

St. Margaret Hall

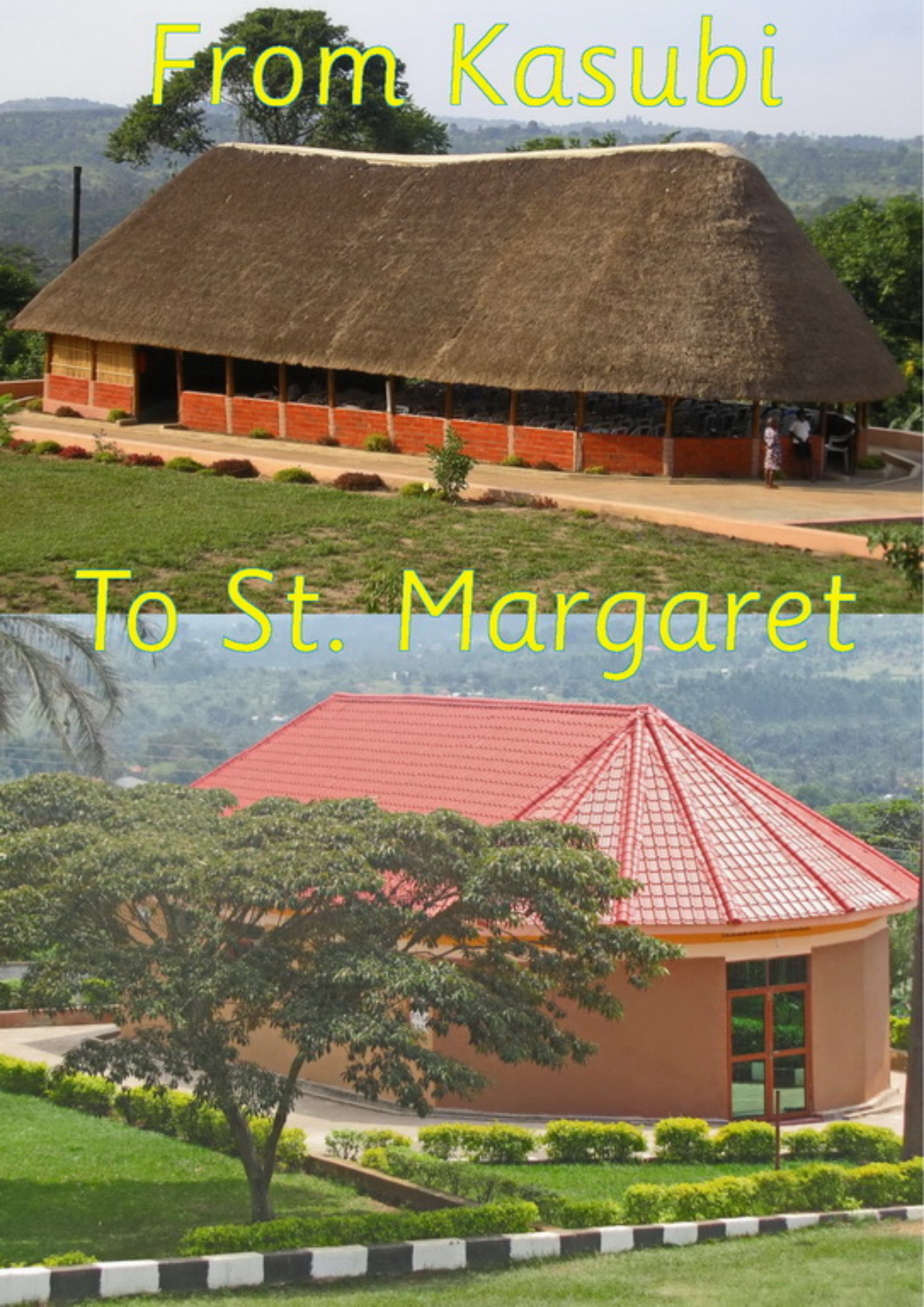
*Inspired by God
Inspiring for Others*

messages of hope, inspiration,
congratulation and blessing for the
people of RYDA from the people of
St. Margaret's Uniting Church
Mooroolbark, Australia
St. John's Uniting Church
Cowes, Australia
and supporters across the world

*Prepared for
official opening
March 5th 2015*

From Kasubi

To St. Margaret





Through the
Spirit of God,
the dedication
and skill of the
RYDA
community...





...and the prayers
and gifts of donors
from across the
world...





you are welcome to
St. MARGARET HALL
Buloba, Uganda

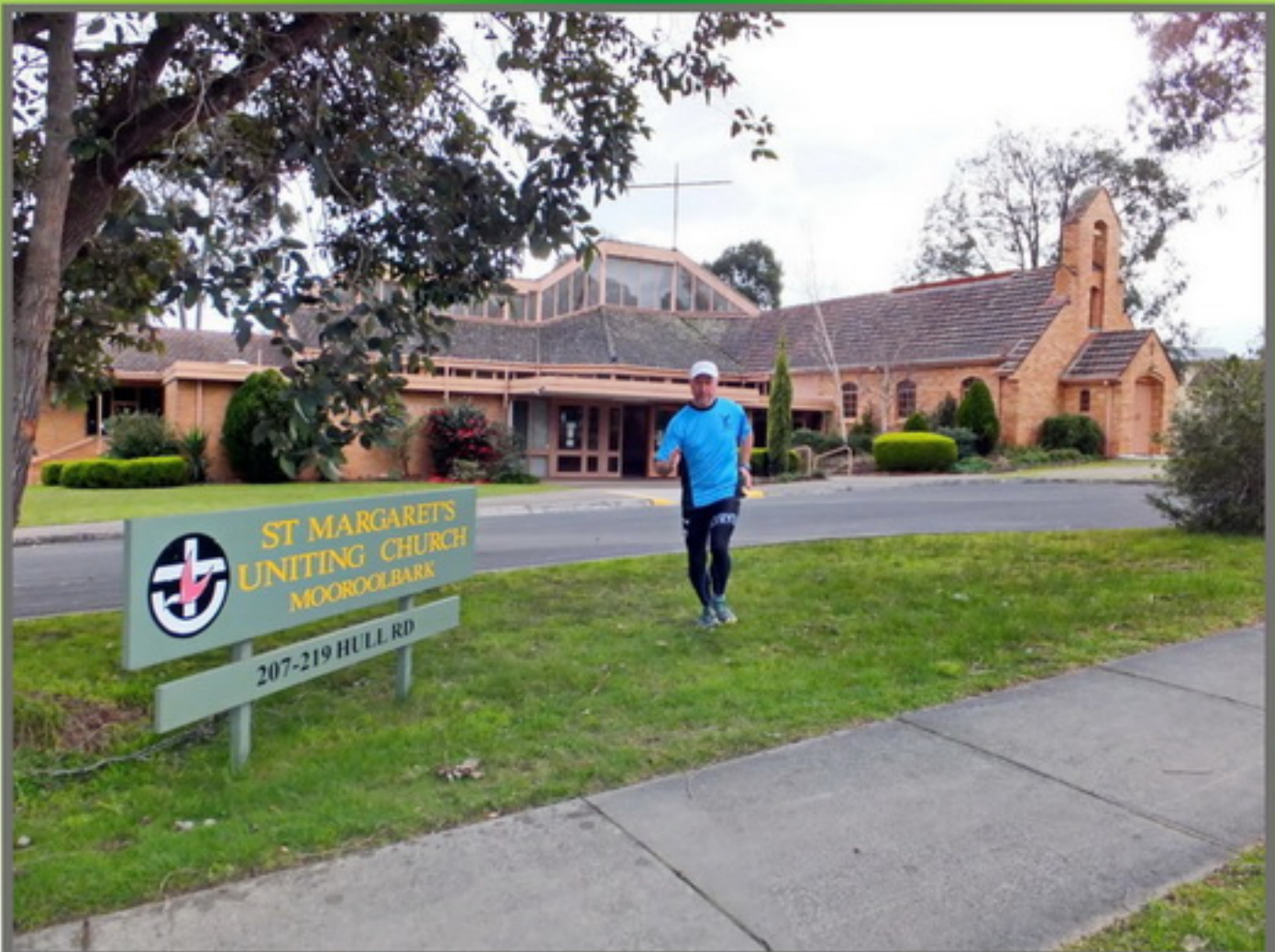




The people of St. Margaret's Uniting Church, Mooroolbark, Australia have supported RYDA since 1996. Our church is named after St. Margaret of Scotland.

St. Margaret was known for many charitable works including serving orphans and the poor every day before she ate.

We are honoured that RYDA has chosen the name of our church as the name of its hall.



REV RUNS FOR RYDA

2011 & 13 - Half Marathons ... 2014 - Full Marathon



Dear Geoffrey,
What a brutal test of human limits!

I have learned so much about myself through pushing on when my body screamed out at me to stop when I had hours left to run. It seemed an impossible distance to cover when I hit the wall of supposed physical and mental limits. I am grateful that the wishes of many all around the world spurred me on.

While in many ways this was a deeply personal test of endurance, I am pleased to be able to make a difference to the lives of others as well. What seemed so hard over 42.2km is still nothing compared to the hardship that many face in the world.

I was moved enough to shed a tear as I crossed the finish line, but I continue to be moved at the work of RYDA and the tangible difference they make in the lives of vulnerable youth.

Arnie



Arnie Wierenga is the minister at St. Margaret's Uniting Church, Mooroolbark Australia. Over three years Arnie's marathon efforts have inspired donors from Australia and beyond to give USD 17,500 to support RYDA's work.

HELLO TO EVERYONE AT THE RUBAGA YOUTH
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION IN UGANDA...



FROM MARJ. HOOKEY AT
ST. MARGARET'S,
MOOROOLBARK.

Congratulations to you all on this very special occasion when you open St., Margaret Hall.

It has been a wonderful journey for you and we loved the photos that were sent as each stage was built. To all the Trade Teachers and students

who worked on the hall, Congratulations you have constructed a beautiful building!

I am proud to have been part of the amazing journey you have travelled since soon after Geoffrey, your Director, first started working with young people on the streets of Kampala.

I am thankful too, to have been able to be part of many of the projects over the years that we have provided some funding to help get started.

First there were items we collected, music tapes, skipping ropes, balls and books. We worked hard to help pay for your very first computer which Doug. had specially made for you. There was money to help buy pigs and chickens. Money to help with a tank and with building the toilets. Funding to buy fabric so that the tailoring classes could make and sell school uniforms.

Then all the large projects in recent years – funding towards the Child Labour project – covering the cost of the land transport of the container from Hong Kong – helping to pay off the bus – and most recently St. Margaret Hall.

Then too, we give thanks for all the other wonderful supporters in Australia who have helped fund RYDA along the way.

I hope that you have a wonderful time as you welcome your No.1 Supporter from Australia, Doug. Williams, whose incredible efforts on your behalf have been an inspiration to us all.

Blessings to your Director Geoffrey, to all members of Staff and to all the wonderful students who I am sure appreciate the opportunity given them at RYDA to benefit from an education and trade training which will enable you all to make a difference not only to your own lives, but as citizens in your wonderful country.

Marj. Hookey



My association with RYDA began in 1996 when Doug had first met Geoffrey in San Diego. You can see me here doing some typing on

behalf of RYDA in the church hall. Since then I have helped Doug with many fundraising activities for RYDA and it has been a real honour and privilege to know that in the space of those 18 years many vulnerable children have been fed, educated and helped to gain vocational skills.

I would like to wish you all well. Enjoy your time with Doug visiting in March. May the festivities for the opening of St. Margaret Hall be full of joy, and may the current projects at RYDA all run smoothly and achieve the required results.

Lots of love to all the children at RYDA.

Ina Koetsier
St Margaret's
Uniting Church
Mooroolbark
Australia.



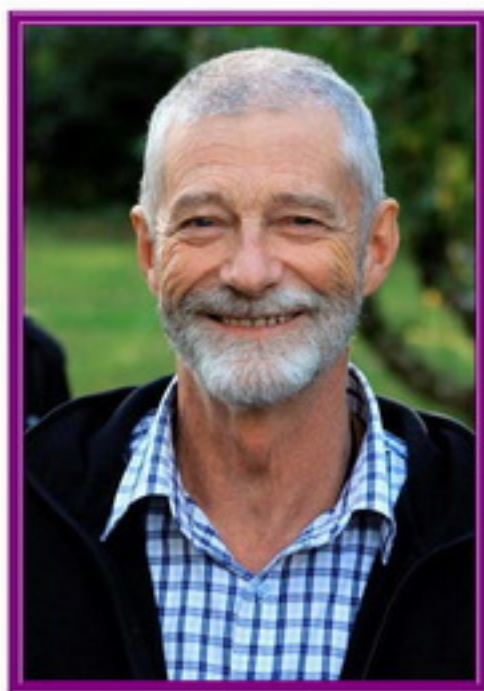
Hello Geoffrey,
Having been involved in St Margaret's association with you and RYDA's work has been an amazing experience.

What started from a chance meeting between you and Doug, and then a request for tennis balls, has become a wonderful accomplishment by you all and a privilege to be a small part of.

We send you our very best wishes for your continued accomplishments and success in your future work for RYDA.



Jean



David

and
Lardner

Christmas with RYDA

Hello, to our good friends at RYDA,

My wife & I are members of St. Margaret's congregation, where we learnt of the work of RYDA in Uganda. We consider it a real privilege to be partners with you in some small way in your outreach work, especially to orphaned & vulnerable young people in that land.

It has been exciting to hear progress reports, & see pictures as well of the new hall that you have been building. It is now completed, and the official opening is about to take place. It is great news indeed, & we are glad that Doug can be present at that event. You all must be so thrilled now that the building is finished and ready for occupation after so much effort and hard work on your part. It will prove to be a wonderful asset for you all.



Margaret & I didn't find it at all difficult making the decision to give our family members Gift Certificates this past Christmas. Made all the easier because some of the family already knew of RYDA - we have a notice board in the family room of our home, & it carries the latest progress photo of your hall. Those family members are now happy to be able to share in your work too. The response from the rest, - "What a good idea!" And this led to questions about RYDA, and we referred them to the Web Site.

Hopefully, we as a family can give more support in the future.

May God continue to bless & guide you in your outreach to so many people, especially the young, who are also precious to Him.

That is our prayer, not only for the special day of the Opening, but for the years ahead.

Donald & Margaret McLean

Crossing Paths

Greetings Geoffrey and everyone at RYDA from Marilyn and Robert O'Shea.

We can remember all those years ago when Doug first told us of your vision and work with the homeless youth in Uganda. It has been an amazing story of challenges faced and difficulties overcome.

Last Sunday we saw a photo of St Margaret's Hall on the screen during worship. How glad we are to have played a part in its rebuilding and humble that it bears that name.

I hope you like our photo taken when we were visiting our family in Tasmania. The mill in the little town of Oatlands is well over 150 years old. We hope your fine new building will serve you well for many years.

Marilyn and I recently celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. When we married we were setting off on a path into the future. We had plans and hopes for the years ahead. Now we look back in gratitude for all the blessings we have received. Not the least of these are our three healthy loving children who have now provided us with twelve grandchildren.

How fortunate we are to live in Australia. We each have been able to follow a career, we have never gone hungry, been homeless or felt that our life was in danger. Our contact with you and through the work of RYDA has helped us see that life in Uganda is very different, especially for many children and young people. Geoffrey, you had a vision and set off on a path, inspired to help and to make life different for the disadvantaged.

RYDA is an amazing story of achievement. Thankyou for all that you do and for allowing us to play a very small part in it.



Robert and Marilyn O'Shea

On the Official opening of St.Margaret Hall



Dear friends at RYDA,

We became members of the St.Margaret's Uniting Church congregation in Mooroolbark, Victoria, Australia, fifteen years ago and one of the first things we heard about was RYDA.

Since then we have also delighted in visits to our congregation from Geoffrey and members of his family on several occasions. Through the tireless efforts of Geoffrey and Doug, we have followed the RYDA story with great interest, celebrating with you the many outstanding achievements of the RYDA community, as well at the congregation of St.Margaret's.

When our Minister, Reverend Arnie ran marathons to raise money to help with the rebuilding of your damaged hall, some women at two sewing groups to which Marilyn belongs, heard the RYDA story and helped to sponsor Arnie's running efforts. The women are always interested to hear news of your challenges and achievements.

Yours is an inspiring story and we are very privileged to be part of it, even in such a small way. You have touched many lives.

God's love and blessings to you all.

Franklyn and Marilyn





February 17th 2015

Margaret Dowell

I have only been at St. Margaret's Church at Mooroolbark a few weeks and have been so interested in this project, and the wonderful work and contribution by the St. Margaret's Congregation.

Everyone was so pleased to see the beautiful photograph of your new building and know that you will all be so proud of it .

I can almost feel the love you will feel for all the people who have helped to bring this to fruition.

May God's blessings be with you all.

Margaret



Margaret with my two
Zimbabwe friends
Tendai and Tafazwa
Sadza

The colourful paper clips joined together are a picture of a group of people holding each other as a community practising love and respect

15. 2. 15.

Dear Friend in RYDA,

A warm blessing to you. My husband Ian & I, (Julie) are so happy to know of the Training Centre in Uganda. We have heard the story from Doug, and today we saw a picture of St. Margaret Hall, as well as a photo of a young man training to be a car mechanic. My husband's father owned a Garage in Brisbane His name was Jack Robinson. He was so skilled that he could put a together blind folded!
Carburettor

My father, William Howarth, actually built a car from the pieces of a chassis! He did this in New Zealand. N.Z. is the country I was born in.

After I married Ian, we moved to Melbourne, Australia.

I helped with a mission group called "Medical Mission Auxiliary" for a number of years. The group sent large drums of clothing, medicine + Medical items to Tanzania to hospitals run by the Anglican Church. (C.M.S)
We have three adult sons and nine



grandchildren!

We worship at St Margarets Uniting Church.

Next Tuesday is "Shrove Tuesday" known and celebrated with eating pancakes. In Lent we have a time of preparation for Easter. We are looking forward to Easter.

We pray a special blessing for you as you learn new skills to give you a future.

My husband has always carried a text from the Bible about God's plans for us - in his wallet -

It reads - from Jeremiah Ch 29. - v. 11.

"For I know the plans I have for you", says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

May you be encouraged and have strength as you continue on at RYDA and further on in your life.

Bless you.

from Julie + Ian



This is a photo of Toi Toi grass by a river in New Zealand.

Dear Reader,

My husband Ken and I live near St Margaret's and attend there. We have met Geoffrey at our church over many years and think back to our first gift of balls for the children to play with. We remember that they had nowhere to live when separated from their parents.

We have been kept up to date with developments because pictures can be shown at our church. We are in our late seventies, and very glad as young people that we embraced Christianity and knew where we were going in life. We take joy in serving, and as Jesus promised, reap great rewards.

We realize even now our mistakes, and are so grateful that we can be forgiven again and again. In church today we heard, *If you want to save your life, then lose it.* This has been a wonderful guide.

Write to us at St. Margaret's at any time and we will write back.

With best wishes as you open a hall with the same name as our church. St Margaret is certainly a shining example of what we are called to be and do. And best wishes to all who enter the hall. May you always know His love and forgiveness in your lives, and the guidance He gives for living.

Shalom,

Rev Deacon Katharine and Mr Ken Davies who joins me in these greetings.



Katharine Davies

Ina Koetsier

Marj Hookey

Doug Williams

Ken Davies

Dear Friends at RYDA,

Congratulations to you for taking up the challenges of work and study in order to build up and use the talents God has given you.

When we are young it's good to think about how we will spend our lives. These are some Bible verses which have been important for me since I was a teenager :-

WITH ALL YOUR HEART YOU MUST TRUST
THE LORD AND NOT YOUR OWN JUDGMENT
ALWAYS LET HIM LEAD YOU, AND HE WILL
CLEAR THE ROAD FOR YOU TO FOLLOW.

PROVERBS 3: 5,6

If you would like to write to me I will answer your letters.

May God be with you and the people who care for you every day

Joyce Dodge

gjdodge@alphalink.com.au

25 Carron Vale Road
Mooroolbark
Victoria
Australia 3138



Blessings from the People of St. John's Uniting Church Cowes, Phillip Island

We rejoice with you at
the opening of St.
Margaret Hall.

In December 2014 we
celebrated 125 years as
a church on Phillip
Island. The hall we used
was the original church
built by our people in
the early 1890s.

We hope you can serve
your community from
your new hall for at least
as long as we have
served from our hall.



To the People of Rubaga Youth Development Association
Kampala, Uganda

Congratulations

To Geoffrey, the staff and the students of RYDA on the completion of your hall.

We first heard about RYDA when Douglas Williams talked at our church about it, and we were excited to hear of the great work of RYDA in Uganda. The people of our St John's church on Phillip Island in Victoria, Australia decided that we would join with the people of St Margaret's to pray for you all and support you with fundraising and personal gifts of money. It is great for us to feel that we can be part of your work in this way. Later, we were very pleased to meet Geoffrey when he visited us here on Phillip Island, and talked to us about the happenings there.

The place where we live looks very different from Kampala. To visit us you would need to cross the sea over a bridge. Phillip Island is a small island with a population of about 7000 people, but during holiday times many more people stay here to enjoy being near the sea.



Our church building holds about 120 people, but we usually only have about 30 local people who come every week, plus visitors. Our church is an unusual design and looks like the keel of a boat upside down.



Douglas and Geoffrey showed us photos of RYDA and told us stories about the many young people whose lives have been changed there, and challenged us to help make it possible for learning and training to continue for many more. Douglas visits our church regularly and always brings us news of RYDA.

We will continue to pray for you all, and hope that you have a wonderful celebration for the opening of your hall. We pray that your work will continue to flourish and that the training that the young people receive there will equip them to become great workers and leaders in their communities.

Alan and Ruth McIntosh





Bet and Lyn Francis

Mother and Daughter



When Doug Williams first told the people at St. John's, Cowes about RYDA, I was immediately interested and wanted to contribute to RYDA because it is a **PRACTICAL** and **POSITIVE** way to help young people to achieve their goals in life. I met Geoffrey when he was here, and was impressed with his vision for these young people. I appreciate the feedback we receive and am pleased to see the completion of the Hall. It is an impressive structure! I support you with cash, but also my prayers as I **KNOW** you are all in His hands.

Shalom and God's richest blessings on you all!

When I came to visit my mum at Cowes I had the opportunity to hear of RYDA. Having been a teacher, I was most interested to hear the excellent results your students were achieving in their courses. I am sure that there is much life coaching as well as teaching for these lucky students. These young people have a great chance to make the most of the opportunities they have been given and I am sure they have been blessed by God as they reach their goals and proceed to take on all life has to offer them as they work in their communities. I pray God will continue to bless your work, so all is to His glory.

We Wish You Continuing Success

My family, together with many others, have the privilege of living on Phillip Island and belonging to St. John's Uniting Church, Cowes. Over the years, our congregation have followed the progress and growth of RYDA with great interest.

Let me say we are in awe of the fantastic work the organisation has done with the youth in the Rubaga district, accomplished through the dreams, determination and boundless faith of the leaders. Whilst we acknowledge the great support from others in our part of the world and elsewhere, the motivation and will to succeed has come from within.

Your achievements to change the lives and give future purpose and optimism to many young people has been outstanding and you are to be congratulated.

Many God bless RYDA going into the future and may your successes continue to build in the years ahead.

Shalom,
Faye Haslam





31/03/2011

Geoffrey on an outing with Josephine to Bulleen Plaza shopping centre, Victoria, Australia.

Josephine is one year and two weeks old.

She loves lollies!

Dear Geoffrey and all at RYDA,
As we start our new education journey, we wish you well on yours. Congratulations on the rebuilding of the hall, it looks magnificent.
With love, Bronwyn & Josephine xx

29/01/2015

Josephine is leaving home to walk to school on her first day. Her mummy and daddy will walk with her.

Josephine is four years and 10 months old.

She loves her mummy!



Water into Wine

Jesus turned water into wine... A true miracle, indeed!

Working as teachers and having the opportunity to start a brand new school we introduced a tradition that soon became very popular. After a full week's work all staff gathered together to have 'Fredagskul' (Friday fun).

It was a time for a relaxed reflection of the past week. Anecdotes and funny things that had happened during the week were shared. Laughter and feeling good were the theme of these meetings.

As a small part of these gatherings we, Per and Maria, had a wine lottery for the teachers and the rest of the staff. There were 64 numbers or lotteries that you could buy for 10 SEK (about AUD 1.5). It turned out to be very popular and every week when we bought the winning wines we made sure that there would be a profit. The profit was sent to charity. In the end of 2006 we sent 3,369 SEK to RYDA!

Today we are very happy to know that this money made a change. Of course not on its own but as a small part that came together and did something bigger.

Our wine was not a miracle, but it did do something.

By this short story we wish you to turn more water into wine which, in turn, can be turned into something good for the next person, whoever it is.

Love from Sweden!
Per and Maria



CONGRATULATIONS

from

Tools for Life



WORKAID®

Registered Charity Number 1041574

We all send sincere congratulations to RYDA for the opening of the new St. Margaret Hall. Enjoy your celebrations in this new building.

May RYDA go from strength to strength in its work to train young people and to give them a sustainable future to support themselves and their families.

Jane and I really enjoyed our visit to RYDA in October 2014 and were very impressed with the leadership, the staff and the students.

May God bless you all.
Sylvia Parrott
Project Team
Workaid Charity



In 2014 Workaid sent 128 boxes of tools.





Congratulations to Geoffrey Steven Kyeyune, Executive Director, and all in Uganda who have contributed to the African Success Story that is Rubaga Youth Development Association.

We have come a long way together since 1996.

St. Margaret Hall stands as a monument to the success of the past ... and as a launch pad for God's future challenges to RYDA and its supporters.

Doug Williams

The Uganda connection

By Julie Carter

Six months ago the younger members of St Margaret's Uniting Church in Mooroolbark, in Melbourne's outer east, probably didn't know where the African city of Kampala was.

It's a different story now. Not only do the whole congregation know that Kampala is Uganda's capital, but they also know they have helped some disadvantaged children there.

It all began with a trip to San Diego (US) by St Margaret's member Doug Williams. He happened to meet Geoffrey Kyeyune, who was there to drum up support for an organisation helping troubled young people in and around Kampala.

The project didn't raise much enthusiasm in the US, but Mr Williams offered the services of a small Australian parish.

The congregation backed him up. Over several weeks members gathered suitable old books and toys to be shipped out to Rybaga Youth Development Association (RYDA) in Uganda.



Geoffrey Kyeyune from Uganda: building a link with a Melbourne congregation

RYDA, set up in 1992, depends solely on local and international funding as it works at the ever increasing problems of neglected youth, women, street children, and other disadvantaged groups. Its mission is simply to empower people with information, knowledge and skills to enhance their own lives.

Mr Kyeyune has been the agency's executive director since

1993 and one of a team of eight. Out of his experience with street children he has written a book, *Why are they out?*

But he was so touched by the generosity of St Margaret's congregation that he decided to thank them himself. His visit was on Sunday 4 August.

At the end of the communion service the congregation presented him with an overflowing basket of skipping ropes and tennis balls for the children who, like Mr Kyeyune, could see this as a miracle.

It was also a special event for the congregation. They realised that they can and did make a difference.

That will continue. The congregation will support RYDA with a new project, trying to raise funds for a new chapel and children's development centre about 15 km out from the city centre of Kampala. (Enquiries: Doug Williams on (03) 9726 8316)

Julie Carter is a member of St Margaret's Uniting Church, Mooroolbark.