

“making a real difference” in

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Potho – an update and a legacy

In my last newsletter I reported that Potho, who had represented Sierra Leone at Under 17 football, had died of Malaria. I have established that he had received some initial medication, but the family were unable to fund the next stage of treatment. As there is no NHS in Sierra Leone, if a family is unable to find the funds they cannot get the required treatment – a sad fact, but a true one.

In my 16 years of involvement in Sierra Leone the loss of Potho has affected me more than any other event. Many thanks to all those who have sent messages of support – I greatly appreciated them.

I have set up **“Potho’s Fund”** to provide funding for any essential medical treatment we may need for the lads at Mahera Wharf, or other projects, in the hope of preventing a similar situation in the future. I have already received a couple of donations and if anyone is interested in supporting the fund please contact me, preferably by e-mail.

Calvary Praise Academy

The well at the school is complete and the concrete lid is also ready. They have just started to build the water tower, as you can see from the photos, and then the 5,000 litre Jo-Jo tank will be put in place, the submersible pump will be fitted and then all the pipework will be done to provide a water supply to the school and community. Many sincere thanks to Oxford Isis Rotary Club for sponsoring this project and to District 1090 for providing us with a matching grant for the project.



Christian Hope School

With support from the Rotary Clubs of Banbury and Oxford Isis and with matching grants from Rotary District 1090 we were able to supply furniture to enable the school to register as an examination centre. Previously the pupils were having to travel a long distance to another centre to take their exams. It also means that they can allow pupils from other schools to sit exams at the school thus earning some valuable extra income.

“Brother Alan, you have totally changed the face of our community. It was a wonderful moment when our children took the WASSCE exams in the Christian Hope School, the school you built for us. You have total eradicated the constraint our children were going through and we are happy to tell you that the WASSCE exams were conducted successfully. We really appreciate you and your supporters for the 70 desk and bench sets you provided for the exams. We thank you so much for everything. God bless you and your helpers”.

Shipment bound for Freetown

I am pleased to report that my consignment of goods will arrive in Freetown next Wednesday, earlier than expected, – photos to follow.

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