

## THE VISION

Of education to be of value it must be infused with understanding—changing educational practice is vital for Uganda where rote learning is the norm. Quality education that embraces all of life is needed for the future of Uganda.

Children need to understand what they learn and be able to apply this knowledge; they need to be aware that with firm personal conviction and the power of God, that change can come for their country.

Jinja Christian School is a new primary school in Wairaka, Jinja District, Uganda (90km from Kampala). It has been established by Ron and Anne Matheson and opened its doors to pupils in February 2013.

## TEACHING IN UGANDA

The regular training for a Ugandan primary school teacher is completion of the equivalent of Year 10 and then a two year diploma. The traditional teaching style involves writing work on the blackboard for students to copy the work, with the idea that largely students will memorise the information in order to pass exams. Repetition is used liberally. Students learn without understanding or application. Children with poor starts, or those who are challenged academically are not the focus in the large classes and failure is acceptable.

Change is needed.



## YOU CAN HELP

### PRAY

- Pray for Jinja Christian School, Ron and Anne, the students and staff.

### ASSIST

- Offer assistance to help with a regular newsletter, finances, donations, communication.

### GIVE

- Towards the building and equipment of the school.
- Towards the ongoing costs of running the school as it develops.
- Payment of a child's fees for a year.
- Financial support for Ron and Anne.

### Bank Details

Special account of Yarra Valley Vineyard Christian Fellowship for Jinja Christian School

**BSB:** 063535

**Account Number:** 10479692

Please include your name with any donation and contact us so that we know what the money is to be used for or put towards.

# CHANGING EDUCATIONAL PRACTICE FOR THE FUTURE OF UGANDA



## KEEP IN TOUCH

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## THE SCHOOL

The school opened with the three lowest classes of primary school with the view to bring about change from the bottom up. It is now growing by one class a year. In addition to an extra class, in 2014 Jinja Christian School will see the addition of a composite class to cater for the later primary years for the Village of Hope (local children's home), this will also provide an opportunity to trial and prepare different educational methods. The school has been rapidly growing since opening and at the end of 2013 has 85 students.

The school teaches the Ugandan curriculum using locally developed resources. A significant feature of the school is that Christ is the centre and the Bible is the authority for decisions. Faith is being nurtured and grown in the lives of the students. The teachers are all local Ugandans with Anne and Ron at this stage in leadership positions. This will change as skills develop and a better understanding of methods are gained.

Jinja Christian School is providing a testing ground for practices and is being developed as a model school that can be replicated in other parts of Uganda, with methods that can be transferred to teachers in other schools. It is also anticipated that new schools will be developed in remote areas. Training programs for teachers from other schools will start in 2014.

The first year of operation has been successful. Teachers have taken on board new methods, are recognising the needs and gifts of each child in their classes and are

enjoying the journey of development. Children are largely keen to learn, relishing the differences and are fully involved in developing in all areas. Sponsored children have been able to go to school (and a good one at that) despite their desperate situations (the only food some of these children eat is that provided at school).

Change means getting alongside teachers, providing learning for them in regards to curriculum and then working on how to teach using the limited resources available. Importantly large class sizes are inevitable with a median age in the country of less than 15, so methods are being developed with this consideration.



## RON & ANNE MATHESON

Ron and Anne, after spending a year in Uganda working with Hopebuilders International, have felt the call of God to build a school and use their gifts and abilities as teachers to develop Christian education in Uganda. They go with the backing, blessing and support of Yarra Valley Vineyard Christian Fellowship.



Their heart is that children will come to know Jesus, to understand what they learn and to bring about change for a great country. They spend approximately 6 months a year in Uganda living at the school, the other half of the year involves: being back in Australia for family, working to pay the bills, keeping close contact with Uganda and using the time to develop curriculum and educational resources.

## SCHOOL COSTS

\$3	for a reader
\$25	for teacher from another school to attend professional development program
\$80	for a child to have lunch at school each day for a year
\$290	for a child to be fully sponsored for a whole year – this includes education, uniform, lunch each school day, all school books and equipment; and medical costs
\$300	paint for buildings
\$1000	classroom furniture
\$10,000	computers for school and community use
\$10,000	budget for new teacher accommodation

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