

# THE MISSION DIRECT STORY

*People, Partnership  
Purpose, Possibility*



**#YourMissionAwaits**  
**[www.missiondirect.org](http://www.missiondirect.org)**

## A message from our CEO, Wil Horwood



For over twenty years, Mission Direct has built relationships that change everyone involved – the community leaders who welcome volunteers, the volunteers whose lives are transformed by what they experience, the donors who invest in long-term partnerships, and everyone in the Mission Direct family who makes this work possible. Here, we celebrate their stories.

In our work we have been privileged to support educational partnerships across six countries – work that has benefited more than 305,000 children. But the real story isn't in the numbers ... it's in the quiet moments when a volunteer realises they have more to learn than to teach. It's in the way communities welcome volunteers – with singing, dancing, and genuine warmth. It's in friendships that last a lifetime.

When I talk to our overseas partners what strikes me most is their clarity of vision. They know their communities. They know what's needed. Our volunteers don't arrive with the answers – they show up ready to join work that's already happening, led by people who've been faithfully serving their neighbours for years.

This isn't charity. It's partnership. And partnership requires something from everyone: humility to listen, willingness to learn, and commitment to stay engaged beyond a single trip. Time and again, we see it happen...volunteers arrive hoping to make a difference and return home transformed. Assumptions have been challenged and horizons broadened. Understanding of community, resilience, and faith has deepened.

In these pages, you'll hear from volunteers, community and church leaders, schoolchildren and overseas partners. These are stories of mutual transformation.

We'd love you to be part of this story.  
Blessings,  
Wil



# The Mission Direct Approach

## Partnership Rooted in Faith



Mission Direct was founded in 2004 by Nigel Hyde, who believed that effective mission requires humility, genuine relationships, and long-term commitment. That vision still shapes everything we do.

Today we partner with communities in Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Cambodia and the Dominican Republic.

Many of our partners are Christian organisations serving their communities through education, healthcare, and community development, all united by a commitment to dignity, opportunity, and local leadership.



## How We Work

**We listen first** - Communities identify their own priorities. Our role is to support their vision, not impose our own.

**We commit for the long term** - Some partnerships have lasted more than two decades. Real change takes time, trust, and perseverance.

**We walk alongside** - This isn't about volunteers 'saving' communities. It's about people from different contexts learning from each other, building together and growing together.

**We respect community leadership** - The experts are the people who live and work in these communities every day. Volunteers come to contribute, not to take charge.



# MISSION MAKERS

The people behind the purpose



## A transformational trip to Zambia sparked by disaster

### Meet Susie... Volunteer, Donor & Church Mobiliser

**In 2008, Susie's church in St Albans suffered a devastating fire and the church hall burnt down. As the congregation raised money to rebuild, they felt called to do more than restore what they had lost. "If we were being given a new building, we wanted to help be part of someone else's journey too."**

Three people in the church independently suggested Mission Direct. The question they asked was simple: is there something that needs funding, and can we be part of that story? The answer was a couple in Zambia whose church was full of over 250 children - 120 of them orphans - desperate for a school.

**"To think that it all started with a plot of land and a shared vision is incredibly humbling."**

The church gave £12,000 to purchase land. Twenty-three volunteers travelled to build the first classrooms. When Susie and her daughter Shan visited, they met a widow boiling water so her children would think food was coming - hoping they would fall asleep before realising there would be none. *"That encounter has stayed with me. It makes me question my own needs in a very practical way."*

Today, the Crown of Life School teaches over 650 children from nursery through to senior school and provides free lunches for those who need them. One of the young people they helped sponsor is now being talked about as a potential future MP in Zambia.

**Are you ready?**



# MISSION MAKERS

The people behind the purpose



**Retirement? Not Quite.  
Kumi, Uganda**

**Meet Richard and Janet aka  
*Papa Richard and Mama Jan...***

**Richard spent his career in property, Janet in accountancy. When they retired, they had every reason to put their feet up. Instead, God's path lead them to Uganda...**

Both had been widowed. Both had faith at the centre of their lives. Together, they committed themselves to Mission Direct's work in Kumi - Richard working alongside the local team on every build, Janet driving fundraising to sustain the vital work. Both roles entirely voluntary.

In Kumi, they are known simply as Mama Jan and Papa Richard. When volunteer teams arrive, Richard and Janet will already be there. In between trips, they are in almost daily contact with their friends and partners in Kumi – the relationship doesn't pause because there are air miles between them.

Ask them what they're trying to achieve and they won't talk about projects or targets. They talk about giving a community a lift – not doing the work for them, but creating the conditions in which the people of Kumi can drive things forward for themselves.

**"They welcome, affirm and care for each team member – enabling everyone to contribute, whatever their strengths or fears." – Brenda, volunteer**

**Are you ready?**



# MISSION MAKERS

The people behind the purpose



## Fulham Cross Academy Trust Years 9–11 Zomba, Malawi

In July 2025, sixteen students aged 13–16 from Fulham Cross Academy travelled to Malawi. They'd spent a year preparing - fundraising, attending weekly Malawi Club meetings, getting ready. As one team leader told parents at Heathrow: *"Expect your children to return in two weeks as changed people."*

*This wasn't just a trip  
it was a  
transformation.  
Malawi challenged  
me, changed me, and  
inspired me.  
Student, Fulham Cross  
Academy*

Working with Mission Direct and local charity Mbedza, each morning the students helped construct a community centre for children with disabilities, working alongside Malawian builders. *"It was physically demanding - mixing cement, carrying bricks, laying walls. There was such a great sense of achievement."*

*It is hard to over state  
the life-long impact  
this trip had on every  
single student.  
Teacher, Fulham  
Cross Academy*

Afternoons brought visits to Mbedza's community projects in rural villages, where entire communities welcomed them with singing and dancing. *"The welcome was just amazing and so joyful. I was holding hands and dancing with them."*

They visited stove projects, tree-planting initiatives, HIV prevention programmes, and projects helping girls stay in school. One student visited a sponsored child's home and was quietly moved by it. *"She sleeps on the floor with a mat and a sheet. Yet all the people in the villages are so grateful for what they have. This breaks my heart."*

Are you ready?



# MISSION MAKERS

The people behind the purpose

**Overseas Partner & Founder  
of Mission With a Vision,  
Kenya**

**Meet Patrick Ngigi...**

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eption in doctor  
l research in  
ca region.



**In 1997, a young girl came into Patrick's office, trembling. "Please, Sir," she whispered. "Don't let them marry me off." She was 13 years old.**

Patrick had no rescue centre, no funding, no plan. He had his mother's house - and he knew he couldn't send her back. Within days, three more girls arrived. Then five. Then ten.

Nearly 30 years later, Mission With a Vision has helped around 3,500 girls escape FGM and child marriage. Cynthia came at 11 - today, at 23, she works alongside the team supporting younger girls. Cecilia arrived saying: *"I loved education, so I ran for my life."* Last year she earned her diploma in counselling psychology. When they celebrated, the whole house erupted - girls dancing, staff in tears.

Former residents are not just surviving, they are thriving - they are now teachers, nurses, businesswomen. Many have come back to protect the next generation.

That first girl finished school. She built a life.  
She broke the cycle.

**Are you ready?**



**"Because one  
girl can  
change  
everything."**

Are you ready?



# MISSION MAKERS

The people behind the purpose

A question asked on a Friday morning about a patch of wasteland next to the school had, by Monday, become a levelled volleyball court – 21 truckloads of soil, a local farmer with a tractor, and a community that simply got it done.

Maureen, Volunteer Cambodia 2026

*"It is truly amazing to see what can be achieved if you just have the faith to believe anything is possible."*



Jamie, aged 10, Volunteer Uganda

When Jamie arrived in Kumi, he wasn't sure what to expect. Two weeks later, he left with memories he says will never leave him. He went to Uganda with nerves. He came back full of heart, full of hope, and full of stories he'll be telling for the rest of his life.

*"I have never felt so relieved that I said yes to something. I have never had so much fun in my life"*



# MISSION IMPACT

Since 2004 we have...

Helped to  
build 55  
schools



Helped over  
305,000  
children



Sent over  
600 teams  
around the  
world



Worked in  
16 different  
countries



Are you ready?



# MISSION IMPACT

In 2025 our work supported...



**10,236**  
children

**8 countries**

**18 schools**

New  
classrooms

**5,799**

children  
supported by new  
education  
projects...

New safe  
houses &  
refuges

Free  
school  
meals

**4,477**

children  
benefitted from  
community  
projects...

Newly  
built  
housing

School  
sponsorship

New  
community  
centres &  
clinics

Aid to  
orphanages

*"Beyond these numbers, the deepest impact is sustained relationships and communities empowered to lead their own development." Wil Horwood*

Are you ready?



# Join the Mission

*You can be part of the story too...*



The people you've read about in these pages - Jamie, Susie, Richard, Janet, and hundreds more - have one thing in common. They said yes.

Yes to going. Yes to giving. Yes to praying. And because of that, over 305,000 children have had their lives changed.

Mission Direct receives no statutory funding - not a penny from government. Every school built, every volunteer sent, every community partnership sustained, is made possible entirely by people like you.



## Three ways to join the mission

### PRAY

Your prayers for our volunteers, our partners and the communities we serve are vital.

We'd love you to stand with us in prayer

### GIVE

Become a Mission Maker.

Give monthly and help fund the partnerships, planning and presence on the ground that makes it all possible.

### GO

Join one of our volunteer teams overseas.

Two weeks. A lifetime of impact.

Whether you're 7 or 70, there's a place for you.



# Become a Mission Maker



**Give monthly. Change lives. Join our community**

Some of our supporters have been giving regularly for years – quietly, faithfully, making our missions possible.

**This is your invitation to join them.**

When you give monthly, you become a Mission Maker. You're part of the team that builds the schools, funds the trips and sustains the partnerships. You're part of the story.

**£ 10/mth**

**Your contribution helps keep the mission moving – funding the planning and partnerships behind every project.**

**£ 25/mth**

**The more you give, the more we can do, so that many more people can be helped.**

**£ 50/mth**

£10/month

**[missiondirect.org/donate](https://missiondirect.org/donate)**



# MISSION: IS POSSIBLE



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