



Welcome to the first Kumi Courier of 2025

This is the first Kumi Courier of 2025. In Uganda, the schools are reopening, and we hope the enrolment goes well. There is news of the 2024 P7 PLE results. The first team of the year flies out on 5 April, and we are looking forward to working at Wiggins Primary School for the first time. We are looking for volunteers to fill Team 2 in July-August and build on the foundations. Team 3, the Kumi “Express” team is in September this year, and although the trip is only 10 days, it is packed with most of the activities and experiences of a full team.

Also, although we have not been on the ground in Kumi, it does not mean we have not been active delivering support for our partners. Read on and enjoy.

2024 PLE Results Summary

Congratulations to Kumi Bazaar School for the excellent PLE results!

PLE Results	Bazaar 2024	Wiggins 2024	KPS 2024	Ngora SDC 2024
Division 1	76	12	1	0
Division 2	12	32	27	6
Division 3		1	22	7
Division 4		0	5	5
Ungraded		0	2	1
Total	88	45	57	19
% Div 1	86%	27%	2%	0%

Kumi Bazaar School has again topped the table for PLE success in Kumi. Bazaar is a government school, and its results are ahead of all private schools too. As Mission Direct, we can help with infrastructure, (classrooms and homes for teachers), resources and nutrition through the Porridge Fund. However, our interventions are only any use in supporting the teachers and students. The main factor for success is the commitment and enthusiasm of the teaching staff, which is passed on to the students, who in turn want to succeed. Hopefully, our participation can provide encouragement and resources, which make their task a little more manageable.

Please Sir, Can I have Some More The Porridge Fund Expands

We have taken a step of faith and have included Wiggins Primary School and Ngora School for Deaf Children in the Porridge programme. So, we have increased from two schools to four and are now providing 400 bowls of porridge each day. **This is £20 per day or about £4,800 per year.** That is just short of 100,000 bowls of porridge in a year.

It is well known that hunger is a major barrier to education. Since we have started providing some food for the candidate class, the exam results have improved significantly



Ngora School for Deaf Children

Charles the long time Head Teacher at NSDC, retired in March 2024. Stella Patience is the new Head Teacher, and she has arrived with a passion to achieve the best for the pupils. Deaf Children are often the last to receive the support from their families and are usually the last to be sent back to school. Although the Government pays the tuition fees, the boarding costs have to be met by the families. Although this only equates to around £240 per annum, it is a challenge many cannot meet. Stella has stepped out in faith, accepting children whose fees remain unpaid and also taking disabled children and children from the Karamoja region. Sometimes the money for food runs out and it is a struggle to feed hungry children; if you are signing all day you use more energy than a hearing child!

We are inspired by Stella and are stepping up the support for the school. Over the long Christmas break we have paid for the floors to all the classrooms to be re-laid. They were uneven and pot-holed thus dangerous for the disabled children. Thank you to Patrick and his team for completing this work. Also, we have funded the repair of beds for the dormitory.



Stella with some of the repaired beds, floor work in progress and the tree nursery

We are also embarking on a project with the school to expand their orchard, including, as well as the fruit trees, an apiary and expanding the tree nursery. This project has so many wins in it. It provides food for the children, the tree nursery sells into the local community providing income for the school, and it is great for the environment, with new trees sustaining increased biodiversity. Thanks to the St Albans 2023 Harvest Appeal for providing the funds for this. The activity is incorporated into the children's curriculum.

We are also helping to address the hunger issues at the school. Last year we were able to give some one-off interventions; however, for 2025 we have added NSDC to the Porridge Programme, so the school will receive support on a termly basis.



Sometimes one person gets put on the heart of someone and is blessed by a gift of generosity. Congratulations to Margaret, who has passed her Primary Leaving Examinations and will now attend a specialist Secondary School for Deaf Children. Well done.



A Return to Kumi Prison

During 2023, we unfortunately had to suspend our visits to Kumi Prison. It was unfortunate but sometimes a pause allows a reset and is good. Anyway, last year we were able to meet the new Officer in Charge, Ferdinand Baker, and he has proved to be committed to the welfare of his guests.

During the year, we have been able to re-enter the Prison and again share in Worship with the prisoners. These have been the usual uplifting occasions and are a very special time. We are joined by Beatrice Anyait, who leads the PAG ministry to the Prison and also by Ben Etomet, an ex-convict, who now leads a ministry for prisoner welfare, and their participation makes sure nothing gets lost in translation.

We have been able to support Kumi Prison in the following ways:

- We have provided a new television and satellite decoder, (documentaries and news only).
- We have the solar power repaired and extended to the women's accommodation.
- We have installed water distribution pipework in the prison.
- We have re glazed all the broken windows to the wards to keep the rain out.
- We have replaced the roof to the kitchen.
- We have supplemented the Government Goat to make Christmas extra special.

OC Baker has kindly shared some photographs of these contributions but as they are of the inside of the prison, and this is being shared electronically I cannot include them. Use your imagination or better still come to Kumi and see for yourself!!

The prison will continue to feature in our programme for 2025 and will be the highlight of the trip for many.

Wiggins Primary School Project

<p>Come and help us build this</p>	<p>The floor plan shows a rectangular building layout with a grid system. Rooms include two sets of bedrooms (Bedroom 1 and Bedroom 2), two sitting rooms, multiple verandahs, and stores. Dimensions are provided for various sections, such as 3,200 x 150 for the main sections and 2,800 x 150 for the verandahs.</p>
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These are the plans for our project at Wiggins Primary School this year. We have been working hard on the planning and pricing with Joseph from Prio Construction. He will be starting work in March to prepare the site for Team One. The good news is, that we are funded to start work and complete the sub structure but are still fundraising for the rest. The total cost of the project is £29,000; we still need £15,000

You could be a part of the solution for this struggling school, for these teachers and these 1,000 plus children. You can book your place today!

<https://missiondirect.wetravel.com/.../uganda-kumi-2025...>

www.justgiving.com/campaign/wigginsprimarykumi



Team Dates for 2025

What we need more than anything is for volunteers to come to Kumi for the adventure of a lifetime. It is a friendly place to show your love for others and receive blessing you cannot imagine.

Find out what this means and contact Jackie Johnston 01582720056

<https://missiondirect.org/apply-for-your-mission-trip/>

2025

Team 1	Saturday 5 April to Saturday 19 April
Team 2	Saturday 26 July to Saturday 9 August
Team 3	Monday 22 September to Wednesday 1 October Kumi Express

Please Pray For

- For our new Project in 2025 at Wiggins Primary School
- For the continuation of the Porridge feeding programme now expanded to Wiggins and Ngora School for Deaf Children as well as at Kumi Primary and Kumi Bazaar
- For the continued success of the St Albans Chicken Project
- For volunteers to help continue the mission
- For the enrolment of students at Ngora School for Deaf Children
- For the mission of all our partners in Kumi.
- For the Elderly and forgotten, that their families will remember them.
- For the welfare of Prisoners and for the new OC at Kumi Prison

Hope for Life, Katanga

Due to the flight times for Team One, we hope to be able to schedule a special visit to the Katanga slum area in Kampala and see the work of Hope for Life.



No room for details here but if you are interested follow the link. However, it will be a contrast to rural Kumi!

www.hopeforlifekatanga.com/

Watch this space.

In the next Kumi Courier – This will likely be after Team 1 and the Campaign well and truly on the way. We will be joined on the team by Francis Nkurunziza from Hope for Life Katanga

Keep up to date is on the Kumi Facebook Page. <https://www.facebook.com/MDugandaKumi/>

Or you can contact Jan or me, we would love to hear from you.

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Project donations www.justgiving.com/campaign/wigginsprimarykumi

Partner donations www.justgiving.com/fundraising/kumipartnerfund