

The Quicken Trust

PO Box 113 Hailsham BN27 4US

Telephone & fax: (01323) 832361 Email: quickentrust@onetel.net.uk

Website: www.quicken.demon.co.uk

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Uganda Update

The Quicken Trust is supported by



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Partnering with the future of others

Dear Friends,

Each chapter of this journey of faith in Kabubbu provides us with more challenges, opportunities and amazement as we see the projects in Kabubbu coming to birth and developing.

The week beginning July 8th was unforgettable as we prepared for the second "Bike Ride to Uganda" in Hailsham. We worked on the last minute details organising press releases, advertising, distributing collecting tins, printing up notices to sell handicrafts and T shirts, last minute checking on the members of each team cycling at the event and so on. Simon Marden meanwhile organised the construction of the stand for the big day.

By 8pm on Wednesday all was ready for the Friday and we decided to have the Thursday off. After all this was supposed to be part of Geoff's annual leave and the work of Quicken Trust was only supposed to be a hobby!! We might amble the country lanes and have a pub lunch on the Thursday to relax a little before the Bike Ride began on the Friday.



By 8.30am on Thursday this all changed. It was the 11th July and someone rang to say the long awaited and much prayed for feature in The Daily Mail was published. The phone started to ring and did not stop until 10pm.

From mid-day Friday we were on with the Bike Ride and at odd moments when we left the event to come home to eat we responded to another 25 calls. We ate as we dealt with the phone and the mail.

What a response!

Nigel Coltman Wealden District Councillor & Charles Hendry MP (r)

Partnering with the needs of orphans

We received and responded to well over 300 phone calls and letters in the next few weeks. The school opened in February for 60 children. By June at the start of the second term, the number had grown to 90. Now, as a result of The Daily Mail feature, 140 children started the third term in mid September.

Gifts received from the feature have provided sufficient funds to build simple housing for six teachers, vital to encourage good teachers in a rural area. Each house has two rooms plus cooking and washing area on the school site in Kabubbu. Two of the teachers, Catherine and Margaret, are delighted that now they can move out of a classroom, their home for the past six months.

Many people phoned to say they were very moved by the news feature and how pleased they were that 100% of all funds raised went to Kabubbu and that no money was deducted for administration or advertising costs. This Newsletter, mailed twice a year, is our only regular form of “advertising”.

Another exciting development in recent months has been the growing interest of so many families who sponsor a child in Kabubbu. On a recent visit we were able to take 33 gifts and 17 cards weighing some 30 kg – a full suitcase allowance for air travel.

Some families had asked us to visit ‘their’ child at home and find out the needs of the family. We should, by now, be familiar with poverty but we are still shocked by what we see and we are grateful to the



many families sponsoring an orphan. This year they have supplied chicken farms, food, mattresses and medicines. Recently a family had a pit latrine dug for them, much to the delight of their neighbours who were worried about the health hazard.

Another breadwinner is being funded for training to be a tailor. The English sponsors are providing a sewing machine. We thank all those sponsors who have truly “adopted” both the child and the family they live with in Kabubbu.

In the past six months we have received gifts ranging from £2 to £7,000, from many countries – Canada, Gibraltar, Italy, Switzerland, the USA and beyond. We are so grateful to everyone partnering with the lives of others in this way.



A typical pit latrine

Partnering with Primary Health Care

The 48-hour non-stop Bike Ride attracted teams from schools, churches and a number of local businesses and traders. To date the Bike Ride has raised over £10,000 towards equipping and staffing the Parish Health Centre.

This, together with previous donations and £7,000 from British Airways through the Unicef "Change for Good" programme will enable us to build the complete Centre plus a maternity wing. Recently, while in Uganda, we met with the Minister of Health and he confirmed that we would eventually need a minimum of two Qualified Registered Nurses and a Nursing Aid to operate the Centre full time, particularly if we have a maternity section.

Earlier estimates of £6,000 for building the Parish Health Centre were inadequate. After meeting with the Minister of Health we have been advised of new government requirements that mean the real cost will be £15,000.

We will also supply housing for the three nurses at a cost of around £5,000 per house. This is vital in rural areas where public transport is non-existent and private transport is unaffordable - you risk life and limb in a private car on deeply rutted dirt tracks - where petrol costs £4 a gallon and a nurse earns £20 a week.

The local people have worked enthusiastically clearing the land for the Parish Health Centre.

Once the teachers' housing is built work can begin on the Centre. We must then obtain permits to function. It may be mid-2003 before the Centre is open.



This year the main Christmas gift for the orphans at school will be a mosquito net. The vapours from the net, if treated regularly, should protect the whole family within 50 yards of the net and prove to be a very useful aid in preventing malaria. Malaria kills over one million people each year and mostly in Africa! Our hope, if this project is successful, is to later provide all the families in Kabubbu with a net ... but more on that next spring.

AIDS is rampant. The children not only suffer the loss of parents but are also often moved around between relatives who are themselves destitute and maybe ill. Sometimes if there is a teenager in the orphaned family they will become the Guardian to their brothers and sisters only to be exploited by other greedy relatives who come and claim the family possessions or home. Not only do they lose their parents, but what little their parents leave them.

Partnering with the Church

We were invited by the community in Kabubbu to take a seminar on “Family Life”. In the past we have had opportunity through the Kabubbu Church to talk about practical aspects of life and spirituality to groups of around 50 people. This time we tried a new venue in the School Hall and well over 100 men and women eagerly packed in.

With such a group we are always careful not to impose a Western viewpoint or belief system on those present. Instead we seek to get them to discuss why they, as families, function in a certain way and how that helps or hinders the family. An interactive presentation is a new concept in learning for them. They are encouraged to speak out their ideas, listen to each other's viewpoint, question their own thinking and every day practices and consider changes for themselves and their own well-being.



Witchdoctors compound

Some beliefs under discussion and handed down by the Witchdoctors and others in the rural communities include:

- If you want to be cured of AIDS you need to sleep with a virgin!
- A child with disabilities is the result of being cursed by a Witchdoctor
- Children are the property of the father and his family
- It's the woman's job to earn the money to feed the children

Learning the truth about AIDS, the possible causes of disabilities and ideas on roles of men and women gave us all the opportunity to examine their beliefs, superstitions and the traditions that have been handed down to them.

Future opportunities will build on these discussions. The adults have asked for teaching on birth control, polygamy, literacy classes, and practical skills of carpentry, tailoring and other forms of farming.

One prominent member in the village has openly said he had observed how English visitors to the village discussed decisions together and how husbands and wives worked together as a couple. This has now caused him to change his relationship with his wife. Now he asks for her contribution and ideas on the

family, finances, decisions and so on recognising that her ideas are equally valid ... so sometimes actions speak louder than words.

Since the last Uganda Update we have been delighted that £1,500 has been raised by Frenchgate Christian Centre in Eastbourne to complete the roof on the Kabubbu church. We wish you could have seen Pastor George's face and hear the cheer that went up from the congregation when he and his wife, Sarah, opened the envelope containing the money.



Pastor George has also now been sponsored for his tuition and transport to Kampala to complete a three-year course in business management and administration.

He will begin the course in January 2003 and we are thrilled that this course will equip him to manage the projects in Kabubbu in the future.

Quicken Trust will fund his living costs for him, his wife Sarah and their seven children until other sponsors are raised to support him

Partnering with Social Needs

On a recent visit to Kabubbu we met, as usual, with the Kabubbu Women's Club. We sit under the shade of a tree as the Chairwoman reads out the minutes of the last meeting and hands us all the receipts.

All but one member of the group of fourteen have now received a sewing machine, a cow, or a chicken farm. From the profits of their co-operative they have now taken the initiative to start another chicken farm.

The Men's Club is eager to compete with the Women's Club to improve their community. Recently one of their group took a short course in breeding poultry. An incubator has been supplied enabling the men to breed chicks to sell to the Women's Club. Other income producing projects initiated by the men include constructing chicken houses and digging pit latrines. The community is now working together in the community for the community.



We so often come across heartbreaking circumstances as we make "home visits"

on behalf of the U.K. families who are sponsoring an orphan.

We came across a family where the mother died of AIDS, the father is sick and unable to work or provide an income.

He regularly has to move house because he can't pay the rent and is often unable to feed himself or his children aged 13, 9, 7 and 2.

He is now living in a shack (resembling a coal shed) where smoke from the neighbours' fires makes it almost impossible to breathe. The family in England supporting a child in this family has now offered to pay the rent on a more suitable house for the family for a year.



At another family, where the husband has died of AIDS, the widowed mother, herself sick, is struggling to care for her five children. She works in a rented 'shamba' (garden) growing vegetables.

Half of the produce she grows has to be given to the landlord; the other half has to feed the family. If there is any produce left over she uses it to pay for the rent on her one roomed house.

The youngest child in this family is about two years old and is disabled. In a society of great need the disabled children are the last to be helped, often hidden from sight. We wonder, when the mother dies, if this child will have any future or if she will mysteriously disappear as many disabled children do.

Partnering with the School

Words cannot convey to you the sheer joy of seeing the children at school.

They chatter, laugh, run around at play and always want to be with us.

The gentle and loving approach to the children by the Head Teacher, Enoch, does so much to help them gain confidence in themselves and their abilities. He often

says to us that love is more important than education.

On a continent that has been torn apart by strife and wars, he and the teachers give them love.

In February 2003 we will be taking yet another leap of faith. 120 more children will go to the school.

The leap of faith is that they are not yet sponsored! It will be much easier



Lillian, Michael, Margaret, Catherine, Mabel & Enoch

for the school, and less disruptive, if the children are introduced at the beginning of the school year instead of a few each term.

If you know someone who would like to sponsor a child, we can send details.

The six-acre site on which the school is built has become a community centre. A water pump, teachers' accommodation and the building of the Parish Health Centre have transformed the locality. The guardians give three hours once a week to improve the grounds and the approach to the school. On a recent visit we noticed two new buildings being constructed in Kabubbu trading centre (three little shops) and asked what they were.

We were told that the Kabubbu School is giving hope to the village and encouraging growth and investment into the community.

In August we met the Minister for Energy who immediately ordered a report to be made on the costing and supply of electricity to the locality. We understand that this has now been approved ... but keep praying ~ you never quite know in Uganda when the evidence will be seen!! And electricity would, among other things, enable us to put computers in the school and a fridge in the Health Centre.

We also met with the local District Engineer and understood that the levelling of the dirt road to Kabubbu (impassable in the wet season) was also in this year's budget and due to start in August ... but we are still waiting! He has promised a more substantial surface during December or January

Forthcoming events

We plan to visit Uganda in late November and to take a party of eight people with us in February 2003.

We continue to take a variety of speaking engagements, Church services and school assemblies. Some of those booked over the autumn/winter include:

School assembly	Moir House School, Eastbourne Broad Oak Primary School Ratton Comprehensive School, Eastbourne
Harvest Festivals	Frenchgate Christian Fellowship, Eastbourne St. John's Church, Rowland's Castle
Women's Groups	St Richards Club, Heathfield Y.M.C.A. Eastbourne Hailsham Methodist Club National Women's Register, Eastbourne W.I. Hampden Park W.I. Rushlake Green
Assembly and lessons	Bethany School, Goudhurst Willingdon Primary School Newlands School, Seaford
Presentations	Ridgeway Christian Fellowship, Wallingford, Oxford

We have been selected to receive one of six "Unsung Heroes" awards by the Celebrities Guild of Great Britain. This is to be presented at the Royal Garden Hotel, Kensington in November. We thank whomever it was who nominated Quicken Trust. It will be an opportunity to make new contacts and spread the good news of Kabubbu.

The real "Unsung Heroes" are the orphans of Kabubbu
who had daily faced a life with little hope.
And on their behalf we thank you for giving them hope.



Geoff & Geraldine Booker