

The Quicken Trust

PO Box 113 Hailsham BN27 4US

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

Website: www.quicken.demon.co.uk

Registered Charity No. 1058747

Uganda Update ~ Spring 2003

The Quicken Trust is supported by



Partnering with the future of Others

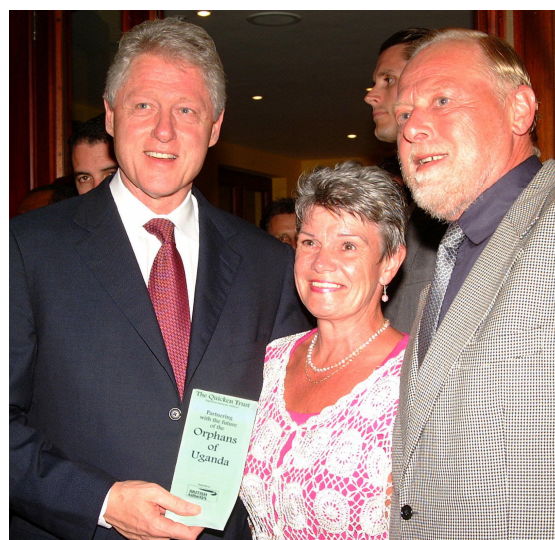
Dear Friends,

Our journey of faith over the past six months has taken us at full speed into unknown territories, and we are constantly amazed at the doors God opens for us into unexpected places. We had opportunity to meet the famous at the Celebrities Guild of Great Britain "*Unsung Heroes Award*" in November when we were presented with a £1,000 cheque. In January we met Bill Clinton,



former President of the U.S.A., when he was speaking to an invited audience on the responsibilities of world leaders to meet the critical needs of the third world.

However exciting all this may be, it is small compared with the delight we get when we see the lives of the families in Kabubbu slowly changing. When we see hope on the faces of the adults who have suffered so much loss because of the AIDS epidemic and the sheer joy of the welcome the Kabubbu children give to us each time we go there.



In this Uganda Update we aim to give:

- a report on the ongoing developments in Kabubbu
- a report on some new projects in Kabubbu
- at the end of each section ideas on issues in Kabubbu with which we daily struggle and need wisdom

Partnering with the needs of the Orphans

As we look back over the last six months one of the highlights was the children's Christmas party in Kabubbu. The afternoon began with the children entertaining Geraldine, Gary (our son) and Marie (from British Airways, Kampala) and what seemed like the whole community with singing, dancing and a Nativity play. Each time Mary and Joseph went from door to door of an Inn, Mary disappeared from view and then reappeared with an additional cushion under her dress – to great roars of laughter from everyone watching.

English is the language of education but the children usually speak a mixture of Lugandan and English at home. In the play the children stuttered their way through the English of the Authorised Version of the Bible. We weren't convinced they understood all they were saying but children learn by repetition in Uganda.



Later, Marie helped us at the party. Cakes, biscuits, crisps, samosas, squash and Coke – most of the goodies children in the UK enjoy at a party – but goodies most of the Kabubbu children hadn't tried before. It's impossible to convey the chatter, laughter and excitement and we have rarely seen food eaten so quickly!

Outside, looking eagerly in through the windows, were their guardians who were just holding on to the hope that maybe some morsels would be left over for them to enjoy. Later the children enjoyed outdoor team games and finally as the light fell the children received the gifts given by sponsors.

On this hectic visit we made 25 "Home Study Reports". Each visit can take an hour to complete. We are constantly appalled by the state of the houses that families have to live in. Most would be considered uninhabitable by an animal in England. There are varied constructions and materials used for houses. The worst types are those made of bamboo cross-members with a mud covering, and yet they daily sweep and clean the earth floor!

We visited Jenny aged 26. We were horrified to find that her mud house had dissolved in the recent rains. Her neighbours, equally as destitute, gathered corrugated tin, straw and bamboo and, together with her landlord, made a shelter. It was just big enough for her to put a layer of straw on the ground with a blanket to cover her and her three children less than 7 years old ... seeing this at



Christmas gave a new meaning to the Bethlehem Stable 2002. Jenny is unable to even pay the 30p a week needed for the rent.

Gary was asked to share his Kabubbu experience on Christmas Day at his church, Ridgeway Community Church in Wallingford. He chose to talk about the housing needs. An amazing £3,000 was raised for sheltered community housing in Kabubbu. We are now seeking to purchase 10 acres of land for this project.

A number of UK families have helped support their Kabubbu family in many ways, some by repairing homes, paying for rent for a year or digging pit latrines.

Wisdom is needed to know how to implement a policy with the community for the future of the sheltered housing. Who should qualify? Those with young families, no partner and no work? Those who are terminally ill? The elderly guardians struggling to bring up children in their old age? Do we make a small charge for rent? Do we allow residents to have the property rent-free for a given period ... but then where do they go? And how can we encourage planning for the future with those who are not used to planning for a future they may well never have? Do we allow families to stay until the youngest child is 18 years old? Questions, questions, questions

Partnering with Primary Health Care

We were thrilled to see the Parish Health Centre nearing completion and we hope it will open in the summer. The Centre includes a waiting area, a treatment room, dispensary, a delivery room and another small room where a mother who has given birth may rest. The Centre will provide healthcare, preventative medicine and inoculations for around 10,000 people each year plus vital medicines, antibiotics and malaria treatment.



It will radically change the health of the Kabubbu community. At present, when someone suffers from, for example, malaria they must first find the £1 needed for the return fare on a boda-boda (motor scooter taxi...and imagine that if you are in labour!) to the nearest clinic around 9km away. The fare alone is around the amount that many people need to feed their family daily, so the everyday choices of treatment or food are difficult to make!

All the school children were given a mosquito net for Christmas donated by their sponsors. Valerie Power from Gloucester, who sponsors two children in Kabubbu, gave £1,300 of a legacy to ensure all of the 140 new pupils who began school in February would also receive a mosquito net. Thank you.



A project in Tanzania conducted by The Tanzanian Essential Health Interventions and also a Canadian charity, International Development Research Centre, proved that by providing a rural community with bed nets infant mortality dropped by 28% in one year. Our aim is to ensure the local community is provided with the chemicals needed to re-treat their bed nets every six months to reduce malaria.

There will be two qualified Registered Nurses/Midwives and two Nursing Aides. Their houses are currently under construction. While we await their completion we are seeking to educate ourselves on how to equip a Health Centre in Kabubbu and what medication should be available. Another challenge for two people who know very little about medicine in the U.K. and have no knowledge on tropical illnesses or medicine!



Straw bed on a mud floor – but under a mosquito net!

The Minister of Health for Uganda offered to equip the centre and sent Geoff to the District Health Officer for the equipment. He was surprised by the request, as they had nothing to offer and sent Geoff back to the M.O.H. Finally two identical diagnostic kits were produced. Both held a thermometer, stethoscope, a kidney shaped bowl and three other items ... and that's all the Ugandan government had!

Wisdom is needed as we make have to make decisions about charges for medication. If we make no charge people may come from miles to the Centre. Some may take any medication offered unnecessarily to sell on to someone else. If we make a charge how will these destitute people living on £1 a day afford it. Or how can we ever correctly “means test” people who are sick?

Partnering with the Church

We are grateful for the support of so many churches in and around Sussex who support the fund-raising Bike Ride to Uganda in July and also invite us to speak and weave the good news of the miracles of Kabubbu with a visual presentation.

Last summer in our church in Heathfield we shared about the feeding of the five thousand. We encouraged one member from each family to take their own ‘bread and fish’ (in this case a £5 note taken from our own personal money) and to find a way of investing that money and to later return the proceeds to Quicken Trust.

We have been amazed at the gifts and enterprise returned to us. Many people took risks of faith and initiative. One lady bought wool and knitted toys to be sold. Another invested in coffee and milk and held a coffee morning. Others made Christmas cards. But two outstanding examples remain. One family, in need of the money themselves, agreed together that they would invest their money in their next five customers. The work completed on the customers' behalf netted over £800. They were unsure how their business would continue to progress as they had no further work orders. As they wrote out the cheque to Quicken Trust the phone rang. By the time they completed the cheque they had ten more customers!

Another couple agreed to invest their £5 in advertising an old clock they had on an Internet auction site. The purchaser was amazed that the money from this sale was going to charity and signed a Gift Aid form to enable Quicken Trust to raise an additional £430 on the amazing sum of £1,570 he paid for the clock. This money will be used to help support Pastor George who still has to buy food, pay his children's school fees and so on now that he is on a training course. Thank you to all of you who, in different ways, have also taken risks of faith.

The Kabubbu Church continues to thrive. On our recent visit the church received



the good news that Frenchgate Christian Fellowship had raised enough money to enable them to build a baptistery even though they don't have a baptistery of their own yet! More than 35 Kabubbu people want to be baptised but have been unable to do so

as the local river is unsafe because of river snakes and many other nasty things.

We are hoping to begin an "Alpha" course in Lugandan in Kabubbu this summer. The group will enjoy a 'bring and share' supper. This will remove the problem for individuals having to find money to buy the food. Once we have been able to monitor its success we hope to broaden this into the wider Kabubbu community.

Wisdom is needed in working with the church. Four of the most able members of the Christian community are busy. Pastor George is away from the community for 12 hours a day, six days a week as he is studying at the Y.M.C.A., Kampala in Business Administration and Management. His wife Sarah is now learning English also studying outside of Kabubbu. Joyce and John have taken over much of the daily responsibilities that come from our visits. We need to ensure the pastoral care balance is maintained in a community where a funeral is a frequent event because of AIDS and good teaching is vital for people surrounded by superstitions.

Partnering with Social Needs

One of the exciting developments in Kabubbu is the “community building” that has resulted from the projects there. The “Alpha” course, mentioned above, will continue this process at a deeper level. On our second visit, in February 2000, when the village elders asked for help we only agreed if the local community would “partner” with us. This initially involved the women making traditional mats and baskets to be sold in the U.K, and the men making bricks for the school.

Since then Pastor George has had the men and women giving three hours each week to tend the school ground, clear an area for a football pitch and clear and widen the approach road to the school. We understand that is quite unusual in Uganda for men and women to work together like this!



Recently a team of men, mostly from Essex, played football with the children at the school. We were surprised how many people turned out for the event - well over 500. The school won 4-3! Our thanks go to WORLD F.A.C.E.S for a new football strip for the school, donating other football

equipment, a football strip donated by Ipswich Town Football Club for the village football team and a framed greeting from Don McKinnon the Commonwealth Secretary-General. Working, playing football and discussing issues are all part of building relationships with the community.

The school has brought new opportunities to the community. Three local women now earn a living sewing the 250 school uniforms needed annually. The staff and residents of Oakland's Court Nursing Home have supported their child's guardian to attend a year's tailoring course in Kampala. Harriet should be qualified to join the sewing ladies in 9 months. Two ladies are apprentices to two other ladies who sew and, as funds allow, we hope they too may train in Kampala



Wisdom is needed to develop other sustainable work initiatives in Kabubbu. We are currently considering a small tourism project for travellers to Kabubbu but much wisdom is needed to find the right people to invest in this and to be able to market it successfully - but without incurring expenditure! More on that later!

Partnering with the School

In February, 250 children started the new school year. 180 of these children now have sponsors. The Teachers have moved into their new two roomed homes. Six houses have been built. This term two more new teachers, James and Julius have joined the staff under Enoch Kagoda (Head teacher). Our growing staff now includes his wife Lillian along with Margaret, Catherine, Michael, Janet and Mabel.



A Library with 3,000 books has been started on the school site, in one of the classrooms, to serve the school and the community. Our thanks go to Victoria Vassie and all those who supported her in this venture. We hear it is being well used. We have given instructions for the school Administrative Offices to be built. They will have a dedicated area for the library so that it can continue to grow.

We realise the more we provide for education for the next generation the more aware we become of the need to sustain developments and encourage self-sufficiency. In a country where almost the entire infrastructure is missing, decisions are hard to make about the future. We will soon need to wrestle with decisions about secondary education ~ do we embark on another building or do we walk away? After secondary education what should we do? It seems so futile to educate children if at the end of their education there is no opportunity for work. Do we seek to create a vocational training centre? But do we have the energy or expertise to continue the journey?

There are so many aspects can hinder work initiatives in rural Uganda. Petrol costs around £4 a gallon. Traditional crops like coffee now produce less income than five years ago. Western consumers demand ever-lower prices. Farmers in the West are heavily subsidised. African farmers get poorer each day.

On our last visit we asked a Director of a Kampala based charity why so many Western charities build, for example, a school in Tanzania, a hospital in Uganda and a work initiative in Kenya. He told us this satisfied the charities because they can show their donors the spread of their success. We asked him how he viewed this. He said it did little to deal with the underlying issues of poverty and meant a lot of aid offered was not sustainable by the local communities. This all seems so futile and almost a waste of time!

Wisdom is needed to plan for the future to ensure all projects started can be sustained. To find ways of developing work initiatives so the community can eventually take responsibility for themselves and their families without creating dependencies, and for the many questions that bombard us each day.

Special thanks also go to ...

- Intertechnology for £3,000 for two computers and a generator to power them
- The Rattonians for £1,000 made from programme sales at the Congress Theatre, Eastbourne during their production in 2002
- Hailsham United Junior Football Club for organising a disco that raised £550
- Gifts of £500 from St Richards Church, Heathfield and St Johns Church, Polegate with St Wilfrids Church, Lower Willingdon
- Individual donations from Stone and Colkett
- Halcyon Systems of Heathfield who have sponsored this newsletter and who are now supporting Quicken Trust by funding the printing and organising the mailing for this and future news letters

Forthcoming events

Some speaking events already booked in our diary include:

April 15 th	W.I. in Hamden Park
April 22 nd	R.A.F. Club in Hailsham
May 11 th	Holy Trinity Church, Hurstpierpoint
May 14 th	Normanhurst Residential Hotel, Bexhill-on-Sea
May 21 st	Wallingford School, Oxford - assembly and lesson
May 21 st	Inner Wheel, Peterborough
June	10 days in Kabubbu
July 11 th – 13 th	“Bike Ride for Uganda 2003”, Hailsham

“Bike Ride for Uganda 2003” for Sheltered Housing

48 hours non-stop from mid-day Friday 11th July to mid-day Sunday 13th July

Please can you help make the 48-hour bike ride a success? Please can you organise

- A team of 4 people to pedal for one hour each on a static exercise bikes
- No high speed or long distance required – no hills to cycle up!
- Anyone aged over 10 can take part as long as you can sit on a bike and turn the pedals. You qualify - even if you're 90 years old!
- Can be family, friends, schools, clubs, churches, pubs, brownies, youth groups, W.I members, work colleagues – ANYONE!
- Encourage your team members to get sponsors for a minimum of £30 per rider
- Book your preferred time slot NOW with the Quicken Trust Office on (01323) 832361 or email: quickentrust@onetel.net.uk
- Book soon to avoid disappointment!
- EVERY PENNY YOU RAISE WILL BE USED IN FULL IN KABUBBU

Our “Bike Rides” in 2001 & 2002 raised over £30,000 - Thank You

Geoff & Geraldine Booker