

Quicken Trust

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Company Registration No. 5047081

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Uganda Update – Autumn 2006

Quicken Trust is supported by



Partnering with the future of Others

Dear Friends,

The wedding of Joyce and John Kintu in April in a Baptist Church in Kampala was a very special occasion with elegant dresses and a beautiful cake made by volunteers. In parts the wedding was more like a theatrical production than a sacred celebration but it was a rare time for us to abandon our busy schedule and relax. For the bride and groom it was a very special day.

The 6th Annual 'Bike Ride for Uganda' in July was another success. This year funds were raised to provide more water tanks and another bore hole in the village. This is what Paul and Pauline said about the event *"It was lovely to see the enthusiasm of the teams, even late at night and in the early morning, when the encouraging crowds had gone and the only observers were the gulls and pigeons! The weather was kind to us again, until half an hour after the last team had finished, when a fierce gust of wind lifted the entire stand and moved it back three feet. A big thank you to all who supported us, either by cycling or sponsoring a cyclist. And watch this space for 2007!"*



bore hole in the village. This is what



Quicken Trust says a huge THANK YOU to Paul and Pauline Carter for relieving us of all the hard work organising the event. As at early August the total is over £11,000 and funds are still arriving. We hope for a total of £15,000.

As projects in Kabubbu expand so our staff numbers increase. At a recent staff lunch each department head introduced their co-workers. The Kabubbu Development Project (KDP) now has about 40 workers under the leadership of the four KDP Board members and the Executive

Director, Enoch Kagoda. These people form the backbone of what is happening there.

Health: Innocent, the Nurse in Charge, with 4 full time Nurses and 2 support staff

Primary education: Elliott Musobya, Head teacher with 11 teachers and 5 support staff

Secondary School: Acting Head Teacher Enoch Kagoda and Deputy Eva have 10 teachers and 3 support staff.

Library: Augustine, part-time Team Leader with 2 part-time librarians promoting adult literacy.

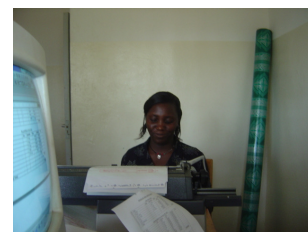
Welfare: Augustine, part-time Team Leader with 6 part time staff who care for the elderly, distribute provisions, accompany patients to hospital and provide foster care.



The lunch provided an opportunity for new staff members to learn about the partnership of QT and KDP; how the projects started; how Quicken Trust is funded and the Christian values and vision that underpin all the work in the community. It gave opportunity for staff to share resources, plan developments, consider initiatives and work together across the three sites in Kabubbu which cover 11 acres and serve 4,000 people within a square mile, plus the wider community.



Many with a limited education and work opportunities are now earning a small income slashing grass, carpentry work and building work, carrying water, making bricks, making refreshments, cutting hair, providing security and making school uniforms for the children ~ and guess what the man on the left is doing down a big hole!



(He's digging a pit latrine!)

For others, learning and work is a challenge. In a culture where only 2% read for pleasure, learning numeracy and literacy is a concept sometimes hard to encourage. Small farming initiatives generate an income but correctly caring for or feeding an animal can be a struggle. Practical lessons are introduced on horticulture, animal welfare and budgeting and Samaritans Purse International has recently partnered with us through a grant to introduce new breeds of milking and meat goats in the village.

Entrepreneurs and Investors wanted!

Income generating initiatives with well thought out business plans are welcome. Investment is needed to provide work and enable the village to sustain its developments. Uganda has had a stable government for 20 years and land prices are rising, construction is at a boom and unskilled labour is inexpensive at around £2 a day. The opportunities are many and varied. Finding a good plumber, electrician or a carpenter experienced in using modern materials is like gold dust in a rural area so maybe someone would like to start a vocational training school enabling these skills?

The rural areas are ripe for investors. Four miles from Kabubbu we recently met a young Bangladeshi manager of a nursery of 600 acres that is exporting beautiful roses to Tesco and Somerfield in the UK and employing 600 people ... so anything is possible!

Partnering with the future of the Orphans

It is distressing to sit and hear the stories of some of the children recently orphaned and we can barely imagine the inner turmoil some of them must be suffering.

On a recent visit we heard how the grandmother of Miriam was run over and killed by a

learner driver. He knocked her over with the vehicle then the experienced driver, sitting alongside, took over the driving and reversed the vehicle back over her! Without relatives and homeless, Miriam's only hope is her education and we have now included her with the five other needy children in foster care costing £4 per week per child.

Later in July we met the Aunt of another young boy recently orphaned when his mother died of a liver problem. The Aunt lives in one room 12ft x12ft with her three children and is struggling to supply a meal a day of maize porridge and beans for her own four children. Now she has rent (£4 a month) and three more children to support. Without Quicken Trust's help the children have little hope and could become street children.

INDIVIDUAL SPONSORED ORPHAN CHRISTMAS GIFTS

If you sponsor a child in Kabubbu the last date for Christmas gifts is October 15th.

One or two small items no larger than an A4 unpadded envelope and weighing under 400 gms can be sent to us (air flights restrict the weight and size for 400 gifts!)

Examples of gifts ideas include:

- Frisbee, tee shirt, small kite, small electronic calculator or science calculator (solar powered), travel games e.g. Snakes & Ladders, Connect 4, Solitaire
- Small portable CD players with extra batteries (Woolworth or similar outlets)
- Small wind up or solar radios and wind up torches (Robert Dyas or similar outlets)
- LED torches (normal torches, needing lots of batteries, are too expensive)
- Sudoku games, spell check & grammar games for older children (from WH Smith)
- Flip flops, jewellery or watches (e.g. Asda had them at £3 & £5)
- Lightweight fold up 'poncho-in-a-pack' type rainwear
- A small, lightweight paper back book.

EVERY CHRISTMAS WE SEEK TO GIVE EVERY CHILD AT THE SCHOOLS A GIFT

In past years this has been a hurricane lamp, a mattress, a mosquito net, a school bag and so on. This year the Headmaster has not yet chosen the gift but a decision will be made shortly. 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.

Partnering with the future of Social Needs

David Upfield has visited Uganda on two occasions and has a deep compassion to help the elderly that in any society are often overlooked. He said *"It is difficult to survive in the U.K on a state pension without the support of relatives. Imagine living in a leaking mud hut with no help. I met Serena's guardian. She is in her 70's and has cared for her orphaned grandchild since birth. Now she is going blind and she told me she has no idea who will carry on looking after Serena. Quicken Trust has found Serena a sponsor but there is no hope for the Grandma and this is why I decided on an "Adopt a Granny" (or Granddad!) project costing only £8 a month"*.

The welfare programme funded by Unicef has begun to provide health education. Beds, mattresses, latrines and nets are now being added to homes. We also thank Trusthouse Charitable Foundation for a gift enabling us to extend this programme even further so a greater number of elderly can benefit.



To raise standards, encourage development and promote a community spirit we introduced Community Awards presented by Kaine Sabati of British Airways, Uganda. Twenty categories were put forward by the KDP and winners chosen. Awards like “Most Responsible Father”. Fathers often take little part in their children’s lives but James was seen regularly taking



his daughter to hospital for her appointments. “Cleanest Home”



went to Jane who although HIV positive and unwell has a spotless home. Rukia, in her early 60’s, was provided with a new home and this lifted her morale so much that she enrolled in the literacy classes and is now thrilled to be able to read and write. She was awarded “Most Active Volunteer”.

Partnering with the future of Tourism

For Joyce aged 80 travelling to Kabubbu with her daughter was a dream come true. Sitting on a low wall she quickly gathered children around her and read stories. Later she visited the child she sponsors on a boda boda taxi as well as other family homes.



For the group of 15 students and 6 staff from St Bede’s School near Hailsham the experience was different. Their group activities included teaching in the primary and secondary school, labouring on a new home being built for a village family, making a clay bread oven and a barbecue on the tourism site. They installed solar power in the library, adult literacy centre and new seminar room. In groups of three they visited needy families and with £100 they planned assistance and prioritised needs to help each family ... and the decisions were difficult!



The Kabubbu experience has an impact in many ways, and for some it can be deeply spiritual and life changing. Andrew Lightbown visited Kabubbu in June 2005. And he came again with his family in April 2006. Andrew has worked for the past 15 years in the city of London as the Managing Director of a company specialising in the management of Unit Trusts.

Three months after returning to the UK he said “*I cannot*

say that my two visits to Kabubbu were the sole catalyst for change but they were instrumental in developing my thinking and giving me the confidence to move on.

Consider the comparisons; in Kabubbu the most pressing need facing many is where the next meal is coming from. To a large extent the city of London exists to feed the “needs” of the wealthy. In Kabubbu the second biggest priority for many is the availability of education. I was struck by how virtually everyone saw education as a means to improving their entire community. You can’t get a job in London without an outstanding academic record, which many regard as their personal ticket to wealth. Kabubbu made me restless and opened my eyes to concepts like fellowship and community.”

Plans are now developing for a Hailsham youth club and local schools to visit Kabubbu. Meanwhile the KDP is encouraging local NGO’s and churches to use the facilities for overnight out of town conferences and day seminars. Our designated seminar room has a DVD player and a data projector and we now await a satellite and broad band connection that is due in Uganda in the next 12 months.



The accommodation with comfortable beds, flush toilets, cold showers and solar powered lighting is now open and the restaurant is providing great food. A brochure is available for everyone wishing to travel to Kabubbu.

With a direct overnight flight of 8½ hours from Heathrow, a road journey of one and a half hours in Uganda and flights around £630, the costs are affordable. Accommodation charges, to include transport to and from the airport, three meals a day and a guided tour of the Kabubbu developments are £25 per person per night. Extras can be added on for a small cost and include a ride on a boda boda (moped taxi) if you want to visit a family. There is craft activity including making a grass skirt and then traditional dancing lessons using the skirt you have made; basket making and a tour of local places of interest, flora and fauna or a bird watching walk. **Book now to avoid disappointment!!**

The next planning meeting for volunteers (or tourists) will be on Sunday 26th November 2006 for a visit in the February 2007 half term or in March. Phone or email (details on front cover) for information and a questionnaire. Meetings held in the Hailsham area.

Electricity will come to Kabubbu! However in a recent meeting with the Minister of Energy, Mr Daudi Migereko, we learnt that electric power generation is oversubscribed and the supply is often cut off. Two new power stations are under construction and will provide electricity from 2010. In the meanwhile solar power is serving a useful purpose.

Partnering with the future of Kabubbu Schools

For the St Bede’s School staff and students their Kabubbu experience was unforgettable and tears were shed when their visit ended. They took many morning assemblies and threw themselves into the task performing a well-known story and talk about the moral behind it. Here is ‘Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs’. The Kabubbu children loved it ~ and so did the St Bede’s students!

While in Kabubbu they interviewed six students for a





potential scholarship at St Bede's. Finally, 15 year-old Doreen Namugumya (who visited the UK with the Kabubbu Orphan Choir in 2005) was offered a two year scholarship for GCSE starting in September 2006. For this generous gift we thank Steve Cole, Headmaster, his wife Janet and the Trustees of St Bede's School.

Lou Belrhiti who organised the visit said *"It has been an invaluable experience for all of us, and it will have done us more good than anything that we may have been able to do for the people in Kabubbu. We have been privileged to see a completely different side to life and I hope the students will now be better placed to make a valuable contribution to fight against world poverty in their own small ways."*

In the UK we often think that the people of Africa need us and our input, but the truth is that we all need a Kabubbu experience to re-evaluate our lives.



Doreen by the family kitchen

Secondary education costs are high. As children progress in their education they need text books (usually a similar price to those in the UK), transport to other centres for curriculum activities, and other facilities. All new donors willing to sponsor a child through secondary education are being asked to contribute £30 a month.

Usually when we are in Kabubbu a celebration or community event takes place and on Friday 10th November 2006 the official opening of the Secondary School will be held. We anticipate a very large crowd from the whole community plus many dignitaries. These are always very happy occasions.

Partnering with the future of the Church

A highlight of our last visit to Kabubbu was a visit from Doreen who we had not seen or had contact with for five years. She heard we were in Kabubbu and found her way to the village.

Doreen was in a church some miles from Kabubbu when we visited in 2001. She had two children and was a widow but later found she was pregnant. The Pastor of the church wanted to excommunicate her because, as a Sunday school teacher, he believed her behaviour was inappropriate. She felt so ashamed. We mediated on her behalf and she asked forgiveness and was allowed to stay in the church.



When we met her in July we hardly recognised her. She is now a confident, well dressed successful business woman. She taught herself to make cakes. With £3 she started a business making, decorating and delivering cakes to schools. Today she provides for herself, pays her children's education and believes her success is due to the love and forgiveness she received from God and from others.

She travelled to say thank you and to introduce her son, "Blessed Solomon".

Another highlight in Kabubbu that never fails to make an impact is the daily school assembly. The children's singing has always brought pleasure but the children worshipping freely and sharing their own experiences is a spiritual time that often reduces us to tears. As the school grows and boarding facilities are introduced in the last year of primary school and in all years of the secondary school, so the church on site will automatically and naturally grow.

Partnering with the future of Primary Healthcare

Health needs in Kabubbu are a priority. The Health Centre has an excellent standard of care and because patients can be sure they receive the drugs they need (unlike many government clinics) the patient numbers have increased substantially to 24,000 a year. Others have noted its success and the Manager of a local rose nursery asked if the Nurse in Charge can help establish a health centre for his 600 workers and families. The site is located four miles from Kabubbu and it may be that the nurse could act as a "consultant" enabling a fee to be made by the KDP, raising vital funds.



An ambulance, donated by Eastbourne Rotary Club in partnership with the Rubaga Rotary Club of Kampala with match-funding by Rotary International in Chicago, will arrive soon in Kabubbu. We thank the Rotary Clubs for their generous donation. We also thank Chris Smith for tirelessly working to ensure a positive outcome and to Smith and Ouzman, a company based in Eastbourne, for fitting out the ambulance. This will be a vital asset in the rural area providing transport for the growing number of people needing hospital treatment. Any spare transport capacity can also be offered to nearby Health Centres to enable the Kabubbu Health Centre to earn a small income and help the community towards self-sustainability.

The health needs in the village are many and varied. People arrive early morning or late evening on behalf of their sick relatives. They plead for help for a loved one whose need cannot be met by the Kabubbu Health Centre. They arrive at times when we have an organised schedule planned, or when we are already feeling exhausted from a busy day of home visits, staff meetings, KDP board meetings on developments and journeys to and from Members of Parliament. At these times our patience can run a little thin!

Here is just some that we remember from the many we dealt with while in Kabubbu in July. Sonny aged 9 with cancer of the face and jaw. A little girl needing treatment three times a year (costing £15 a time) for sickle cell and to supplement the injections she receives. A young mum of 18 needing a fissure repair operation. Several young mothers with AIDS who need transport to an AIDS clinic and extra protein to supplement their diet to assist the anti retroviral treatment. A girl of 10 with a deformed and badly scarred leg from a burn that will probably need to be amputated and a prosthetic fitted. A young lady, so weak from a continuous haemorrhage that she has to be supported on both sides to stand. A



child in agonising stomach pain, as yet undiagnosed. A lady with a distended stomach, a result of severe heart problems, now diagnosed. Ongoing treatment costs £7 a month.

For these and many others we often feel like we are being asked to play the part of God, deciding who will live and who will die while we believe that "if it is within our power we should do good anyway." We have unanswered questions. How many can Quicken Trust afford to treat? How can we sustain their medication? If we cannot sustain medication should we have ever started the process? For some only a miraculous Divine intervention will help.

We thank all our donors both regular and occasional for your gifts, letters of support and prayers without which so much could not have been achieved to improve life for so many people in Kabubbu. We also thank those of you who have made donations following special events, anniversaries, birthdays and so on and for those who have chosen to make a gift following the death of a loved one. With Christmas fast approaching we are pleased to offer some helpful ideas for cards and gifts.

ONLY A FEW PACKS OF CHRISTMAS CARDS & CD'S LEFT

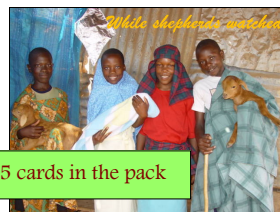
A delightful range of five different cards featuring the children of Kabubbu & CD's of their inspirational singing



£1.50 per pack of 5 ~ that's only 30p each! (+ p & p)



A sample of 3 of the 5 cards in the pack



We have had many repeat orders for this CD from delighted purchasers
Christmas special price only £5.00
ideal as small gift or stocking filler!

A Celebration of Life with the Orphans of Kabubbu



Featuring the orphans from the Kabubbu Community Primary School, Uganda



LIFE PARTNERING CATALOGUE (for alternative Christmas gifts)

For Christmas, or when your spouse, relative or friend has a birthday, anniversary, or special occasion (like a wedding) you may prefer to select a gift for them from our catalogue. *Please ask for another if you have mislaid yours.* A needy family in Kabubbu will receive the gift and we will send a card to your spouse, relative or friend telling them of your donation on their behalf.

1. Select your gift(s) and complete the enclosed order form for the item(s) you have selected. Fill in your friends name(s) and address(es) and the item(s).
2. Provide the date the gift is to be given and we will send a gift card for you
3. Fold the form in three insert your cheque made out to 'Quicken Trust' for the total value and 'sticky tape' the sides and bottom flap to stop the cheque falling out!
4. Please put on a stamp and mail your order. Thank you.

Every time we write we say we could not do what we do without you doing what you do. So many things have happened because you care. We greatly appreciate everything you do for the orphans and the community in Kabubbu. 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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And finally .. some words of wisdom found on two signs at the primary school

