

Quicken Trust

PO Box 113 Hailsham BN27 4US England

Telephone & fax: +44 (0)1323 832361 Email: quickentrust@onetel.com

Website: www.quickentrust.com

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Uganda Update – Spring 2005

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Partnering with the future of Others

Dear Friends,

The tragedies of the tsunami in South East Asia have diverted the attention of the media and many people in the world from what Prime Minister Tony Blair, as President of the G8 Industrial World Leaders Summit, had proposed in July to be the focus – Africa.

Recent comments made by Tony Blair on Africa since January 2005 include:

“Africa is the only continent to have grown poorer in the past 25 years”

“More than half of Africa is under 15 years of age”

“The average income in Africa is less than it was 30 years ago”

“1 in 6 African children die before their 5th birthday”

“The problems facing Africa are a scar on the world's conscience”

“If the domination of this issue (Africa) on our T.V. screens is less dramatic (than the tsunami) the suffering it brings is every bit as severe”

Nelson Mandela, at the ‘Make Poverty History’ rally in London on February 3rd 2005 said:

“Like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings. And overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a human life. While poverty exists, there is no true freedom.”

We read and hear the words but because we don't see the media pictures portrayed, as with the tsunami, few of us have any idea what a mud house looks like (see picture) or what there



is inside a rural Ugandan home. Life without a bed, mattress, blankets, soap, toilet roll, a change of clothes or other items is normal for most of rural Uganda, not just something that happens when a tidal wave sweeps through. Life is pretty cheap as well.

A reporter recently put the problems of Africa in perspective when he said that the number of people that had tragically died in the tsunami was of a similar number to that who die of disease and poverty in Africa every 18 days. Some people have asked us what effect the tsunami has had on Quicken Trust's work in Uganda.

On five consecutive mornings in a local comprehensive school assembly Geraldine was invited to speak on ‘Where there is no vision the people perish’. She shared our vision to help the people in Kabubbu and our story. But there was a unique nationwide initiative in schools all taking part in a non-uniformed day with each student donating £1 to the

tsunami appeal. Because of this sort of national fund-raising, donations to Quicken Trust have decreased considerably since the tsunami.

However, our friends in Kabubbu continue to thrive and wisely use the resources provided for them and we have plenty of good news to share with you.

Partnering with the future of the Orphans



The orphan children in Kabubbu will never forget the Christmas party of 2004. A donor kindly contributed £500 and suggested that we invited some children who were unable to attend school to join the children in Kabubbu Community Primary School for their party. We thought that with the 275 children in the school we could probably cope with another 225 but somewhere along the line communication went adrift and we found we were feeding 700!

Chaos!!

Games were abandoned as volunteers focussed on the task of pouring drinks, handing out gifts and photographing the children. The children queued for two hours for food because they had never been to a party before and this was an exciting occasion. A happier crowd of children you may never have seen!



Quicken Trust volunteers show love in action, look for opportunities to understand the underlying causes of problems and ask questions. They provide food for an old Granny or treatment for a sick child or roll up their sleeves working alongside their new friends.

They give them practical help and arms to hug them!

Quicken Trust partners are achieving great things in Kabubbu as you provide beds and bikes, shoes and mosquito nets, water carriers and blankets ~ very simple items that make a crudely constructed shelter more resemble a home! For example, in November:

- We made 12 “Home Visits” to families to make reports back to supporters
- We met the Guardians of 71 families that we had previously visited
- We spent six hours with them in discussion and planning for ongoing support
- We distributed a family support budget of £8,000 supplied by donors
- Bought 3 shirts, 3 trousers, 6 tee shirts, 2 dresses and shoes for 15 children
- Agreed furniture purchases including 27 blankets, 7 sheets, 20 beds, 30 mattresses, 13 mosquito nets, 1 three piece suite and a table
- Income generating projects included 2 bikes, 4 pigs, 1 cow and 2 chicken farms
- Construction began on 7 houses and land was bought to build 2 further houses
- Money was provided to build 2 toilets and rent was provided for 3 families
- School fees were given for 4 Kabubbu children to attend secondary education

Few charities include a personal service between children and their sponsor families because it is not cost effective and can be an administrative headache. In Quicken Trust all time is donated and 100% of all that is raised goes in full to the project or person specified. This builds vital friendships between families in Kabubbu and the U.K.

A fish farming project is under development. You would be horrified to see the fish shop in Kabubbu (right)! The fish sold there are caught 30 miles away in Lake Victoria. The heads of the fish are wrapped in banana leaves and transported on bicycles in the heat of the African sun to the outlying villages. Phew! We don't to eat the fish!

Rural residents cannot afford to buy whole fish so they pay a few pence for a 'smoked' head or boil it up for fish soup hoping to get at least a little protein.

Over the past few months, seven local men have attended a seminar and visited two fish farms. After discussions and market research they have now been provided with £600 by a donor to make three fish ponds. Before long we will be able to eat fresh grilled Talapia when the fish have grown and tourists visiting Kabubbu will enjoy 'fish & chips'. Local families will also have a vital protein source.



Quicken Trust partners turned Christmas into a very special occasion. On

Christmas Eve a truck went to town to pick up 300 bottles of soft drinks, sides of beef, chicken, rice and other goodies for 41 families. For many, it will have been the only time in the year when they had meat to eat. A very happy day for many in the community, thanks to kind partners.



Partnering with the future of Social Needs



November 4th 2004 was a highlight in Kabubbu as TV and the news media arrived to film volunteer Isabella, her sponsored child Ibrahim, some teachers and Ugandan Olympic runner, Boniface Kiprop, run 10,000 metres. Ibrahim won and Boniface was impressed by his determination! The event raised funds for the community housing project.

In the afternoon the Mayor of Kampala, the local Member of Parliament and Councillors gathered with over 300 people to celebrate the opening of the Library and Adult Literacy Centre, a project initiated by volunteer Victoria of British Airways.

Loy Tumusiime, Secretary of the Readers' Association of Uganda, said in her speech at the opening:

“Throughout my travels in Uganda I have never seen another project like the one in Kabubbu that caters for the whole person across all age groups including health, education, spiritual and physical welfare, social concern and community housing. It is unique.”



Another initiative begun through the Skills Development Clubs organised through the Library complex include a Carpentry Club.

The Carpentry Workshop is now making beds and other items for the welfare programme for families.

This means that we are able to provide additional income to members of the local community instead of buying beds in Kampala.

John Noble, an international church leader from the UK visiting Kabubbu, commented by email:

“It was great to see you and a privilege to be shown around the centre, it was a learning experience for me. We are involved in a number of projects in different parts of the world although we are not responsible in the same way, rather supporting others in their work. I must say I have never seen anything that comes close to your efforts.”

The ‘trinitarian’ partnership between Quicken Trust partners, families in Kabubbu and God who holds it all together is creating a community across the miles.



A Quicken Trust ‘partnership’ on a project or with a child or family in Kabubbu develops as small gifts are sent (picture shows some children with their Christmas gift of bed sheets and shoe cleaning kits), letters and cards are responded to and photos exchanged. On our return from Kabubbu over 200 letters are sorted and posted on to sponsors. Some sponsors later visit Kabubbu as a volunteer and in the future they may travel as tourists. The ‘charity experience’ educates and informs on aspects of poverty, debt, disease, humanitarian and charity work and other developmental issues and

understanding grows as valuable friendships develop. It is a life-changing experience.

Quicken Trust sponsors begin to understand the difference in our lives and culture with those who are 4,000 miles apart and yet how similar our thoughts and feelings are!

Partnering with the future of Tourism

Each team of volunteers visiting Kabubbu is quite different. Wide-ranging skills are needed for tiling, painting, fencing, brick laying, teaching, group work, social work, organising a Christmas party, shopping and preparing food for an opening ceremony, taking an assembly, preaching, organising games or craft activities for children or in vital strategic planning, budgeting and bookkeeping for adults. Hard but rewarding work as this helps the local community work towards self-sustainability.

During February some of the local residents began auditioning for work opportunities on the tourism project. Applicants organised groups for singing, drumming, dancing,

basket and grass skirt making and performed for us. The volunteers with us selected the best entertainers in each class and the winners have a year to perfect and practice their skills before the tourists arrive in April/May 2006. The five roundels complete with the only showers and flush toilets in Kabubbu, are nearing completion. Flowers will be planted, the landscape shaped and a dining area and kitchen built. Investment is still needed to complete this project.

Partnering with the future of Kabubbu School

In November 2004 the seven students in Primary Class Level 7 (P7) took their exams to enable them to continue to secondary school. As yet Kabubbu's primary school is not approved as an exam centre so the school hired a minibus to transport the children to the nearest centre where they could take the exam with children from other schools.



What was the result?

All seven P7 children passed the exam. Five out of seven achieved the top grade. One boy, Mahad (far left), beat all the children in the exam centre - so you can imagine there is great excitement in and around Kabubbu. Now Kabubbu's primary school is getting a reputation for excellence and a few families living nearby who have work and an income are willing to pay to include their children in the school. We applaud the quality and dedication of the teachers.

This will help with the ongoing financial support needed in the future. Your Child Sponsorship will always be vital for the majority, the destitute orphans who would otherwise never be educated or have a future, but these extra children will move the project a little closer to future sustainability.

The group of successful children will, for this year, become boarders at a secondary school located six miles from Kabubbu. Although we had considered purchasing bikes, this is not practical and the only other alternative would be for these children to leave home at 6am in time to walk to school to begin at 8am. After a full day of activities they would then begin the walk home arriving at 7pm or later, when it will be dark!

The need for secondary education will become even more vital in Kabubbu at the start of the next school year in February 2006. Then an additional 20+ children will graduate from the primary school and need secondary education.

In Uganda around 70% of children attend Primary School. Once these children graduate to Secondary School around 80% are unable to complete their education as they lack the funds or their parents die and they have no support. This means that only 14 out of 100 children in Uganda are able to complete their secondary education.

£48,000 is still needed to construct the Secondary School and teachers' houses. £37,000 has been raised since July 2004. Work will begin on the first part of this construction by May. Contact our office for information sheet on this project.

Partnering with the future of the Church

Behind each project there is a great deal of background research, planning and preparation. We ensure we understand the cultural differences and that we know the people we are dealing with are honest and we are getting value for money. Often we

need to check there aren't cheaper or more effective ways of achieving the same result.

A simple example of this can be seen with a recent gift of £1,000 received because a donor read about the Catholic Church in Kabubbu being re-roofed by another donor.

This supporter very generously supplied a gift for the Catholic Church in Kabubbu. We asked the Priest to select a male and female member of his congregation (there's safety in numbers) and come and discuss how we may help the Church with the donation. At that time we didn't mention the amount of money!

We seek to encourage individuals and groups to discuss and think through the consequences of the decisions they make but this, of course, is time consuming. After some discussion the Priest suggested the church might like a cow! The group thought they might be able to make a small income from the sale of milk, but with no purpose in mind. After further discussion on who would take responsibility for the care of the cow, how the profits from the milk would be used to benefit the congregation and so on, they began to see the scheme was unworkable.

After various other unworkable options we put forward an idea that maybe, before they selected the project needing funding, they considered the aims and suggested:

1. Aim for a project that would have benefit for members in the congregation with specific needs
2. Aim for a project that would enhance the spiritual life or activities of the Church

Later, the group finally chose to be provided with drums and musical instruments to enhance the worship in the church. They also asked for some Bibles and around £200 of the £1,000 was spent.

On a subsequent visit a welfare budget was approved for some people who were sick and needing hospital treatment, some who have funeral costs they are unable to meet and some who are desperately poor.

Quicken Trust seeks to empower the local community to discuss, assess, budget, plan for their future and also ensure accountability to donors.

Partnering with the future of Primary Healthcare



We were speeding along the dust tracks on two boda bodas. Suddenly the drivers, at the request of Resti who was accompanying us, braked sharply and we wondered if the bikes were going to skid. We ask "Why have we stopped?" She replies "We go here." We ask "Why are we going here?" She says "We see the boy who is sick."

We are a little suspicious and wondering if this is a relative that Resti is lining up for Quicken Trust to care for. But by now we are standing outside this mud hut and the mother and a boy appears. Resti and the mother chat away in Lugandan. Resti says something to the boy and he slowly starts to undo his trousers. We were completely unprepared for what we saw. He had his intestines in a plastic bag. For those of you in medical circles it would be a surprise - but we were shocked when we saw how he had been living for so long!

The boy, Moses, had been walking along the side of the dirt track road when he was hit by a lorry travelling at a great speed. If you have travelled to Africa you will know how

dangerously these vehicles are driven! His appalling injuries led to his condition but he now needed two operations to reverse the procedure. His family, like all Kabubbu families, couldn't afford the operation. It would cost 18 months wages.

Many have said that Moses' survival was a miracle. For 18 months his intestines were being held together in the plastic carrier bag which he cleaned daily, without antiseptic, and yet the wound never became infected. But Moses was about to be helped.

A few weeks after we met Moses we were in the USA meeting a special family. A memorial fund had been set up for their son David who tragically died of cancer in May 2004. The fund was started by the company for which David's father worked and David's parents requested that the funds were used to help sick children in Kabubbu unable to afford life saving operations.

Now Moses has had two successful operations (picture taken after his first operation) and is recovering. His mother thanks God every night that Moses is alive. She lies awake on the earth floor of her mud hut unable to sleep thinking about what has happened to save Moses' life and listening to him breathing beside her!

There are many unanswered questions. Why does one child live and another child die? We don't know the answers, but we have seen so many miraculous interventions that we know God is at work.

During our February visit, Moses' father came to see us. He said he had been overwhelmed by the love shown to his family by strangers. This he contrasted with a total lack of interest shown by his Muslim friends who never helped, not even with a small piece of soap. He said he has given up his Muslim faith for the God who is love.



Information sheets

Information sheets on special projects needing support together with coloured pictures and project costs are available from the office. These leaflets can be used in organising local fundraising events and include information on:

Secondary Education Project Kabubbu Tourism Project Community Housing Project
Kabubbu Healthcare Project - Mosquito Nets

Charity event update ~ November 2004

We were delighted that around 250 supporters of Quicken Trust attended the special evening in Eastbourne in November. We thank the many organisations that financially supported the evening and for the number of supporters who willingly travelled from Dorset, Solihull, London, Essex and Hampshire for what was a very memorable evening.

Schools Pack ~ Creating a Heart in Kabubbu

We have launched a special Schools Resource Pack on CD ROM including a short video and PowerPoint presentation, quiz, and lots of information and ideas for children helping them understand the impact they can have in helping the orphans in Kabubbu.

It is designed to help teachers with 'Citizenship' classes and contains full fundraising resources like Sponsorship Forms for any events they undertake. It costs £5 for manufacture and mailing costs. Do you know a teacher who could benefit from this?



Gift Catalogue information

In the Autumn 2004 Uganda Update we included a catalogue of items which you may donate as a gift. The gift items are for a family or an individual in Kabubbu. When you don't know what gift to buy for a relative, colleague or friend for their birthday or special occasion you may like to send a 'virtual gift' for the amount of money of the item you have selected from the catalogue. If you also supply us with the name and address of the recipient and the date when the gift should be given we will send a full colour greeting card stating what gift you have donated on their behalf.

Have you made a Will?

Donations made to charity in the event of your death mean that your relatives and friends do not pay inheritance tax on that part of your estate given to charity. We have put together a simple pack that helps explain what to do. It is available from our office. One sponsor has already included her orphan in her Will to ensure ongoing education.

Bike Ride For Uganda 2005

The Bike Ride for Uganda held in July 2004 raised £16,000 for Secondary Education. We are 'biking' again in 2005 on Saturday & Sunday 16th & 17th July ~ and YES, we are seeking 48 teams of four again and volunteers in the Hailsham/Eastbourne area to help run the event. Can YOU help? This is our major annual fundraising activity.

We are looking at a new idea for 2006 with the concept of teams of cyclists across the country getting together to go for a ride along a former railway track or similar route. Each group raising sponsorship for their ride. With orphan sponsors across the country, everyone could be involved. Just think, 100 teams each raising £150 would add £15,000 to a project in Kabubbu – and you would get some healthy exercise!

Would you be prepared to get a team together? If so, why wait until 2006 – you can do that this year while our marathon 48 hour ride is taking place on 16th & 17th July. We can provide a fully supporting resource pack including sample News Releases for your local newspaper, Sponsorship Forms, Certificates – everything you would need.

Packages, Letters & Cards

Recently we have had our travel diverted and had to pay over £100 in excess luggage charges for donated gifts. Please ensure ONLY very small packages or cards or letters or money for the child you support in Uganda are received at our office address by Saturday 30th April, 2005. Thank you for your gifts that make such a difference.

February 2000 ~ February 2005

Quicken Trust began working in Kabubbu only five years ago in February 2000. Thank you for the wonderful support you have been these last five years. You have been amazing! We always say how much we appreciate you – and these are not idle words. In five years, together, we have been able to achieve what would have taken many major charities ten or fifteen years or more to achieve. Without you the orphans and the community in Kabubbu would still be 'The Forgotten People' – but now, because of you, they know they are not! THANK YOU.

With our personal thanks for everything you do to help the orphan children and community in Kabubbu. Your support makes such a difference to their lives.

Geoff & Geraldine Booker

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