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I know that my last Newsletter only arrived with you last week BUT I just had to put another one together to give you all some more good news !

Esthers School toilet block

Schools in Sierra Leone re-opened this week. I am pleased to report that, with a lot of hard work by the local builders, they completed the new toilet block late on Sunday afternoon just in time for the start of the new term. Most of the children didn't know what was being built, so it was a great surprise to them when they went back on Monday.

Some children & parents checking out the toilets



The Rotary District Grant was only received in early August so the actual building project has only taken 5 weeks. The aim was to try and have it ready for the new term and we achieved that goal.



Her smile says it all !

The school has over 100 pupils and prior to this they had NO toilets at all. The building houses 3 toilet cubicles and also includes a basic rain water harvesting system so rain from the roof is stored and feeds a hand washing facility as well. The facilities are very basic but they are a major step forward for the entire school community.

I have just received this “thank you” via e-mail:

We want to say a big thank you and register our appreciation for the work well done on developing the toilet block. We hope that this relationship will continue between us and you will ever remain to be remembered in the history of Esther's School. Please extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to all your supporters who have made this possible. Once more we say thanks for making our dream a reality - God bless you all - from the proprietor, teachers, pupils, parents and the entire community

To undertake and complete these last 2 projects in a relatively short space of time is down to the hard work of the local builders who wanted to get the facilities in place as soon as possible for the benefit of their local communities. The projects have only been possible with the aid of a Rotary District Grant and the tremendous ongoing support from my network of supporters – **thanks**.

So, what's next on the Sierra Leone agenda ?

With 2 projects on the waiting list I have had to decide which to undertake next – a toilet block at Kunduma or water harvesting on the 2 new classrooms at Banbury School. After discussions with Fayah & the schools we have decided to give priority to Kunduma and I'm about to release the first tranche of money so they can start to build a 3 cubicle toilet block with water harvesting and handwashing facilities. At the moment I only have sufficient funds to dig the pit, build and install the toilets so water harvesting will be done as phase 2. Fayah & the school are aware of this but are more than happy that in a relatively short space of time they will at least have the first toilets at the school. I will continue to fundraise in order to get the second phase under way as soon as possible. This will “**Make A Real Difference**” to this community.

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