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Uganda Update – Autumn 2008

Partnering with the future of Others

Dear Friends,

In spring 2000 a black and white single page Quicken Trust news sheet was sent to 12 child sponsors and a few donors who supported a project planned for orphans in Kabubbu.

Later in July 2002 a large feature in the Daily Mail resulted in new sponsors joining us and the Kabubbu Development Project on the journey of faith. Then others, hearing of the desperate needs in the village through a school assembly, a speaking engagement or through reading features in the Eastbourne Herald or coverage on BBC South East Today, also began supporting. This newsletter now goes to 2,423 dedicated people. Some pedal in the annual charity 'Bike Ride for Uganda', some support Kabubbu in prayer, some raise funds through special events; others regularly sponsor a child, a granny or the healthcare programme.

To all who support Quicken Trust in any way we say THANK YOU.

Enoch and Lilian (the KDP Executive Director and his wife) were delighted to be in the UK in May. They met up to 500 supporters who travelled from as far as Bristol and Cambridgeshire to the event in Eastbourne. They passed on thanks from the Kabubbu community for the resources and funds received enabling it to develop and educate a generation of children and for sick people to receive medications that prolong their lives. A breakfast meeting in Eastbourne and a wine and cheese party hosted by "Old Mutual" in London brought us new contacts. They visited many schools including Hillview Girls School in Tonbridge where students put on a spectacular evening of music and dance.



Sample 2008 Christmas card



Eight years ago we established our **Aim** for our work: *Quicken Trust is focussed on showing the love of Christ in action to the Kabubbu community in Uganda. We aim to demonstrate this through the provision of the resources they lack, assisting them in training and acquiring the knowledge and skills they need to sustain the projects commenced and provide for themselves.* Our aim limits us to one village in Uganda. As we focus our energy in one place something of quality is being created and trusting relationships are being built. Our **Values**, listed on the inside back page, have proved to be attractive to donors and corporate sponsors.

So what is Kabubbu like today? Often there are petty squabbles between groups in the community and some seek to stir up strife. Despite this a visitor to Kabubbu, Jonathan Brass,

Emergency Food Security Expert with Oxfam looked around the facilities for four hours and summed up his visit as 'A great experience and quite inspiring, particularly seeing and knowing how you lead much from the heart, common sense and Divine guidance.'

Partnering with the future of the Orphans

The Primary and Secondary Schools you helped build in Kabubbu are educating 700 children. So are there any needs now? Are there any orphans not yet supported?

Many stories can illustrate the flow of needs in the village. In July, Lilian took us to meet her neighbour. A few weeks earlier she had taken an evening stroll past a neighbour's house and was surprised to find two sisters, Orpah 24 and Ruth 27, (not their real names) living with her neighbour. Both ladies had tragically lost their husbands of AIDS and were homeless. Orpah had also lost her 11 months old baby. Ruth had two children but had been unable to provide for her five year old daughter so they had walked to their mother's village and left the little girl in the care of her Grandmother. Later Ruth and Orpah met the neighbour from Kabubbu while queuing for medical treatment. The neighbour felt sorry for the sisters (both HIV positive), invited them to share her simple home and said maybe they could find work digging in the village. Both women were underweight and weak. Ruth's baby Mary was 14 months old but looked only 5 months old.

For almost everyone in Uganda life takes three steps forward and two back! Any conflict in a neighbouring country results in refugees tumbling over the border and more mouths to feed. A professional family with regular income is not immune from problems as the unexpected death of a relative incurs funeral costs and then newly orphaned children are dispatched to be blended into the family of a relative. For a lone parent existing on casual work or feeding their family with produce grown in their garden, a small accident on the land can result in no income to pay for vital medical treatment or rent, leading quickly to homelessness, poverty and hunger! We know of very few in Kabubbu who do not have orphans in their family.

Partnering with the future of Social Needs

Small gifts continue to give pleasure to children. Because air transport limits the luggage we can take on flights we limit each sponsor to one A5 envelope each. This is to be no bigger than 6½ x 9 ins (16 x 23 cm) and weigh no more than 400 gm. In this way each sponsor gets an opportunity to send a gift to the child or elderly person they support.

When thinking gifts for your sponsored child or elderly person, think ~ STOCKING FILLERS! Those small items that can be found in any toyshop. Geoff took ½ hour out of the office to look in a toyshop and Woolworths and found 46 things that would be ideal. A few of these in an A5 envelope would bring great joy to a child who has nothing else because even these items are beyond their expectations! There were lots of things in the 50p ~ £1 range. And a small soap, toothpaste and handkerchief make an ideal gift for the elderly. They would love it!

Alternatively Christmas donations can purchase a bike or football locally. Donations can be given for beds, mattresses, bedding, children's shoes or a family Christmas dinner.

Families can be trained to keep pigs, chickens or dairy cows to make a small income. A small item for a family could be a calendar, handkerchiefs, vegetable seeds, (tomatoes, onions, carrots, aubergines, cucumbers, beans) or a plastic poncho, a small guest soap or flannel.

The LAST DATE for CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO REACH US to go to Kabubbu is 6th OCTOBER 2008
Any items delivered after this may not be delivered until the spring of 2009

Partnering with the future of the Global Citizenship Project

Recent teams visiting include students from William Parker School, Hastings and Ratton School, Eastbourne. Teachers from St Bede's, Willingdon Primary School, Skippers School in Five Ashes and Hillview School for Girls in Tonbridge. A group of young adults from Christian Housing Alliance in London and a number of sponsors have also visited.

So what do volunteers do while in Kabubbu? They are taken on a walk with a local guide who answers their questions as they visit the three development sites. Next morning starts with a school assembly where guests are invited to share a thought for the day. Then off to work they go and with funds they have previously raised and assist in building a house for a family in need, fetching water for the builders and mixing cement. After lunch they organise sports or crafts. They teach or work in the Nursery School. Sometimes they share about their career to a group of High School students. The highlight for many is visiting families and plan welfare with money previously raised. In the evening they relax, play a game of crazy golf and enjoy a meal. There is an African evening with African food, traditional music, dancing and drumming. Sometimes an evening is organised with High School students to play board games or they listen to the students singing or playing local instruments.



Partnering with the future of Kabubbu Schools

When Enoch and Lilian were in the UK in May they attended a school ceremony to seal the partnership organised through the British Council between Mayfield Primary School and Heathfield Community College with the primary and secondary school in Kabubbu. This will enable cross curriculum activities and teacher exchanges for teachers of both

countries learning from each other.



Enoch has overseen Trust High School developments since it opened in February 2006 with just 90 students. Eva, then Acting Head, is now Deputy Head.

A science laboratory is now equipped thanks to LabAid and St Bede's School. It enables students to do practical hands-on experiments before their GCSE examinations in November.

A friend, Simon Barnett from Advantage Technologies in Norfolk, has recently installed 25 computers, internet connectivity and servers that link Uganda with the UK office.

Bernard Masindye is now Head Teacher at Trust High School. Age 35, he spent 15 years at a secondary school in Entebbe. He was Assistant Head.





We thank Simon for providing the equipment at a reduced price and for giving time with a colleague to install it. This project has four immediate aims:

- (1) To encourage fee paying students from Kampala to board at Trust High in Kabubbu
- (2) To provide high class computer skills linked to a quality education to enable them to get top jobs
- (3) To radically improve communication between the UK and Uganda office
- (4) To allow some administration work to begin to be transferred to Uganda to reduce costs from £9 an hour in the UK, to £3 a day in Uganda

Recently we received a grant of £5,000 from Trust House Charitable Foundation towards a school dormitory costing £43,344. The High School project will eventually be self sustaining.

Quicken Trust continues to take school assemblies and Global Citizenship lessons. And we are grateful to many schools that support our projects. It's a pleasure to fire the imagination of young people to consider the differences they can make to the developing world. We were interested to learn on one occasion while taking a school lesson that a student in class did not think that Quicken Trust could be a charity. We assumed that maybe the students had incorrectly thought we were not registered with the charity commissioners, but on checking what the student meant we realised that he thought Quicken Trust was not a charity because it didn't have a 'charity shop'. It is interesting how the word *charity* has become misused; moving from the original Greek meaning of 'impartial love of other people' to now often meaning 'discarded, unwanted or second hand items!'

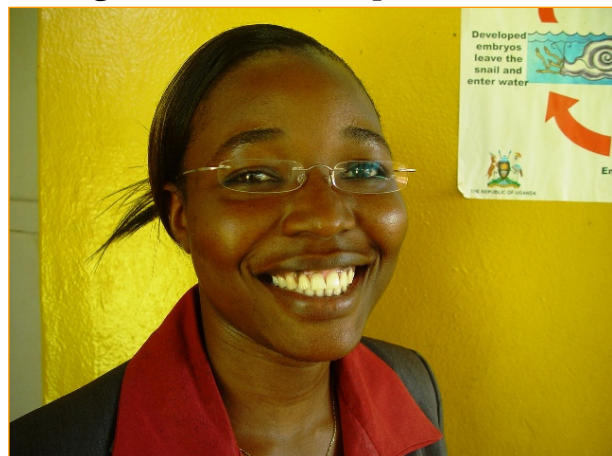
Partnering with the future of Adult Literacy

Programmes are continuing in Adult Literacy with 20 currently attending classes. This facility continues to be used for training women in sewing, teaching groups on health education and providing lessons in horticulture, poultry keeping and livestock

Partnering with the future of Primary Healthcare

Kabubbu Health Centre continues to provide medications for, on average, 1,345 patients each month (16,140 per annum). The Health Centre continues to need funds and has few individual sponsors. It costs £21,300 per annum to keep the Health Centre stocked with drugs and to pay the wages for five nurses; Susan, Edward, Christine, Judith and Clare. Sometimes we have our own ideas on projects or staffing and sometimes our ideas have to be discarded. Before the interviews for a new Nurse-in-Charge, the interview panel including medical staff, the Executive Director and us looked through the qualifications of each applicant. Between us we agreed on some qualities and characteristics or life experience that the successful

candidate should possess. However some of our pre-conceived ideas were discarded when Susan was interviewed. All agreed that although she was young her level of responsibility and maturity exceeded her 23 years and she had levels of competency beyond the other applicants.



Nurse Susan is now refurbishing and re-equipping part of the Health Centre to make better use of the space. Cupboards, shelves and other equipment and resources are being installed at a cost of £3,909 and a counselling room for victims of AIDS is being added at a cost of £1,878. Next year a store room

and recovery room need to be added at a cost of around £4,200.

Funding to transport patients to hospital by ambulance and life-saving surgical interventions for patients are met through occasional gifts. We recently received a grant of £3,057 from the Philip Henman Trust to provide nutrition and other items for 12 mothers with AIDS. We currently have 109 registered AIDS victims locally.

Sometimes funding is supplied by a sponsor who is informed if a Guardian or mother becomes sick. By saving the life of a Guardian or mother we prevent more children becoming orphans and safeguard the education investment made in a child. Treatments are often expensive and the needs are varied. Recent cases include children with severe burns, adults with hernias, liver, heart or kidney problems.

This story illustrates the on-going survival battles in a community under development.



A sponsor visited Kabubbu four years ago to meet Geoffrey and his mother Freda (not their real names) and her family. The family were moving around from house to house renting as they went. They had arrived in the village destitute after Freda's husband had died. The sponsor raised funds and built them a two room brick house rendered inside and out for £1,500. Freda took great delight in having a home of her own. She kept it spotlessly clean and began to grow vegetables and flowers in her very small garden.

The sponsors regularly prayed for Freda and the children and exchanged letters 3 or 4 times a year. They later learned that before Freda's husband died he kept 400 chickens. So, because Freda had experience in poultry keeping, they saved up some money to help her start a chicken farm a year ago. We now thought this is one family that's 'getting on its feet!'

Later while in the village (we visit 4 times a year) we heard that Freda had some ongoing health problems. Again the sponsors raised some money to pay the health bills. Last November Freda was taken to Mulago Hospital in Kampala. A member of the welfare team then sold the chicken as the children were unable to care for them and money was needed for medications and food for them. For two months Freda lost weight. She became so weak that she couldn't eat or talk and her life hung in the balance. Her elderly father visited her in the hospital and, convinced she was about to die, transported her back to his home village as a burial for a Moslem family must be completed within 24 hours of death. Freda remained here for several weeks. Later her father heard of a Christian hospital that, through herbal treatments and praying with patients, had seen good results. So in desperation he took Freda to that hospital. She survived!

In June she returned home with a new found faith, renewed life but in need of on-going monthly treatment to relieve fluid retention. We begin again to get Freda 'on her feet' starting another chicken farm. In this way her two children, both nearing the end of primary school, may have an opportunity to complete secondary education or vocational training

Our Christmas campaign this year is 'Give a Gift of Life'. The gift is an extended life for mothers with AIDS through correct medication and added protein in their diet to bolster the effect of the medication. Extending a mother's life means raising children in a secure family unit helping reduce the number of orphans and giving the children stability when they need it.



Partnering with the future of Welfare

Many people are supported and some receive other items from the welfare budget. We were surprised when we checked our records to find that 91 houses have been built for needy



Kabubbu families and 30 for staff. A new home often lifts the self esteem of the family and they then begin to want to learn or improve themselves to help their children. A Grandma was delighted to receive a new home for herself and her six grandchildren. She started learning English so she could talk with us and achieved this in four months!

Welfare consists of many aspects. In July Geraldine spent several happy hours at the local police station on issues of child protection and underage pregnancy (called defilement). If you ever wondered what a Ugandan Police Station looks like here is the

picture of the Child Protection Officer in her uniform and ready for business. They lack transport or money for fuel so if you need a case followed through you supply the cash!

Partnering with the future of the Church

The ten-week Alpha Course has been successfully run in 163 countries and 11 million people worldwide have attended. Over a meal, many have had the opportunity to explore the Christian faith through discussions and a DVD regardless of creed or colour. Recently two courses started in Kabubbu. The one in the conference room has 20 professional staff attending and in September this group will split up and multiply into four new groups in the village.



The other group five miles away is organised by Immaculate and is held in a church made of bamboo. The group has 18 members and includes an ex-convict who is so excited by what he learns that he always arrives an hour early! A neighbour of Immaculate never used to speak to her but through the course they have become friends. We recently visited both groups, discussed together and shared African tea dipping sliced bread into it and nibbled peanuts. Immaculate said 'People here are so excited by Alpha because it shows unity and love!'

In April Pastor Peter Babu was appointed the Pastor/Chaplin in the new church located at Trust High School. This is Peter's story: *I became a Christian when I was 22 years old and then qualified as a teacher. In 1998 I went to Tanzania as a missionary and I got used to the place. I felt comfortable and decided not to return to*



Uganda. Then in 2003 God spoke to me in an audible voice and said 'You must return home' but I pretended not to hear. Six months later I had a dream in which an old friend handed me a passport and said "If you do not return home shortly it is up to you." Within a week I packed and returned home and little did I know that God was taking me eventually to Kabubbu. After a year a friend connected me to Kabubbu where I started working in the Primary School in 2006. I was an associate Pastor in a church near Kampala but God has opened doors of caring for people in Kabubbu so I have now resigned from the other church.

Frank (pictured left), who recently became a Christian, came up and introduced himself to us 'I was a driver but I was always so disturbed by the traffic and I don't know how it was that I wasn't killed on those roads. Now I have Jesus with me, I have peace even though I have no work.'

Frank's life-change came about when Peter invited some friends to come Kabubbu to visit families in the village and ask if anyone would like prayer. As a result of this 30 people later chose to become Christians and in August six were baptised.

We thank Samaritans Purse International (UK) for their generous grant of £42,000 from their Integrated Mission programme. This programme will provide four new fresh water bore-holes and 400 Bio-Sand Filters enabling most homes to have a pure drinking water source 'on tap'. Through the church everyone is invited to come to a sensitisation meeting and register to be part of the programme which will take a year to complete.

Who does what in our office?

All our office staff can be contacted by phone (01323 832361) or email:

Caroline: Administration and travel caroline@quickentrust.com

David: Adopt a Granny david@quickentrust.com or adoptagranny@quickentrust.com

Geoff: Development, marketing, legal and financial geoff@quickentrust.com

Geraldine: Development, travel & donor co-ordinator geraldine@quickentrust.com

Gillian: School assemblies and global citizenship lessons schools@quickentrust.com

Paul: Bookkeeping contactus@quickentrust.com

Sue: Orphan sponsorship, finance sue@quickentrust.com or orphans@quickentrust.com

The 10 Values of Quicken Trust

- 1 QT does not use donated funds to pay staff wages/administration in the UK**
QT wages and administration costs are met from Gift Aid reclaim and other funds
- 2 QT does not use donated funds to pay for staff travel**
QT staff travel is supported by British Airways
- 3 QT does not use donated funds to pay for advertisements in magazines or newspapers**
QT generates new contacts from press and news media releases and public speaking
- 4 QT does not use donated funds to pay commission (up to 40%) to salesman recruited to 'sell' the charity or recruit child sponsors or 'granny' sponsors on the high street**
QT sponsors are generated from personal recommendation of existing sponsors
- 5 QT does not prevent sponsors from having contact with the child they support**
QT encourages sponsors to send letters, cards and small gifts. We visit a family on your behalf to answer any questions you have or meet welfare needs within the family
- 6 QT does not withhold details between donor and beneficiary**
QT can supply details on who received a goat or house you funded, or how a legacy was used. Have you tried asking a large charity how money you donated was spent?
- 7 QT does not set individuals up for 'failure' by not supplying the spare parts needed**
If a child receives a bike, the KDP teaches road safety, how to mend a puncture and maintain the bike. A workshop was also set up to ensure bike spares are available
- 8 QT does not 'waste' valuable financial or human resources**
The building and construction work is completed by the KDP by only employing the skilled professionals they need. Local men are employed as labourers. This cuts out all the middle men, reducing the costs of construction and ensuring value for money
- 9 QT does not provide random items like 'Soap for Sudan' or 'Bikes for Burundi'**
QT has a holistic approach to development
QT provides for the physical, rational, emotional and spiritual needs from birth to death of a community of 4,000 people
QT recognises that development is a process, taking time
Our **PHYSICAL** process provides medicines, surgical interventions and antenatal care
This safeguards the health of a community and saves lives

Our **RATIONAL** process supports a child and adult through education from Nursery to Primary and Secondary School then to college or university as well as Adult Literacy and skills training including equipping and providing tools for the job

This safeguards all investment made in education and training and provides work and safeguards the wealth potential and development of a rural community

Our **EMOTIONAL** process provides counselling and other support for AIDS mothers, food for grandparents with children, and a family for a child in need of protection

This safeguards vulnerable children who might migrate to town to scavenge or find work

Our **SPIRITUAL** process seeks to provide truth and fact instead of superstition and myths; faith instead of fear; dignity instead of low self esteem

This safeguards the faith, hope and love shared with the community and only eternity will reveal the results!

10 **QT does not encourage 'dependency'**

That is why Quicken Trust is now looking to create income generating activities for small businesses to create work and to enable the village to support itself beyond 2010

ADMINISTRATION - HELP!

We always write and thank donors who often sacrifice time to organise events or send gifts in memory of a loved one or as an alternative gift to celebrate a happy occasion. To reduce administration costs we are happy to send a 'thank you' by email if possible but need your contact details. *We guarantee not to pass your information to anyone.*

Dates for letters and gifts for your sponsored child

Cards and small gifts for sponsored children must be delivered to us by:

Monday October 6th 2008 (for Christmas)

Gift envelopes should be no larger than A5 with 'your' child's name in large capitals, using a black marker pen, on the front. If your child is in Trust High School please put 'S' in the top right corner. **Please do not bring items to the office without first checking as we have limited luggage allowance.**

To keep luggage transported by air to a minimum we organise for items like bikes, clothes, shoes and so on to be purchased in the village. Items you can donate include recorders, Lego, geometry sets, solar calculators and early learning games and plastic ponchos. This reduces the amount we have to carry and provides a local income, plus money donated with a Gift Aid Form attracts a further 28 pence for every £1 given.

Gift Aid Donations

We are grateful to many of you who make your donation to Quicken Trust by Gift Aid. This enables us 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 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 you are able to do so if you pay tax. Please contact us for a form.

Give a Gift of Life

Our Christmas 2008 project is literally a life-saver! We have over 100 adults with AIDS in Kabubbu on a limited life-expectancy. This can be greatly lengthened by mothers with AIDS receiving the correct medication and additional protein (meat and eggs) in their diet helping the drugs to work more effectively. We can extend the mother's life to enable her to raise her children in a stable and loving family environment. However much love a relative may give it is never the same as the love of a mother. And we gradually reduce the orphan population.

Now that really is something worth giving this Christmas!

And finally, 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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