



David School Messenger

The David School

Education Changes Lives

New Buildings Completed

The David School's latest building project has been completed after years of planning and weeks of building. This time it's not a classroom block but a toilet and shower block for the school pupils and staff.



Ever since the idea of the school was conceived, over 10 years ago, the Trustees have set out to improve the health of the pupils, by providing clean drinking water and teaching health education, including basic hygiene & first aid. For many years they have wanted to provide the school with proper toilet facilities, and with the generous support of many people the money was raised to allow the building to take place.



Firstly, as mentioned in the last Messenger, a new water hole was bored. *(Right)*

Then a septic tank was dug and lined with bricks, which involved a team of around a dozen men. *(Left)*

Next, a water tower was constructed to provide running water for the new block. Foundations were dug, and four concrete pillars constructed. On these a concrete platform was built, on which a 5000 litre plastic tank was fitted. *(Left)*

Water has to be manually pumped into the tank at present, and it is high enough to allow it to be gravity fed to the toilet building.



The water tower and tank were paid for by a Rotary District 1070 Grant, and many thanks go to everyone involved in this, especially the Rotary Club of Peterborough and Brendan Alston.

It was decided to include showers and washing facilities in new toilet block. Plans were drawn up by **Colin Moore of the Rotary Club of Peterborough Minster** and building commenced in April. The work was supervised by Douda, who was on site all the time. Overall the building took about 5 weeks to complete.



Inside the new block

The block now consists of urinals with wash basins for the boys (1), toilets for the girls (2), separate showers for boys and girls (3), separate toilets for male and female staff (4), and washrooms (5).



(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)



(5)

As you can see, there has been lots of tiling, which will help make the rooms easy to keep clean. The tiling was all done by Douada, seen on the right in this picture with Alfred.

The school is now closed for the summer holidays, and will open again on 16th September, when the toilets and showers will be in full use. As the children have no experience of running water, urinals or flush toilets, they will be taught how to use them, and the boys' and the girls' sections will each have attendants supervising their use, at least to begin with.

This building has fulfilled one of the David School Trusts aims, and wholehearted thanks go from David and the other Trustees to everyone who has contributed in any way.



Special Support for the Senior Girls

Thanks to help of supporters in England, the girls are now being provided with sanitary products, which is a great step forward for them. An incinerator will soon be provided at the school to dispose of all rubbish, including used towels. Many girls do not go onto, or complete, the senior school, and it is hoped that better sanitation may help.



In addition, steps have been taken to address the high pregnancy rate among the senior girls, which usually rises after the long summer holidays. Catherine Thomas recently visited the school with her father, David. Whilst there, she called a women's meeting for the senior girls and their mothers, grandmothers and aunts. It was attended, by Dr David Koroma and his nurse Rosalyn, who offered the girls the chance to have a contraceptive

injection, lasting for 3 months, providing their carers consented, and the girls agreed to return to school. Over 30 girls and their mothers decided to take up this offer, and Dr David gave them their injections. This has been possible with the support of Marie Stopes International.

Marion, one of the school's longest serving teachers, the nurse and Catherine also talked to the girls about personal hygiene, which will be made much easier now the toilet block has been completed.



Other News

- ❖ Following recent elections in Sierra Leone, a new government has been elected which is very keen on education, and officials have visited the school, and have been very impressed with the school's progress and facilities.
- ❖ **In October 2018, The David School will be 10 years old**, and has grown considerably from a small primary school. A team will be travelling to the community at Mile 36 in October to join in the celebrations, which will include a procession and entertainment provided by the pupils. The intention is to provide food for all 400 pupils. More about this in the next Messenger.