

The Quicken Trust

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uganda update

Autumn 2001

Dear Friends, Partnering with the future of others

Our visit to Uganda in July with retired G.P. Doctor Harry reminded us how fragile life is. Returning to meet old friends only to find that between visits they have died. This time we met Pastor George's brother-in-law aged 23. He had T.B. and Aids. Three weeks later he died.

Pastor Wilson's baby named "Success" was 9 months old and he has now died of complications resulting from malaria. It is difficult to understand a society where so many young children and young adults, many at the peak of life, die.

We are often asked why African/Ugandan families have so many children - "Why don't you teach them about birth control?" Maybe if we knew that only a small number of our family was going to survive we too would use the same insurance policy! Africa's problems are complex but still we move on....

Partnering with the needs of the Orphans

The last 15 months have been an amazing journey of faith!

In July 2000 we had 12 orphaned children from Kabubbu being sponsored by U.K. families for their education in a school 10km away. Then we began to visualise the school in Kabubbu that the local people had asked for, but all we could promise was "We will tell your story in the U.K. and see what God does". One year later £20,000 had been raised. Three months later and another £19,000 has been raised - enough to build the school. Thank you for your help in achieving this.

We thank Simon Marden and Roland Dunn for their tireless efforts in initiating, organising and even pedalling at the "Cycle to Uganda 2001" event. Teams of cyclists pedalled furiously on static bikes in the sweltering sun to cover the distance between Hailsham and Uganda.

We thank teams from Colkins Mill Church Mayfield, Hailsham Christian Fellowship, Methodist Church Hailsham, Living Word Hailsham, Shinewater Community Church Langney, Frenchgate Christian Centre Hampden Park, United Reformed Church Hastings, Grannies from the locality, a team of Firefighters, friends, family and numerous other individuals and groups. Special mention must be given to six retired members of St John's Church Polegate & St Wilfrid's Church Willingdon whose team, led by Jenny Moore, raised the fantastic sum of £707.73.

Many local companies supported the event with their company logo. Local shops in Hailsham gave raffle prizes and British Airways gave two tickets to any European destination as first prize and Dunlop Slazenger a set of golf clubs as second prize.

During the event we heard news from Uganda that the land for the school had been purchased. Details of the school layout have been approved and building should start soon. The first children will start school there in February 2002.

Now on to Phase 2 requiring just as much faith! Please pray for another 368 families willing to "adopt" a Ugandan orphan. Only through the £17 a month sponsorship can the children be fed, educated, receive healthcare and have emotional stability. Also, the teachers' salaries will be met and the project sustained.

Visiting Kabubbu we again met Maria the little orphaned girl who had run away from home because her grandmother beat her. Now settled into school she had an excellent school report and is, in the words of the Head Teacher, "thriving." Stories like this spur us on to find the support needed for other children.

Uganda's needs are huge. Everywhere you go people ask us for help. We have recently re-focussed on the story that blazed in our hearts on our first visit.

Pastor George in Kabubbu told us that his grandmother (who died a number of years ago) had told him that in 1930 the missionaries came to Kabubbu and transformed the village but left in 1935 taking their medicine with them. She had told George that one day the white people will return and the village will live again.

It was because of this story that we heard in 1999 that we returned the following year to ask many more in depth questions of various groups - including government Ministers, teachers, healthcare workers and orphans in Kabubbu. The Kabubbu orphans remain our primary focus although we also assist other small projects.

Partnering with the needs of Schools

Invitations to speak at school assemblies, Harvest Festivals or R.E lessons are now enhanced by Uganda artefacts, overhead acetates and stories about everyday life.

Items used to illustrate the story include sandals made out of old car tyres, a charcoal cooker and iron, rat glue (they love this one!) and a water container to help the children experience how difficult life is without running water.

Special thanks go to Roselands School for partnering with Nansuse School; Burgess Hill School for Girls who are sponsoring an orphan for five years; Broad Oak Primary School who through the profit raised from the sale of biscuits in the school now feed 50-60 children daily in Trust nursery; and Hailsham Community College students who raised £300 from a "mufti day" in Year 9. And for other schools as far away as Wallingford in Oxfordshire which are supporting Ugandan schools.

Partnering with the needs of the Church

Quicken Trust continues to support David and Valerie in their work. Ten people have pledged monthly support towards their living costs. Their rent and a number of gifts have been passed on to them through the Trust. A small fund provides essential medicines for those who are sick. Thank you British Airways for providing tickets for their visit to the U.K. in April 2002.

Val continues to work with the “outcasts” of society, supporting parents of physically and mentally handicapped children. Many superstitions abound around those with learning difficulties. David continues to teach at a number of churches.

We have enjoyed many opportunities to “tell the story” at church services, women’s and young people’s groups at Frenchgate Christian Centre, Broadwater Christian Fellowship Worthing, Ceylon Place Baptist Church, Ashburnham Bible Week, The Christian Fellowship Stonecross and the U.R.C Church in Hastings.

Partnering with Social Needs

The arrival in Kabubbu of the third heifer in calf has caused great excitement. The women worked hard building animal shelters, planting elephant grass and learning to care for them. They now await the birth of the three calves. If they are heifers they will be passed to other poor families. We will support this project until August 2002 when there should be sufficient funds for the locals to sustain the work.

The Kabubbu men, seeing the success of the women’s project, started a small organic farming project under the leadership of “Philip”. They dug irrigation channels and planted all types of vegetables to supply high-class Kampala hotels. They now need of a specialist water pump costing £500 to assist in the project.

The women’s work has been mainly been supported through the sale of their handicrafts - mats, baskets, hand bags, hats, purses, leather stools and so on.

Special thanks go to Dot and Ian Elphick at Stonecross, Rosemary and Alan Hibbs and Sylvia Upfield in Hailsham for Garden Parties. The Link Coffee Shop staff donated their “tips” of £700. We exhibited at the Rushlake Green Flower show.

Partnering with Healthcare Needs

Come and follow us as Dr Harry leads us from patient to patient in Kabubbu.

To get medicine requires money and transport. Often the choice is medicine or food. If you can afford medicine, imagine travelling on the back of a boda boda (motor cycle!) in labour or in great pain over 10km of dirt road.

Imagine if you are Pastor George’s brother-in-law almost too weak to stand and you are lying, dying on the mud floor under a bundle of rags and with no hope.

From Kabubbu you go to the nearest clinic about 10km away. It looks impressive until you see there is only one small box of medicines for all needs, so you will probably have to be referred on to the hospital in Kampala.

On the boda boda again to Kampala 40 minutes ride away. Here you may get some medicine and treatment. But you must bring your carers to hospital with you so they can cook and fetch and carry for you. If they stay with you they will have to sleep under your bed along with all the pots and pans. Wards get rather crowded!

The clinic in Kabubbu will provide a vital resource for the village. Built on the school site it will cost around £5,000. Recent gifts and a coffee morning at Mary Dooley’s in Hailsham have raised a total of £570 towards this project.

Sharing the Experience

We give thanks to many people including the anonymous gift of £1,000 donated by someone from a recent redundancy package. To the Pitons Foundation for £600. To St John’s Church Rowlands Castle for a gift of £320. To those who have opened doors for us to speak at the Rotary Club in Hailsham and Tunbridge Wells.

Thanks to Bob James at Sovereign Radio, Amanda Wilkins at Hailsham Gazette, to the Sussex Express and the Kent and Sussex Courier – all have given excellent media coverage. To Emma Houghton for covering our work through the Hailsham Prayer Bulletin. And to so many who remain anonymous but make a valuable contribution.

Daily activities and forthcoming events currently confirmed include:

- Visit of Pastor Wilson from Uganda (November 20th – 23rd)
- Christmas Fayres at The Rest, Three Cups (November 24th) and Wartling Hall, Boreham Street (November 24th) and Roselands Primary School, Eastbourne (December 1st)
- Visit to Uganda - end of December/ beginning of January 2002
- Planning meeting for March 2002 Uganda visit (January 28th)
- Speaking engagements at - Beulah Baptist Fellowship, Battle (January 31st) and St Mary’s Fellowship, Hailsham (February 4th)
- Meetings with British Airways; development organisations; networking with other care projects, sinking wells, construction and medicine and liaising with the media take time. Plus endless hours of administration!!

Sometimes groups like to fund raise for a specific project. These include a water pump for the men’s project (£500) or fund raising for the clinic-£4,430 to go!

Urgent individual help needed includes 368 Sponsors to “adopt” an orphan at £17 per month for five years and opportunities to show a video, slides and give an interactive presentation to any group wishing to invite us.

Your gifts and skills continue to make a difference. We couldn’t do it without you!

We look forward to continuing our partnership with you as you partner with the future of others. Without you so much less would be achieved.

On behalf of the orphans and people of Uganda - Thank you.

Blessings,

Geoff & Geraldine Booker

The Quicken Trust is supported by

