

LDWP Summer 2007

[Br. John Deeney](#)

Almost all of this year's 70 volunteers plus a few parents recently squeezed into the sitting room at St Helens for our pre-departure meeting. The enthusiasm was palpable, as was the relief at the end of the exam period. Those with experience were responsible for much of the presentation of the day but early on I used the following quotation: "What would Jesus say today, in the face of racial tensions, terrorism, human rights violations, wars with countless people dead and hurt? Would he not say "Love one another"? What matters is to bring love to the world. But make no mistake. Love is not an easy way out. It asks for demanding and resolute action that has the power to transform the world." (*Chiara Lubich*) While the building activity will be important, it is the love that motivates the work and the relationships that is the crucial ingredient.

The new destination for this year is **South Africa**. About two years ago an appeal for aid reached us from the well-appointed St Thomas More School near Durban which wanted to help reconstruct a collapsing school in a poor area some miles away. We agreed to joint fund the work and this sizable cooperative project will now also serve as a training exercise for local building apprentices as well as a learning experience for our group. It should be pleasing to see how four different interested parties working together are able to achieve something positive.



Other destinations are:

Ghana, where we will be starting on classrooms for a junior secondary school in Kaleo.

Kenya: constructing a classroom in a Maasai village (one new to us) near Narok town.

Uganda: carrying out flooring, plastering and painting in Mugalike village in the west of the country.

Rwanda: returning for a second year to Nyanza to develop the staff-housing complex.

India: another group will work with [RTU](#) taking part in their construction programme as well as enjoy-

ing play and study time with the children.

Mike Horgan, from Cardiff, has again travelled to Mannar in Sri Lanka, where the situation remains difficult for all inhabitants. A small group of older volunteers was planning to travel to Kinshasa in the D. R. of Congo to help with setting up a hostel for street children. But the confirmation of this project has been considerably delayed and it is not now certain that it will be able to take place this year. Looking ahead to 2008, there are some 50 first time youthful applicants for project places, a healthy number. There is also a proposal from our Brothers for an English teaching project in southern Sudan once the groundwork for that has been laid in the intervening months. So there are still challenges to look forward to. I would like to thank all the individuals and communities who have helped to support the project activities in the course of this year – 'Asante sana' in Swahili.