



# 2022

**NEWSLETTER ROUNDUP**

**2000** notebooks given to pupils

**1200** Reading Made Easy printed & distributed

**500** phonic readers added to the libraries

**500** bookbags given to pupils

**10** English dictionaries added to the libraries

## A CLEARLY POSITIVE EFFECT FROM THE READING MADE EASY WORKSHOPS

2022 saw all of the ground work we have laid at Christianna Foundation over the past 3-years, finally translating into concrete measurable outcomes. We have worked closely with pupils, teachers, parents and the community in the under-resourced rural local authority of Ona-Ara in Oyo State Nigeria and developed a literacy programme that truly represents the potential of the children it is designed to service.

Our Reading Made Easy workshops introduced a series of “levelled readers” specifically written with the needs of children in Ona-Ara in mind—needs that we see reflected all across Nigeria. The books are fun, imaginative and relatable; all set in Nigeria with fantastic illustrations. 300 children were selected to take part, who were not progressing with their English skills within the regular curriculum. By the end of 2022 we had introduced 5 books 1A-1E distributing 1500 copies. Children were now able to recognise single letter sounds and they knew over 130 sight words. They were also familiar with basic punctuation, some word classes, syllables and both short and long-vowel sounds.

The Reading Made Easy books could be seen everywhere during break times with children reading them and sharing them with other pupils whenever they had spare time in the school day. Parents and teachers had begun to ask for the programme to be extended to all pupils as the pilot group were fast beginning to read in English.

Working with teachers parents and the community continues to be at the heart of everything that we do. After the first three terms of the pilot we reached out to teachers and the community to talk to them about the Reading Made Easy programme and get their feedback. Across the board feedback was very positive.

We were delighted to get the results from the researchers after the first year of data from the Early Grade Reading Assessments. A draft paper titled “Does Working with the Reading Made Easy Books Significantly Increase a Child’s Ability to Learn to Read in English” was completed by December. The researchers recommended the books for future use on a larger scale.

*“There is sufficient evidence to suggest that an association exists between using the Reading made Easy books and a decrease in the proportion of zero scores. These results hold true regardless of gender or grade of the pupil .... This pilot study clearly showed a positive effect from using the Reading Made Easy books. As such, the Reading Made Easy books are recommended for future use and on a larger scale.” Joseph Venezia, Senior Data Analyst*

After just 12 half hour workshops with the first four Reading Made Easy books,



We had annual awards for pupils in The Book Review Challenge with 7 pupils awarded book prizes for outstanding work writing book reviews. The contribution of teachers is also recognised and awarded in an annual Book Box Library Club Super Mentor Awards. Seven teachers were recognised for going above and beyond winning a ₦5000 prize along with a BBLC Super Mentor certificate.

We are delighted to announce that we have a new supporter in First Bank Nigeria. We ended the year with the amazing news that First Bank were donating ₦8million towards our work with children’s literacy. Thank you to Folake Ani-Mumuney, Group Head of Marketing and Corporate Communications at First Bank, for making this happen.

A very BIG thank you to all of our donors. Our work would not be possible without you.

