



Action Udobo Newsletter



No 26 December 2012



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Pictures of a visit from the Fire Brigade and the inaugural Debs' Ball!**

From the Chair of Action Udobo

Dear Friends,

As I review the activities that you will read about in this Newsletter, I am tremendously encouraged both by your kindness and dedication to supporting the Udobo School, but also the response from the School to new opportunities through the income that comes from the UK.

Rev. Ansie Liebenberg visited the UK in September, at the tail end of a summer of celebration for the UK, with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations and then London 2012 with the Olympics and Paralympics gracing our nation. Ansie was able to see firsthand some of the love and joy shown by our supporters in Alrewas, Letchworth Garden City and Archway, London in an all too fleeting visit to some of the activities and people working for Udobo in the UK. She took home many memories and a greater understanding of how monies are raised in this country for the work in South Africa. Importantly, the Trustees were given a better insight of the work and an update from the time when Kathy and Mirriam and

then Kathy and Graeme visited us previously. We are richer in God's love and mercy from Ansie's visit and you can read about the visit and the inspiration that that has given both us and Ansie since September.

I am hoping that this Newsletter reaches you before the 'Christmas rush', but commercialisation of the centre of our Christian hope requires us to be subjected to Christmas songs and Christmas 'baubles' in our shops way too early these days. If only the true spirit of Christmas went with the eagerness of the retailers to remind us to spend, spend, spend!

However, I will take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas when the 25th December arrives and may the Lord Jesus Christ continue to bless you and thank you for your financial and prayerful support for the Udobo School.

David Latter

Chair of Trustees

From the Secretary

Dear Friends

Ansie's whirlwind visit to the UK has come and gone and with it, a wonderful time of fellowship, focus on funding and forward planning.

Moving between Alrewas in the

Midlands, Letchworth in the South East and Marble Arch in London, Ansie attended meetings, addressed groups, delivered sermons and provided an update on developments within the school.



Ansie with Action Udobo trustees – from left Paul Weary, Peter Cannell, Ansie, John Sharman, Jenny Victor, Susan Hughes, David latter, Patrick Hughes

News from South Africa is that the Department of Health has now approved the school but the processing of any further government funding has been put on hold, due to insufficient funds. As a result, meeting the daily running costs of the school

continues to be a challenge. Whilst this is a concern, Ansie's chief priority is the education of the children. To this end, she is focusing her efforts on keeping a core group of children at the school for several years, in order to equip them with the skills needed to enter primary

education. Ever mindful of the old adage, 'give a man a fish and he will eat for a day but teach a man to fish and he will eat for a lifetime,' Ansie has invited parents onto the governing body and has begun involving them in fundraising for the school. Furthermore, she is encouraging them to contribute a little towards school fees in an effort to prepare them for having to pay mandatory fees when their children enter primary school.

On the administration front, the Pastel Accountancy Package is now in place and should soon be ready to launch. The JoJo tank continues to supply much needed water, this in spite of it having been sabotaged by a troop of mischievous monkeys! You will also be pleased to know that Durban has been enjoying an unprecedented rainfall. In spite of on-going challenges, Ansie said she remained optimistic and expressed her heartfelt thanks for the unfailing support shown by Action Udobo UK in helping to maintain and sustain the school.

During a meeting with the trustees, Ansie elaborated on the need for a table place for each child in the Reception class and a desk for each of the teachers. In good faith, she

came prepared with a quote. Her faith was rewarded, for there was enough money available for both tables and desks and her request was immediately approved. The classroom furniture has since been purchased and installed much to the delight of the children and their teachers – another great result, thanks to your generous giving. The development of the school library is next on Ansie's list of priorities. Less pressing, but to be considered, is the installation of a basin in each classroom and a second JoJo tank, sometime in the future.

In moving Udobo forward, we will continue to maintain and build links between the school and Action Udobo UK. The possibility of Skype links between Udobo and schools in the UK has been discussed. It is hoped such links will connect teachers and their pupils globally and encourage the exchange of ideas and skills. Ansie has also asked us to be pro-active in thinking of ways in which to ensure equal opportunities for all children and to encourage our young people to do the same.

She has links with several ministers in the UK with whom she will put us in touch to aid us in our networking.

Fundraising continues to generate income for the school and as was mentioned in the previous issue, Udobo has several events planned. These include Popcorn, Juice and DVD mornings, a Trashion Show, a Valentine's Day Hamper Draw, Scooter Race, Sponsored Walk, Line Dancing, Christmas gift wrapping and an International Dinner. The trustees think it would be wonderful if we could mirror the



Ansie speaking at Norton Methodist Church

fundraising initiatives in South Africa. Perhaps this could be done in Pre-Schools around the UK. If you have any fundraising ideas or would like to spearhead a fundraising initiative, we would love to hear from you.

On the subject of fundraising, our sincere thanks goes to all who have donated and continue to donate to Udobo. Whether it be the organising of fundraising events, participating in them or by giving to the fund, your support is invaluable for it provides the children of Udobo with a solid foundation on which to build.

Ansie's schedule was indeed hectic. Nevertheless, she managed to squeeze in a couple of leisurely lunches, a stint of charity shopping and visits to some of our finest stately homes. She was bowled over by their grandeur and fascinated by their histories. Ansie thoroughly enjoyed her visit to the UK and was truly touched by the warmth with which she was received wherever she went. Thank-you to everyone who accom-

modated her, entertained her or came out to meet her.

The book of Ecclesiastes reminds us that there is a time and a season for everything and the time has come for us to say good-bye to Action Udobo trustee, Peter Cannell. Since establishing UK Friends of Udobo ten years ago, Peter has worked tirelessly and faithfully in keeping the lines of communication open, transferring monies collected and seeking out support from across the UK. During this time, he has helped raise a remarkable £125,000 for the school. Peter has opened many a door and in so doing has deeply

enriched the lives of so many children at Udobo. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his dedicated service and to wish him a well-earned rest. We shall truly miss having him on board.

In closing, I reflect on Ansie's sermon about 'The Woman at the Well,' which serves to remind us that even the poorest, most

marginalised members of society are truly loved and valued by God. Let this wonderful assurance be the impetus for our continued work alongside Ansie and her team in providing the children of Udobo with a sound education based on the unfailing love of an all-powerful God.

Jenny
Secretary



New tables and chairs donated by Action Udobo.



*Far Right:
Visit from
the Fire
Brigade*

*Right:
Fun in the
foam!*



Ansie in Alrewas

We were delighted to welcome Rev'd Ansie Liebenburg, and take the opportunity to learn more about the Udobo School, and how they are coping in difficult economic times.

Ansie preached at All Saints Parish Church, Alrewas, and led morning prayers at All Saints Primary School, when she was presented with £200, which had been raised by the children. She was able to engage with the children, and talk to them about the life of a child attending Udobo School. It is hoped that it will be possible to set up a direct 'Skype' link between the two schools to enable the children to talk to one another.

Ansie also had the opportunity to visit Repton School, and address morning prayers in the School Chapel. Afterwards she joined a couple of older groups of pupils for their RE classes, and to discuss with them the situation in South Africa. They were amazed to hear that as 16 / 18 year olds they were already better qualified in English than the

majority of teachers in South Africa, and indeed had better general qualifications than some members of the South African Government! Again it is hoped to be able to set up a closer link between Repton and Udobo, to the mutual benefit of both schools.

While Ansie was with us, we held a fund raising event at Alrewas Methodist Church, where she spoke about the work of the school, and also attended the Circuit Local Preachers' Meeting.

It was a hectic and joyful visit, and we were so thankful to have been able to meet with Ansie, and to share with her about her vision for the school. We pray that God will continue to inspire her in her work, and we must continue to support her, the staff and the children of Udobo School with our prayers and gifts, and continue to encourage others to support this work.

*Patrick & Sue
Alrewas, September 2012*



Above: A splash in the pool



Below: the inaugural Debs' Ball

