



Our Story so far.....

Following our experiences in Uganda in 2003 when two of us spent our summer holidays as 'Global Teachers', living in rural communities and supporting work at the village school and the other lived and worked at a school for the deaf in Kampala, we have returned each year to train teachers in the Masindi District. Initially this was in literacy and numeracy. However, we had by then gained a lot of knowledge and experience of the education system and decided to set up our own registered charity REDEARTH, to continue the work and to develop different projects.

Timeline

2003	Di Slater, Lynne Pritchard 'Global teachers' in rural Masindi schools under a programme run by Link Community Development. Ronnie Katzler working at Ntinda School for the Deaf in Kampala
2004	Literacy training of 120 Masindi teachers
2005	Numeracy training of 90 Masindi teachers
2006	Wrote a training manual and delivered training to a group of 13 Masindi teachers entitled 'Developing Good Practice in Teaching & Learning' with the aim of these teachers becoming 'model' teachers with the capacity to train others Several visits to Masindi in-year to meet with teachers and monitor their development
2007	Registration as a charity REDEARTH Development of ideas relating to the building of a teacher's resource centre – agreement of plans and provision of land by the local education department Two teachers from Harrow included in the delivery of the second part of the training programme for cohort 1. Training of cohort 2 (12 more teachers) in 'Developing Good Practice in Teaching & Learning' Several in-year visits.

What we have achieved....

We have adapted and changed our programme as we have developed and learned and now feel that we are offering something which could have a real impact on teaching and learning and therefore impact on the lives of Ugandan children.

We have worked alongside the Education Department in Masindi to ensure that what we offer is what is wanted.

We have developed good relationships and the department has provided us with the land to build the Teacher's Resource Centre.

We have, alongside the REDEARTH programme, been leading visits of Harrow teachers to their linked Masindi schools and have already used two of these teachers to assist us with our training programme. We believe this is an outstanding opportunity for mutual professional development of Ugandan and UK teachers and we hope to develop this further.

Lynne Pritchard

I have been the Headteacher of Whitefriars First & Middle School in Harrow for the past eleven years. It's a great place to be, with great staff and wonderful children!

In 2003 I saw an advert in the TES for teachers who would like to spend their summer holiday working in rural villages in Africa. I applied and was lucky enough to be selected for the programme. I've never looked back!! Since then life has become ever busier. I've set up links with a network of schools in Harrow linked to Masindi schools and have led six visits of staff to these schools since 2005. I feel that staff and children have received great benefits from these links and we have worked hard on developing children's understanding of the global dimension in education through our evolving curriculum. This has all been alongside our work as teacher trainers in Uganda and the setting up of REDEARTH – a really exciting project!

For me, the whole experience has been life changing. I have met such great people both here and in Uganda and have made many new friends. I have learned a HUGE amount. I have also developed a real passion for supporting teachers and children in Africa and I know that this is a long term relationship. I'll be returning there repeatedly for the rest of my life! I also passionately want to ensure that our children in the UK develop a real awareness and grasp of global issues and am constantly looking for ways in which this can underpin, and be incorporated in, the school curriculum.



Ronnie Katzler

I have been an Advisory Teacher of the Deaf in Harrow since 2000. This interest in helping children with Special Educational Needs grew while I was a teacher in Grange Middle School.

To my great disappointment, I was not eligible to participate in the Global Teacher Programme in Masindi in 2003 as all the applicants had to be teachers in one school. As an Advisory Teacher, I worked in many schools.

So, when I approached the Ntinda School for the Deaf in Kampala, I was delighted when they agreed that I could come and work in their school for the summer of 2003.

The effect of this experience on my outlook on life in general and education of young children in particular has been profound. Lynne Pritchard, Di Slater and I, with the support of the local education office, have returned several times every year since to work as teacher trainers in Masindi District.

It has led to the setting up of the charity REDEARTH. This project is very exciting, as our growing experience of the local context has helped us to more accurately gauge the appropriate approach to enhancing teaching and learning in Ugandan schools.

The building of the REDEARTH resource centre will be a tremendously important facility in which continuous professional development of Ugandan teachers, and UK teachers, can continue.

I am especially interested to establish training courses in Special Educational Needs in general, as many head teachers have requested this.

I will continue this work for many years to come. It has become part of my life.



Di Slater

I have just retired as Headteacher of Rednal Hill Infant School and Nursery in Birmingham where I was Headteacher for fourteen years. It was a very happy school with wonderful children and staff. I loved the job! I'm now enjoying life as a retiree and the freedom it brings. I am continuing as an Education Consultant, setting up a B & B business and continuing work in Uganda.

Over ten years ago I accompanied my husband on a trip to Kenya where he was working. We were fortunate enough to be invited into many homes. I loved Africa and vowed that one day I would go back. When I received an email in 2003 asking for teachers to spend their summer holidays working in Ugandan schools I jumped at the chance and was lucky enough to be selected. It was an amazing experience which has had a significant effect on my thinking and life. I met many people and made friends in Masindi including the Headteacher with whom I worked who has become a personal friend to me and my family. We communicate regularly and it was possible for him to visit UK and work in my school during 2004.

Our two schools are linked and we have worked hard in developing children's understanding of global education and incorporating this into the curriculum. This work continues and several staff are keen to visit Uganda and become involved in work there.

I met Lynne Pritchard and Ronnie Katzler in Masindi during the summer of 2003 and we all shared an enthusiasm for what we were doing there which has led to us going back every year for the past five years to train teachers, has led to the setting up of REDEARTH and the plan to establish a training centre there which will include a working Nursery. I set up a Nursery when I first became Headteacher so this aspect of the development really excites me. It is great to work with Lynne and Ronnie who have become very good friends.

REDEARTH and work in Uganda has become a huge and important part of my life and I cannot imagine not going back every year and more! We are able to enhance and develop the teaching of Ugandan teachers and provide professional development for teachers from UK. But most of all it is helping to improve children's learning in UK and Uganda and their understanding of children's lives in other countries. That's what it's all about!

