

**Newsletter – Feb 2011**

**Prayer**

Want to pray for the work in Rwanda? We want the work of Comfort Rwanda to be soaked in prayer for God's help and favour. If you can pray with us please contact Anne Reid (01382 776601, [chicsanny@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chicsanny@hotmail.co.uk)) for regular prayer news.

**Visits to Rwanda**

The April, July and September trips are now booked up. If you want to be added to these groups please contact us very urgently- flights are nearly full.

**Sponsored cycle**

It looks likely that the plans for this will change. A number of interested participants are 50 next year and a special 500 for 50 cycle based in Scotland looks a more likely option for next year. All ages welcome though! We'll keep you informed.

**Souter Foundation provides funds for bus in Rwanda**

Last year we spent several thousand on hiring buses for groups visiting Rwanda.

Stagecoach's Souter Foundation have generously provided £14,500 and we have bought a 30 seater bus. The bus will be driven by Silas Rudasingwa when we are not there and profits reinvested into projects.

**SOS nears 100**

There are now 97 survivors or survivors families being sponsored through the SOS programme!

**Ihumure Vocational Training College**

After many months of hard work, especially by project manager Gary McFarlane and architect Roger Fleming, building work has started. We do ask you to pray and stand with us in this venture – the building is only the starting point! If successful the project will be key to helping ex-street kids and other very poor youth move into employment and break the cycle of poverty in their lives, families and communities. Further buildings will be needed later for teaching and accommodation, staff need recruited soon, the curriculum needs set and finance raised for the earlier non-sustainable period. But a start has now been made! The ultimate goal is for a self-financing college, with inward finance coming from the three main sources of fees from better-off students, income from on-site business spin-offs and sponsorship of ex-street kids places at the college. The main backer of this building is Level 8 projects based in Carnoustie but we also appreciate wonderful donations from St Mungos and Whitlawburn churches and other churches and individuals. Many of you have also been praying for the final instalment on the land – this has now been completed thanks to a very generous individual's donation! Praise God for progress so far! We thought you'd like the



photo of Paul Ndahigwa at the controls of the JCB – scary moments! Also shown are the building team on the cleared platform.

**New Comfort Kids Charity Shops**

Two new Comfort Rwanda shops have been opened in the last three months, one in Kirkintilloch (2 Townhead), the other in Cumbernauld (11 Tay Walk).

Susan Donaldson, the trustee heading up the shops, has renamed them Comfort Kids with a focus on raising funds for street kids, orphans and other children in need of support. The ladies involved (& Morton, Susan's husband!) have done a fantastic job to get the shops looking brilliant, with many people commenting on how well they are presented. If you live within reasonable distance of these shops do pop in with any saleable items or perhaps you could give a morning or afternoon a week to volunteer.

The picture shows the new shop at Cumbernauld – we'll get a picture of the shop in Kirkie to you soon! If you think you could open a shop in your area do let us know!



## St Andrews Ceilidh

We had a great night at the St Andrews Ceilidh. Thanks to Sporrindipity for playing pro bono – fantastic ceilidh band and thanks to David Ferries for donating a superb spread for supper.

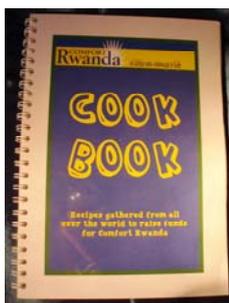
## Kinross Primary School Rwanda Display

Kinross Primary School and the supaclub run by Alison Williamson have been raising awareness and funds for Comfort Rwanda to help send Rwandan children to school. The classroom wall was bedecked with information on Rwanda.



## Comfort Rwanda Cookery Book

A great wee cookery book has been compiled by Anne Reid. It's on sale for £6, proceeds to Comfort Rwanda and it has some cracking recipes in it. For details email [enquiry@comfortwanda.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@comfortwanda.org.uk)



## Nyagashanga

In September a visiting group, mainly from Edinburgh, had the joy of cementing a church at Nyagashanga, Mutara and raising funds for housing improvements for some of the poorest church members. The lady pictured had been living in terrible conditions and received a newly refurbished house. A great opportunity to preach the gospel of God's love to the assembled crowd as well!



## Micro-income

The micro-income generating project at Gatenga Living Church has been making progress with a range of innovative micro-businesses set up. They have started up the expected types of businesses selling clothes and produce, but one lady caught the imagination with a security business sub-employing people to patrol hundreds of homes at night in the area! Aileen Fleming, one of the Destiny ladies who financed much of the project is pictured below with some of the ladies who run a small fabric and wedding attire business.



## Dumbarton – Jari Partnership

Dumbarton Rock Church have a long standing partnership with the Solace survivors community at Jari. In the autumn of 2010 they visited the group and consolidated that relationship. Projects on the trip included giving out sewing machines, inspecting housing problems, some of the women gave highly appreciated massages to the widows and others on the team helped build a shelter (shown during construction below) for the group's bee hives.



## Christian Training College of Rwanda

Four training weeks have now taken place for the Foundation Certificate with four more to go. It has been a steep learning curve for us, and especially for the students, many of whom only had primary school education before. There are big challenges in terms of continuing to shape the course to make it as relevant and accessible in learning terms to the pastors attending. The addition of further courses will also need additional support – let us keep trusting in God for provision.

