

# Quicken Trust

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## Uganda Update – Autumn 2004

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CHANGE FOR GOOD

### Partnering with the future of Others

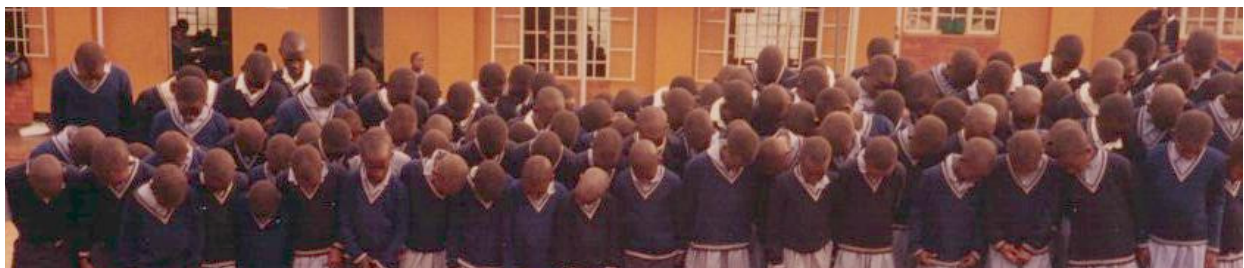
Dear Friends,

Come with us into Kabubbu as we travel along the dirt tracks nestling between the lush green vegetation including banana trees. We never know when we start out on our daily travels what joys or sorrows we may meet when we arrive at a family home. Today we are visiting the family of a little boy called Livingstone.

We are met by his Grandmother Josephine and Great Grandma Kevan who rush out to greet us like long lost friends, their faces shining as they welcome us.

They have bare feet. They have probably never owned shoes and are in their simple faded traditional dresses. Josephine quickly disappears back into her very small bamboo and mud house and emerges with the only two small wooden stools the family owns. As honoured guests we are invited to sit.

With the greetings, hand shakes, nods and smiles over we settle down to complete the family questionnaire which is part of the reason for our visit. Joyce is translating for us and we begin to chat. Kevan recalls the days under the dictatorship of Idi Amin, hiding each night in the bushes to sleep for fear of the soldiers who made night raids to arrest, rape or pillage homes. (continued on next page)



What's on the ground that's so fascinating to these children at the school?

(See page 5)

Kevan, a very fit but tiny lady goes on to tell us she is 95 years old. It seems impertinent to ask how she knows her age when there were no birth certificates back that far and she is possibly illiterate and innumerate. We wonder if she can really know her age!



The factual questions answered we move to the last two questions. These always bring a variety of responses. 'What are you most afraid of?' and 'What was the happiest day of your life?' To the latter, without hesitation, Kevan says 'Today'. We think it's our visit that's the highlight of her life. We repeat 'Today?' and she replies with 'Yesterday'. Again we question 'Yesterday?' and she now responds with 'Tomorrow'. Seeing our quizzical expressions she hastily adds 'Tomorrow will be the happiest day because any day I wake up and I'm still alive I am happy'. Happy? How can she be happy with so few possessions, no beds, no spare clothes and she has probably never travelled outside of her village. We wonder what 'happy' is when so many people in the West seek it and never find it. And those who don't seek it find happiness as a bi-product to the other things that occupy

their lives. We wonder how you would respond to her comment.

Contrast that with another visit we made to an elderly Grandfather of 80 who is the Guardian to several orphaned children. He lives in a simple but recently constructed brick built house with three rooms. A vast improvement to the previous home but, by our standards, probably only suitable as a donkey stable!



We are visiting this family on behalf of the sponsors of one of the children being cared for. The factual questions completed we come to the last two questions on the sheet. "What are you most afraid of?" and the old man replies "Death". We often receive this reply because relatives are usually concerned about who will care for their children if they die. This time we were startled as the old man carries on telling us that he is afraid to die because he is an habitual liar. He speaks with us if we are "Priests". He confesses that he thinks he can't

ever be forgiven for his lies as he had deceived five wives and knows even if he says sorry he will continue telling more lies tomorrow. We wonder how you would respond.



### Partnering with the future of the Orphans

The children, as always, are the highlight of any visit. Some recent provisions made for individual children by their sponsor families include:

Jackline, aged 6. Many of you will remember she was in a house fire that left her an orphan and badly scarred when she was about 2 years old. She was thrilled that her sponsors paid for her to have an operation that has given her the ability to close both eyes when asleep. She has just

had a second operation to free the fused skin between her left arm and her chest. Above all else, these operations give her greater hope.

Abuda, one of the school children, is now being treated for AIDS thanks to the sponsors in the UK who have kindly agreed to pay the £100 a month needed for his treatment.

Andrew, a young boy living with his Grandma, is being offered a very bright future by his UK sponsor. She has set up a fund to ensure Andrew will have £10,000 for his further education, skills development or apprenticeship needs.

Many more families are now receiving extra gifts of help including household items, bikes, training, medicine & more. Ideas are shown in our 'Life Partnering' catalogue.

For many the future is something they rarely think of because, like Kevan at the



beginning of our Newsletter, many are just grateful to be still alive today! The everyday needs of shelter and food occupy their minds and often it is impossible to plan for a future. However for 12 families their newly built two roomed homes give them a secure base from which they can, at last, begin to plan beyond tomorrow. For the families this

will be a dream fulfilled. Jenny and her children lived in a hastily built tin shack that was made for her when her mud house collapsed in the rain last year ... and now she has a new brick house with a concrete floor built by Quicken Trust.



## Partnering with the future of Social Needs

A highlight of recent months has been the opening of the new Library and Adult Literacy Centre, a success story from Victoria Vassie who has worked tirelessly to see her dream become a reality. Here she explains her vision for the project:

"Many Ugandans have never been to school. Rural literacy is approximately 50% limiting income generation to subsistence farming or labouring. These livelihoods do not even yield enough to pay for the children to go to school. Over the generations this cycle of poverty is repeated and when I was introduced to the isolated people of Kabubbu by Quicken Trust I felt upset because it was impossible to visualise a positive future for them.

Joram, who lives in Kabubbu, struggled to explain to me in broken English their need for learning opportunities and books. It was clear to me that the people were keen to develop but were educationally underpowered to do so. Witnessing their determination motivated me to partner with them to provide a library. I volunteered for the project to raise funds and through my employed work with British Airways have received much support and encouragement from the conception of the project.

Kabubbu Community Library Service was established in February 2003 offering free literacy classes, employment skills, development clubs and Library events, such as the Reading Festival, where the achievements of library users are celebrated. The greatest impact has been made by increasing the skills and self esteem of the illiterate.



A successful business has been started by Remegah who learned to make popular Ugandan food from a cook book in the Library.



In June 2004 the Library moved to a dedicated building which has been furnished by members of the Carpentry Development Club. Plans include an outreach scheme to serve neighbouring rural communities and an activities programme for the children."

The Library and Adult Literacy Centre has been tastefully decorated by BA volunteers. They too have passed on their skills to the community. A huge thank you to Vickie and BA's volunteers!

The "official" opening of the Centre will be during our next visit. Also on that day another volunteer and sponsor, Isabelle Gravenstein,

will be running 10,000 metres with Ibrahim, the child she sponsors in Kabubbu.



Running with them in this fundraising event will be the 10,000 metre Junior World Champion Boniface Kiprop (see left). Boniface is a 20 year old Ugandan. He recently represented his country at the Athens Olympic Games and, by only three seconds, missed the bronze medal. We thank Boniface, Isabella and Ibrahim for running to provide further community housing. To sponsor Isabelle and her team and for more information visit: [www.justgiving.com/uganda-10k-run](http://www.justgiving.com/uganda-10k-run).

We are always looking at how we can utilise the skills being developed in the community to ensure they generate local income. For example, beds donated by sponsors in the past were bought in Kampala. Now we are beginning to use the skills of local trainee carpenters. The funds generated will support the local community.

As so many of you have kindly donated extras for the families living in destitute conditions we have now designed a small 'Life Partnering' catalogue (enclosed) to give you an idea of how you may further support a family. Perhaps there are some items you may consider for a Christmas fundraising event you may be planning.

## Partnering with the future of Tourism



Two of the five roundels are now complete apart from plumbing and decoration. Early in October work will begin on construction for the next three.

Plans for the drainage from the roundels have been discussed with the local workers to construct.

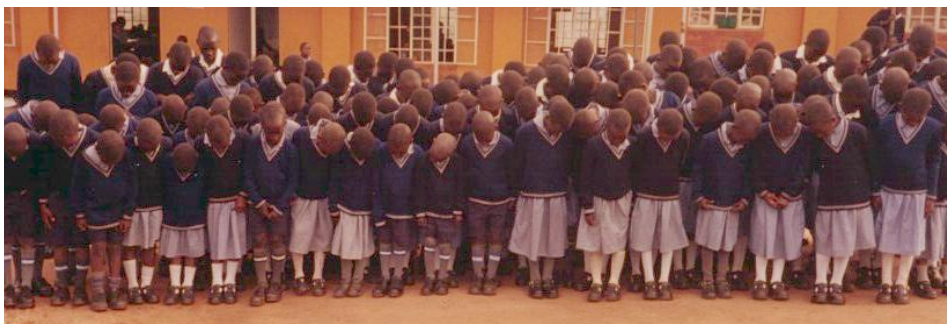
We are moving at a slower pace on this project because we need to allow time for personnel to be selected for skills training for working within the tourism industry. Also we are hoping that when the project opens in 2006,

we will be available on-site for at least a month to ensure adequate standards are maintained for the visiting tourist. It will be a fascinating holiday experience.

**Book Now!!**

## Partnering with the future of Kabubbu School

The children in Kabubbu Community Primary School received an unexpected surprise. Following the last Quicken Trust Newsletter a kind donor gave a gift of £1,500 to buy shoes for 150 of the children at the school. Unknown to them, Headmaster Enoch Kagoda, had walked around the school to see which children had no shoes and those children that had shoes that were beyond repair. 150 pairs were needed.



Some twenty children had been given new shoes by their sponsors. This meant we had enough money to purchase shoes for 130 children and pay for 10 minibuses to transport them to Kampala to be fitted. They were so excited about travelling to Kampala as some had never been outside their village before. This was a very special occasion so we suggested to Enoch that the children could also take a picnic and enjoy an educational sight-seeing tour of Kampala while on their special day out.

Two schoolchildren are facing difficult times. One 14 year old girl is pregnant. A boy of the same age who has been doing some work in the quarry is on drugs. Many of the men there, who lift huge rocks, take drugs to enable them to do the job. He has worked in the quarry to earn money, but is ruining his life. We will be following both up.

The fourth 'Bike Ride for Uganda' was held in Hailsham in mid-July. We thank all those who took part and raised funds during the 48 hour event. A special thank you goes to a team of eight pensioners from St Wilfrid's Church, Lower Willingdon who raised nearly £3,000. So far we have received around £13,000 and, with another special donation earlier in the year, we now have around £18,000 to build a secondary school which we anticipate will cost £85,000 ~ so, only about £67,000 to go!



A five acre plot of land will be purchased and discussions will be held with the local community to determine the best provision for the future education for the children.

We are 'Creating a Heart in Kabubbu'. We have been invited to include a presentation alongside a new school songbook and musical CD 'The Button Box' produced by Starshine Music. Our part of the CD being sent to schools purchasing it has a video, fundraising ideas, a PowerPoint on Kabubbu, a quiz and Fact Sheets on Uganda plus material that can be used in a school production, an assembly, as a lesson or series of lessons and for parent groups. Starshine will mail promotional material to primary schools in January. Their imaginative and colourful children's songs are well-known to many schools and their new production will be available in January 2005. It's ideal for school



productions and parents' evenings. If you know of a school, why not let them know about 'The Button Box'.

The Quicken Trust material will also be available on a separate CD direct from Quicken Trust for a donation of £5 to cover manufacture and postal costs. That's cheap enough for everyone to buy a copy and give it to a teacher with your recommendation to have contact with us! Just phone or write and ask for the 'Creating a Heart in Kabubbu' CD.

## Partnering with the future of the Church



Our work with the church continues. The Catholic churches in Eastbourne asked us to take a gift to the Catholic Church in Kabubbu to assist the congregation by re-roofing it. Geraldine visited the church in June and was warmly welcomed. She was invited to preach and was delighted to hand over the gift to a tremendous cheer from the congregation.

Pastor George's church continues to have great impact and he has nearly completed the first part of his management course.

## Partnering with the future of Primary Healthcare

The opening of the Health centre in June proved to be another special occasion. Mary, who travelled with Geraldine to support her on this visit, and Geraldine, spent from 9.00 am – 2.00 pm on the morning of the event making sandwiches. These were later devoured within 20 minutes as the invited V.I.P's - and uninvited guests - descended on them!



The event included many local Government dignitaries. The District Medical Officer of Health, the local M.P., British Airways staff plus national television and national newspapers. A highlight of the day was the dancing performed by the children in the colourful grass skirts they had made especially for the event.



Our special guest officiating at the event was His Excellency Adam Woods, the British High Commissioner. A few days later Mary and Geraldine were invited to a cocktail party at the High Commissioner's residence attended by over 800 people to celebrate the Queen's official birthday. In a short speech Adam Woods highlighted the Quicken Trust project as a leading example of the friendship and co-operation between donors in the UK and the people of Uganda.

In July the government of Uganda officially recognised the work of the Kabubbu Health Centre and nominated it as an immunisation centre. It is also now included in the District Health Office budget. This will cover around a quarter of the annual running costs.

However, the first cheque received from them bounced and we are in contact about this! A UK Trust has made a welcome donation of £5,000 to support the Centre. All this is a credit to the hard work and dedication of Nurse Rose and her team. Now we only have

to raise around £7,500 a year – and trust that the District Health Office cheques don't continue to 'bounce'!!

Following our last newsletter a donor kindly offered to make a donation for a microscope and equipment for the laboratory. Plans are now in hand to select a member of staff to be trained as a laboratory technician. We estimate that the one year training course will cost around £60 a month and when completed will enable quick diagnosis of malaria, typhoid and other rural diseases ~ and save lives!

Geraldine and Richard have just returned from Kabubbu. Their seven day visit was shortened to four because they were 'bumped' off their original flight. If a flight is overbooked, paying passengers have priority over free tickets. However, they

- Gave out 91 gifts from sponsors at a school Assembly
- Selected nurses to be trained as laboratory technicians
- Organised an appeal with local councillors to the Minister of Energy for provision of an electricity supply for Kabubbu
- Discussed the provision of a new water borehole
- Planned the drainage for the tourist roundels
- Met lawyers in Kampala to discuss the registration of Quicken Trust as a foreign NGO and the legal status of the Kabubbu Development Project documents
- Organised a tailor to make 24 African shirts for our November 20<sup>th</sup> presentation
- Organised further medical help for a boy with AIDS; a mother with AIDS; a child with TB; a boy with a cleft palate; foster care for abandoned orphans; rent for a Guardian whose house had collapsed and help for a 14 year-old rape victim
- Met with 55 Guardians to discuss their special needs and how sponsors may help
- Made eight Home Study visits
- Photographed eight completed houses donated by sponsor families in the UK

**Please note our revised email address and website**

**Email: [quickentrust@onetel.com](mailto:quickentrust@onetel.com)**

**Website: [www.quickentrust.com](http://www.quickentrust.com)**

Our website was constructed in 2000! It was four years old and talked about building a school, health centre and so on. Of course these are all now up and running! We have updated the text of the original pages and given it a new look. We are told that it is a bit 'clunky' (we think this must be a technical term!) but it was originally provided as a gift to us and the current amendments have been provided on the same basis. However 'clunky' it might be, we are grateful to those who have helped in this way. Please have a look at it and add it to your 'Favourites'

**Every Christmas we seek to give a gift to every child at the school.**

In past years this has been a hurricane lamp, a mattress, a mosquito net and a school bag. This year, Enoch Kagoda the Headmaster, has suggested the gift should be a pair of socks and a shoe cleaning kit. If you would like to assist with this gift for 'your' child or to provide for others, please send a £10 donation to Quicken Trust. Thank you.

**We are making our Christmas visit to Kabubbu a little earlier this year.**

**If you wish to send a Christmas package to 'your' child, please ensure it reaches us by OCTOBER 20<sup>th</sup>. PLEASE KEEP TO A MAXIMUM 'FLAT' A4 ENVELOPE SIZE.**

**Taking 250+ gifts is a mammoth task!**

We have our Christmas cards, featuring children in Kabubbu, available again. They are in assorted packs of six cards and priced £1.95 per pack + p&p = £2.30 per pack  
**BUY FIVE PACKS ~ GET ONE FREE = £11.00 (inc. post & packing) YOU SAVE £2.00**



### **"Creating a Heart in Kabubbu" 20<sup>th</sup> November 2004**

**Quicken Trust**



**"Creating a Heart in Kabubbu"**  
 Bringing New Life to a Ugandan Orphan Community

We know many of you haven't been able to attend an interactive presentation on the first four years of Quicken Trust in Kabubbu. Now there is no excuse!

You are invited to a special afternoon/evening programme on **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November** at **The Kings Centre, 27 Edison Road, Eastbourne** beginning at **5.00 pm**. It will be a **varied programme suitable for the whole family** with a fully interactive slide show, plus music from classical musician **Ieuan Rees** and Afternoon Tea followed by a short video on our work broadcast by **Meridian TV** in June 2003, a question time on Quicken Trust and its work in Kabubbu (send your questions to us beforehand) and gospel music with an African flavour!

**Everyone is welcome. We have 200 free Tea Tickets ~ first come first served ~ priority will be given to orphan sponsors and regular donors!**

Please contact **Pauline Carter** on Email: **paul.paulec@whsmithnet.co.uk** or Mail: **QT Event, PO Box 2667, Eastbourne, BN21 1RY** or Tel: **01323 723370**. **Please book by November 1<sup>st</sup>**. **Please only ask for Tea Tickets if you are definitely coming!**

The programme should suit the whole family and it should conclude by **9.00 pm** allowing plenty of time for those of you who travel a distance to easily get home.

**The event is free ~ but you may wish to make a donation on the day towards costs!**

Every time we write we say we could not do what we do without you doing what you do. This year has been no exception. We've seen amazing things happen in Kabubbu. So many things have happened because you care. Thank you for partnering with us.

We wish you a very Happy Christmas and a peace-filled New Year.

*Geoff & Geraldine Booker*

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Quicken Trust newsletter is sponsored by Halcyon, 87 High Street, Heathfield, TN21 8JA Tel: (01435) 868890

We guarantee that every donation to a dedicated project received by Quicken Trust is used in full in Kabubbu. Our administration costs are separately funded