huge difference to the lives of the children and people of Soma.

Thank you so much for your continued support.

Mike Chance  
Chairman  
Kaira Konko Scout Fellowship



*Marion with Pa Kolley at KK*

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