

## President's Report to the Annual General Meeting April 2015 Katoke Trust for Overseas Aid

Rev Samuel Habimana, in 2006 wrote to encourage support for a school at Katoke, The Secondary School ... will be a great liberator of children from Katoke and beyond. There is a great and urgent need to educate leaders for tomorrow.

It gives much pleasure to see the work prospering in Katoke but occasionally I get a great amusement and delight from events or letters from our African brothers or sisters. One such was a recent letter from former school graduate, Evina Enock.

Evina completed four years of secondary school then a one year librarians' course sponsored by Katoke Trust. She has now begun serving in the KLSS Library and sent a heartfelt letter of thanks, I thank Lord God paving the way and granting me everything necessary [for the course]. You have made possible tremendous drop me in the academic ocean. Hallowed be your name.

I don't know if you can remember what it was like when you were first dropped into the bracing waters of the 'academic ocean'. I tend to forget. Evina has reminded me of how invigorating was my own first experience of those waters. And Evina certainly made good use of her 'dip'. She came first of 452 students who did the course. You can read her letter on the web site. Here is her photo with the trophy. [pic Anna Moir] Evina thanks us all;

My special regard I extend to all Katoke Trust members for making me to drop in the academic ocean, which makes me feel joy all the time.

Evina is just one of many who express an overwhelming gratitude as we start to see the realization of Samuel Habimana's dream. It is sad that he cannot be at Katoke to share this delight and give thanks to God. An excellent though brief biography of Samuel Habimana is now available \$10 with all money going to Mama Halelujah. Get one today.

Why has our program been effective? In Sydney there are many who use their gifts on our committees and many others also give generously. As well, we have marvelous volunteers who work on site. But all this would easily come to nought if we did not have dependable and honest partners among the local Tanzanians. Such partnership cannot be presumed upon. Other programs have spent millions and got nowhere. The singer Madonna's foundation, *Raising Malawi*, spent \$3.8m to build a secondary school but finally abandoned the project (SMH, 26.3.11). How did we get such partners? In a major way because of the refining impact of the gospel of Jesus through the East African Revival of which Samuel Habimana was a leader. This brought forward many whose lives were radically transformed and given great honesty and purpose and who are now leaders of projects. There is a similar motivation and integrity among the supporters in Australia and NZ. We thank God.

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