

Quicken Trust

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Uganda Update – Spring 2007

Quicken Trust is supported by



Partnering with the future of Others

Dear Friends,

We are grateful to so many sponsors, schools, clubs and individuals that take on fundraising events to partner with us for the future of others. We are delighted that this partnership sometimes results in someone caring for and supporting the staff in the office. A donor recently funded the conversion of our garage providing us with more space. Our spare bedroom was far too small years ago!!

We also thank the many organisations that support us including Simon at Advantage Technologies who recently installed a new computer system at cost price. The additional space and the computers have already enabled us to employ Tracey as a part time member of staff. The technical support Advantage Technologies offer us is fantastic as we grapple with the intricacies of full computerisation.

We thank editors Peter Austin (*Eastbourne Herald*) and Paul Watson (*Sussex Express*) for supporting the Christmas campaign 'Feed a Family for a Fiver' and John Cheeseman of *DHL* in Hailsham for courier services to Uganda.



4,000 people in Kabubbu had a Christmas dinner of beef, chicken, rice and fruit juice, collected by a member of each family on Christmas Eve with a Christmas card and small gift. Thank you to all who contributed to this campaign, particularly to Judith McAlone who organised the collection for students and parents at Bishop Bell School in Eastbourne. They raised in excess of £900!

Thank you also to those who from the early days of Quicken Trust have consistently provided ongoing support. This includes Halcyon of Heathfield for sponsoring our literature and British Airways with free travel and other support. They have enabled the charity to blossom and the community in Kabubbu to develop at an amazing rate! But there's still a way to go towards the dignity of self-sufficiency!



Some frequently asked questions from those who partner with us include:

1. Are people in rural areas richer or poorer than in town?

Opportunities for regular work in rural areas are less and therefore there is little income. How do you measure poverty? Appearances can be deceptive!

2. Do people in Kabubbu get the free HIV treatment on offer?

Yes they can but it's not often available in rural areas and to get to town costs a day's wage ~ if you have a day's wage!

3. Why don't African families limit their size and use birth control?

In rural areas with many poorly educated people, no pensions or state support, a large family with a few surviving children may provide for you in your old age!

4. Are there street children in the villages?

Yes there are homeless children in rural areas; some migrate to town in hope of richer pickings. Some exist on anything that others give to them or throw away!

5. Will Quicken Trust start to support another village community in Uganda?

Quicken Trust is focussed on providing in-depth support in one community that ensures continuity and enables sustainability. Many charities focus on projects in many locations, maybe sponsoring child education in this village, delivering shoes to that village or providing sewing machines to a women's group in another village. All this is very valuable. However Quicken Trust has chosen to work only with the Kabubbu community so that the children who complete their primary education can then receive a secondary education that leads on to the prospect of college, university and work. If mum goes sick the children would normally have to abandon their education so we seek to supply the medication to sustain her life. If a child has no relatives we may supply foster care. If they have no home we attempt to rent a room for the family. We seek to start little farming or work initiatives where we can identify responsible and trustworthy people. The personal contact between Quicken Trust, sponsors, and the child in Kabubbu enables us to keep sponsors informed and invite them to contribute with extra support or prayer. Quicken Trust is blessed with caring and supportive sponsors who take an interest in the welfare of the child/family they support. They share their joy when their child gets good exam results or they tell us when they receive a humorous letters from their child in Uganda.

6. How big is the Kabubbu community?

A more in-depth study of the community has now revealed there are 2,062 people within one mile of the school, health centre and other major developments. 1,268 (62%) are children. The national average is 50%. Kabubbu is about 20% smaller than Herstmonceux or Horam in East Sussex, each with its range of healthcare services, transport and shops. At the beginning of our work in Kabubbu children came from a wider area so, in addition to the 444 homes within a mile of the developments, we are continuing to support these children and families. More than 4,500 people are now being supported regularly through various projects of Quicken Trust. Can you imagine living in a society where there are so few adults, only 17% of the population, to care for the children, support the elderly and provide the income? And no social services handing out all sorts of benefits!

Partnering with the future of the Orphans

Childhood doesn't exist for most children in rural areas in Uganda. Children as young as 4 or 5 can be seen dragging their little water carriers along the tracks.

Mothers pre-occupied with tending their animals neglect to see that their small children crawling in the dusty soil are playing with the sharp knife she left behind on the ground by the open fire used for cooking when she went to feed the goats. Sometimes children added into already extended families become the Cinderella's in their new family. There is little time for fun for children concentrating on survival. Quicken Trust seeks to support the family



unit in whatever way it can to educate and restore childhood fun and games to the children in the village. Some of the ways we support children and families include:

1. The introduction of counselling

In 2006 counselling was introduced to support children to encourage them to talk about their traumas and bereavements. A few years ago Geraldine met the Head of Counselling and Guidance at Makerere University who said that in his opinion every family in Uganda was in need of counselling. Older members of the community remember the horrors of 'the wars' under dictators like Idi Amin and Milton Obote. Many children watched while their mother's life slipped away under a bundle of old rags in the dark corner of a mud hut. All unimaginable to us living in a western society. Sometimes even educated members of the community don't know how to help a child who wets the bed, or disciplining children instead of corporal punishment, banned in schools but practiced in homes. For children like this a counsellor is a friend who provides support, listens, cares and understands.

The recent 'Oscar' for Best Actor film, 'The Last King of Scotland', about Idi Amin's presidency and what happened in Uganda then, is soon to be released on DVD.

2. Support and provision for elderly guardians

Another support for some orphaned children has been the introduction of the 'Adopt a Granny' scheme last autumn. Already over 30 Grannies and Granddads are being supported. Some of these elderly people have 5, 6, or 7 grandchildren in their care. For them the medicines, meat, sugar, salt, paraffin and soap provided help keep the grandparent healthy and sustains them while they care for the children and provide continuity during the vital years of their development.

Sometimes it feels like an uphill battle! Geraldine was shocked last year to find that one old lady that she has visited regularly since 2001 and who was caring for a few grandchildren now had another 6-8 small children in her care including a baby who is HIV positive. A sponsor of the two older grandchildren had generously supported the children's education, built a family home and provided beds, mattresses, medicines and helped in numerous ways. How could we now tell the sponsor that Grandma is again in desperate need through no fault of her own?

We can't imagine the grief this old lady carries. She is over 70, about 4ft 10ins tall, has lost one eye and is too old to cultivate her garden. She lost her husband several years ago and from her 10 or more children she now has only one surviving son who is HIV positive. He has had four wives and recently one wife died and, unable or unwilling to care for the children, just left them with their grandma!

3. Stabilising the community through income generating activities

Some children are still together in their family unit because the UK sponsors of a child or children in the family have decided to also provide some food or other items for the children. Two beautiful girls originally bereaved of both parents were being cared for by their sister aged 15, and illiterate. She lacked the domestic skills needed and the children had little chance of survival or completing their education without this support. With maize porridge and food items plus improvements in the home this family has been enabled to stay together and earn a small income from a chicken farm provided.

4. Stabilising the community through housing

In rural areas many live a nomadic existence. Travelling through the countryside they hope to find seasonal work cultivating and planting. Some build temporary



shelters, no more than a few pieces of wood with some straw for a roof. Others rent a small room but often move on when they have insufficient money to pay the £1 a week needed for the rent. This means that often their children are also condemned to illiteracy. So building homes in the community is vital to provide stability and ensure that the children have a brighter future. Over the past three years Quicken Trust has built over 20 houses with two

rooms, rendered inside and outside with a concrete floor under a corrugated tin roof and with an outside toilet. We thank a volunteer Adrian Butcher for taking part in the Beachy Head marathon and others for fundraising for this project

5. Foster care

When no support is available we may provide foster care and sometimes, when decisions are made to help a child or children, it is only retrospectively that we can see how we were divinely guided at the time. A little girl aged about 6 and her brother aged 4 were living with their old grandfather and his younger partner. We became a little concerned when we heard that his partner had left the home. On the next visit to Kabubbu we heard that grandfather was drinking heavily and that the little girl was not now regularly attending school. We visited grandfather and he was open to the idea of the girl being accommodated in the foster home near to the school and she too was happy with the idea. On the next visit to grandfather early in the morning we found him inebriated and were concerned about the welfare of the little boy. He thought it better for the little boy to be reunited with his sister and so the two were now in the care of a loving foster mother. A month later the grandfather was found dead from a drinking binge.

‘How do they afford alcohol?’ we hear you ask ... they use fermented bananas!

6. Introducing community events

Almost every time volunteers visit the community we have a special event ~ an opening ceremony, Christmas party, a community award ceremony, a football, cricket or netball match or other occasions to provide entertainment or fun! To avoid “dependency” we encouraged the teachers and the community this year to

organise the outing and the Christmas parties for the children and we later heard they had a wonderful time at Diddy's World ~ a bit like an old-fashioned funfair.

Partnering with the future of Social Needs

These events and others all help towards building a community spirit. We asked Enoch (the Executive Director) at Christmas what gift he thought the children and families should receive with the money raised by sponsors. We were rather dubious at his suggestion of 'saucepans' as it didn't sound very glamorous or indeed very seasonal! However having made the choice we



left it to Enoch and the team to organise and we were astonished to hear from him that many members of the community had later visited him to say thank you.

Enoch had realised how difficult it was for families to find the money to buy something simple like pans and it's a reminder to us that members of the local community know the needs and the culture better than we do. Again, thank you to all sponsors who contributed. You made a lot of people very happy.

Partnering with the future of Tourism

Quicken Trust now has a revised web site with more up to date information on the projects and providing pictures and some information on tourism. The facilities are used by groups of volunteers and guests travelling to Kabubbu and this year we have about 8 groups travelling for periods of up to 2 weeks at a time plus occasional visitors who travel independently. We are also hoping to organise a retreat week later in the summer as this provides an ideal venue to be quiet, reflect and re-evaluate lives. We invite church, school or community projects in the UK to visit Kabubbu and experience a warm African welcome! And like the volunteer in this picture you may be surprised at what you end up doing!



The next planning meetings for volunteers and guests travelling to Kabubbu are on Sunday 13th May and on Sunday 2nd September in the Hailsham area. Both from 3.00 pm – 6.00 pm. Please contact our office for more information.

Partnering with the future of Kabubbu Schools

Quicken Trust representatives and volunteers organised and prepared food for the opening of the Trust High School. We were delighted that the Minister of Education, Hon. Geraldine Bitamazire officiated and Mr John Hamilton, the Consul from the British Embassy; George Mawardi, BA's Uganda Manager; Kaine Sabiti, Key Accounts Executive with BA and members of the Rotary Club of Rubaga

attended. Of course, as on every special community occasion we have in Kabubbu, it rained elephants and hippos!

Geoff has been working with all the professional staff to ensure that they now have job descriptions, contracts, tax is paid and a contribution is made to a government pension fund ~ let's hope the government isn't tempted to spend it! In many ways Quicken Trust has worked back to front in Kabubbu and instead of putting in the



necessary structures in 2001 we responded to the community's immediate needs for education, welfare and saving lives through healthcare. Later we registered Quicken Trust as an N.G.O in Uganda (we were already registered in the UK) and now we are ensuring all the documentation is in place for legal and financial compliance and securing the rights for those who are employed.

Kabubbu's primary school continues to get good exam results. We are delighted that all 22 children who took the end of school exams in November graduated to Trust High School in February. 10 received a Grade 1 pass (80% ~ 100% marks) and 12 a Grade 2 pass (75% ~ 79% marks). The children recently received their certificates at a ceremony

with a representative from the Ministry of Education.

Our exam results are the second best in the whole of Wakiso District, the most heavily populated District in Uganda. And to think, only five years ago these children had no hope of an education. Thank you for giving them hope.

Already many of the children have exceeded the educational level of their parents. Only 49 males and 38 females (11% of Kabubbu's population) completed their primary education. 28% of the adults have had no education so this continues to be a struggle in the adult literacy group as reading is not traditionally a pursuit that Africans enjoy. Consequently this lack of knowledge often results in ignorance and suspicion, sometimes even superstition. An illiterate person may consult the witchdoctor to free himself of AIDS believing that the cure is to sleep with a virgin.

We still have 41% of the children in Kabubbu village not yet attending school. If you are happy with the way Quicken Trust works with you and the Kabubbu community you may like to recommend to friends and relatives the concept of sponsoring a child through Quicken Trust.

Partnering with the future of Primary Healthcare

Chris Smith of the Rotary Club in Eastbourne worked tirelessly with Rotary International, the Rotary Club of Rubaga and Smith and Ouzman to purchase a suitable vehicle for use as an ambulance in Kabubbu (something very rare in rural

areas of Uganda). Imagine how delighted Chris was when he went to select a vehicle to convert into an ambulance and, arriving in a compound full of mini buses, he found one already fully equipped and imported from Japan and in excellent condition!

The ambulance was presented to the local community by members of the Rotary Club of Rugaba at the recent celebrations for the opening of Trust High School.



Partnering with the future of the Church



In November a seminar was given to the 50+ professional staff in Kabubbu and to members of the various faith communities on the work of Rowntree, Cadbury, Fry, Muller and Wilberforce. This illustrated the similarities that existed in the UK during those periods of English history and the conditions that often prevail in rural areas of Uganda today. These great people, inspired by their faith into social action, brought hope to orphans, provided work,

improved living conditions and brought freedom from slavery for many. It is our hope and prayer that some within the Kabubbu community will be empowered to light a flame that will change hearts and minds within their own society.

Because Quicken Trust is focussed on caring for the whole person the spiritual needs are also considered. Support is given to the four churches in the community. Volunteers regularly assist in Sunday School, speak in the churches and provide resources for those needing welfare or funeral expenses, bibles, or musical instruments and so on. Volunteers travelling to Kabubbu are delighted to experience the children worshipping and for some this has been a life changing experience



Bike Ride For Uganda 2007

The Bike Ride for Uganda held in July 2006 raised £13,000 for water storage. We are 'biking' again in 2007 on Friday, Saturday & Sunday June 29th & 30th and July 1st ~ and YES, we are seeking teams of four again and volunteers in the Hailsham/Eastbourne area to cycle and 'man' the stand. This is our major annual fundraising activity. As we are getting older we will be cutting out the midnight to 6.00 am slots and having a bit of a rest during the night! Please, can YOU help?

Don't live in the Hailsham/Eastbourne area? – Don't worry – see next page!

We are continuing the new idea for 2007 with the concept of family and friends teams of cyclists across the country getting together to go for a ride along a former railway track, nature trail or similar route and generating sponsorship for their ride – however long or short that may be! 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'll get some healthy exercise!

Please see the enclosed Information Response Form

Gifts for your sponsored child



During February 2007 British Airways introduced a new policy concerning the amount of baggage and the weight that can be checked onto a flight.

Because of this we are no longer able to take any gift weighing more than 400 grams and more than an A5 envelope (approx 9" x 6¼"). In the past we have taken up to 400 individual gifts at Christmas. Sorting them and photographing the children with them has been a major exercise!

You can still send a donation for your child to receive shoes, clothes, a bike or other items.

The latest date for us to receive letters & gifts to go to your sponsored child for our summer visits is Friday 8th June 2007. **Please, please, please keep them small!**

Gift Aid Donations

We are grateful to so many of you who make your donations to Quicken Trust by Gift Aid. This enables the Trust to reclaim, from the revenue authorities, 28p for every £1 donated. The person making the donation must have paid income tax or capital gains tax during the relevant tax year equal to or greater than the amount that the Trust will reclaim. We continue to guarantee that 100% of the donation you make to Quicken Trust will be used in full in Kabubbu with any tax reclaimed being used to help fund the whole of Quicken Trust's work. If you do not make donations through Gift Aid and are able to do so please contact us for a form.

We will be presenting a brand new **Gift Catalogue** for Christmas. This will come with our Autumn Newsletter which will be with you at the beginning of September. We will also be offering three sets of specially commissioned **Christmas Cards**. One set is being designed by an artist in the UK who is also a sponsor. There will be two other sets featuring Christmas artwork by the children at Kabubbu's primary and secondary schools. We hope you will like them.

We will also have a special **Gift Book** (which will make an ideal stocking filler) available. This will feature pictures of children in Kabubbu with inspirational text.

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 and we could not assist them without your help. Thank you.

Geoff & Geraldine Booker

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