



Annual Report 2009

The University of Withywood continues to reach out and touch and uplift more and more lives. In the forefront is the **Performing Arts Group** who take their unique and increasingly popular performances to ever widening and appreciative audiences. Foremost in this troupe are Trevor Tooth, virtuoso songster; Heather Jarrett, raconteur extraordinaire; Jane Fidge, the Dancing Gypsy; Sue Meacock, lyric writer and instrumentalist; Dave Lomas, versatile thespian; Ray, "The Bedminster Cowboy"; Tony Thornton, impersonator and comedian; Peter Newman, the Scottish storyteller; Robin Robert, organist and, last but not least, Don "The Whistler" Townshend, whose inimitable repartee and extraordinary charisma holds the whole thing together. During the summer we were very sorry to lose one of our stars, Fred Wilkins, and we all join in wishing Thelma a speedy recovery from her illness. In the last year they have raised £500 for the Sponsorship Fund.

On the **modern languages** front, Marie Jo's French classes grow in competence and confidence; Marion Martin has started German for beginners in St Andrew's Vicarage at Hartcliffe and the Spanish class awaits with impatience the arrival of Maria José from Mexico (whose engineering course we sponsored for three years) who is coming to the UK in January 2010 and will visit us.

THE SPONSORSHIP FUND is now active in eight countries. On our books at present are:

Ghana:

Martin (Merchant shipping college)
 Abigail and Francesca (nursing)
 Rexford (computers)
 Eric (assistance with medical treatment)

Cameroon:

Martin (economic statistician)
 Malima (teaching diploma)

Nigeria:

Chrisemeka (architecture)
 Chibuzor (computers)

Kenya:

Patrick (mathematics and computer science, honours degree course : graduated in July)
 Frederick (course in community health)
 Boniface (course in business administration)
 Caleb (course in technology)
 Wilfred (diploma in Public Health)
 Ian)
 Festus)
 Job) secondary school fees
 Bihaja)
 John)
 Marleen (hairdressing)
 Robert (diploma in purchasing and supplies management)

Uganda:

£50 book grants annually to:

Tom	Connie
Annet	Nathan
Miriam	Rachel
and the Rev. Robert	

Jordan:

Bashar (English literature and translation, MA course)

Sudan:

Robert (Electrical engineering course)
 Rose)
 Betty)
 Paul) secondary school fees
 Lemi)
 Moses)
 Museme)



Robert Lopia and his family with Paul Watyekere, Sudan

India:

70 young people currently attend The Anton Tuition Centre in Thaneerpalli.



“MANY THANKS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF WITTHYWOOD”

10 mature students have taken English language classes, but this will now be discontinued due to staffing difficulties, and sewing and dressmaking classes for poor girls and women will be started in the New Year instead.



Shanthi's graduation (Mathematics degree course)

These Indian children need £40 per year:

Yuvadharini – a girl of 15.

Raja – a boy of 11 whose mother is struggling to educate her son.

Pothumponnu – a girl of 14.

Joshua (10), Jennifer (8) and Joseph (11) are Indian children being sponsored by individual friends here in Bristol.

The majority of the students are monitored by our loyal and trusted agents: Mrs Prema in India, Samuel Gomez in Ghana, Robert Kigadi and Fredrick Otworu in Kenya and Paul Watyekere in Sudan, who allocate the funds, report on progress and identify further deserving candidates.

Recent generous donations are enabling us to put together a retirement fund for Mrs Prema, who is entirely dependent on us, and to support a charity for the empowerment of young people, founded by Chrisemeka Azike in Nigeria. The emulation of our efforts by one of our former sponsorees is indeed admirable.

Behind the scenes, the Trustees Jane Britton, Mary James, Royston Griffey and Martin Powell have given their experience and expertise to facilitate and widen our operations and increase publicity. Not forgetting, of course, Christine and Mike Lillington who have to deal with an ever-increasing battery of e-mails and visits and demands by Anton.

Our annual accounts will be available in the New Year to anyone interested.

We sincerely thank EVERYONE who gives of their time and money to forward the work of our charity. It all seems worthwhile when we receive good news and photographs from young people to whom we have given a helping hand.

“Many thanks for sending the money. In fact it came at the dying minute when hope was about to get lost. May God bless you for saving the situation.”

“I really thank you for your help and I ask God to give you all the best and support you with good health. You do as the farmer who waters the plants to flower in all the world.”

“I have been able to function all our projects in an effective manner only through your continuous generosity. I am ever grateful for all the good hearts.”