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Uganda Update – Spring 2009

Partnering with the future of Others

Dear Friends,

It was February 1999 when we first visited Uganda by invitation of friends. It was 2000 when we returned. The community asked for help and we began fundraising. At the end of 2009 we begin celebrations for our 10th birthday. These will be from September 26th to October 4th with a visit of a new **Kabubbu Children's Choir**. Meet them at **7.00pm at the Congress in Eastbourne on Sunday 4th October**. Tickets will be available soon at £5.00 (adults) and £3.00 (children & concessions).



On Friday April 23rd, 2010 there will be a special celebration in Kabubbu. ***You are all invited to join us!*** As a BA supported charity we are able to reserve a number of flight tickets at a greatly reduced price. They will be on a first-come first-served basis. We can accommodate about 40, some in dormitory accommodation. ***Please contact us now!***

Partnering with the future of the Orphans

We often report on desperate and ongoing struggles of so many people in Kabubbu who take two steps forward and one step back and, of course, there are many endless needs. However, many lives have been transformed over the past 10 years and continue to be. We recently re-visited a family we have been to many times before. This time we went to check if the oldest child in the family had completed her 'A' level examinations.

We first met the family early in 2001. David, then 5, was one of the first 20 children to start schooling. In 2002 after Quicken Trust had built the Primary School his sister Diana age 10 was also included in the school because the family had so many financial needs and problems. Later still we heard the family were having problems in their dilapidated house and assistance was given towards building them a new one.

Time went by. Diana's sponsor travelled from the UK to visit the family. She realised the difficulties they were having and offered to help provide some funds for Diana's older sister Hasifah to continue in secondary education. Hasifah often missed a vital term at school because Mum, Jessica, was unable to find money for her school fees. Each time she missed a term she had to repeat the whole year's education in the following year.

Family problems continued. We visited again when Jessica's new born baby and her new husband both tragically died within weeks of each other. Later we heard that Jessica was ill. On our next trip we visited again and had to make a quick decision to either provide

life-saving medication that would cost £4 a day to sustain her life or if we didn't help she would probably die and all previous investment made in the children's lives and education would be wasted.

Back in the UK we reported this to both Diana and David's sponsors. One of them mobilised friends in their Church to pray for the family and followed up by providing £2,500+ for the medications to sustain her life over a two year period. The family continued to have many problems. Hasifah suffered cerebral malaria, was hospitalised, and had to repeat that year's education. About this time a volunteer visiting the village also offered to care for Allan (another sister!) through her years of education.

In the last year things have improved. In January 2009 we visited to see if Hasifah had now succeeded in taking 'A' level exams. We were delighted to find she had and was awaiting the results in March. She wants to train to be a nurse. We heard that David had been successful in his primary school exams and would graduate to Trust High School.



Back home we received news that Diana (now 17) was one of only three students in Trust High School to attain a Grade 1 GCSE pass and her sister Allan (now 19) attained a Grade 2. Mum's health has stabilised and she is now strong enough to work to earn a few pence each week by running the village shop with her family. The joy in their faces is evident and their thanks to those who have supported and cared for them is unending!

Because we travel to Uganda visiting families regularly we have in-depth understanding of some of the community needs. In the UK we are sometimes asked questions about providing regular funds to one family or project causing dependency or encouraging a begging culture. As we experience first-hand the tragedies families pass through we wonder how they survive and still smile.

Sometimes it takes eight years of continuity before results begin to be seen. In our culture the word 'charity' often means providing money or donating unwanted items. All are valuable, but behind this modern understanding the original Greek for charity means 'love'. This family's story shows they have been well loved through their sponsors.

Partnering with the future of Social Needs



There are a number of occasions each year when the community comes together. Sometimes these focus around gifts or celebrations. At other times they will be to build community relationships. At Christmas 237 sponsors donated a gift for the child they support. Thank you. We also used Quicken Trust funds to purchase 178 gifts for children whose sponsor was unable to send a gift, plus 130 gifts for children who attend the primary school but who are not sponsored.

The Community Award Ceremony in October was an occasion when people came together to be recognised not for their academic achievements, but for the qualities or care they take. Two silver cups and cash awards were made to pupils who achieved scholarships given by UK donors in memory of loved ones.

Categories for Awards included 'Parent of the Neatest Child'; 'The Best Kept Flower Garden'; 'The Most Willing Guardian or Community Member'. It was a fun day.

There was opportunity to build community relationships when all 72 staff went away for a weekend Retreat. Most of the professional staff on the project moved into Kabubbu after graduating or working in Kampala. The KDP was unable to employ local adults for professional positions because most people in the village had been denied an opportunity to be educated. However, over the years the KDP has sought to create work for the residents in Kabubbu to also earn an income. Some now work as guards, caretakers, cooks, gardeners, hairdressers, tailors, drivers and so on. They came together with the professional staff. The facilitator for the Retreat, from a management consultancy in Kampala, said he had never seen a project where non-professionals and professionals sat together as equals. It was a great success and included a Christmas party.



Obtaining grants is not easy. Reporting procedures and requirements are complex and time consuming. Legacies are rare so we continue to fund a budget of £300,000+ per annum from speaking engagements, individual sponsors and special fund raising events. We are moving from development and infrastructure to maintenance and income generation. *We invite every Quicken Trust donor and sponsor to introduce us to one new sponsor willing to set up a monthly Standing Order to enable this aim to be met.*

Schools, clubs and churches continue to raise funds. Bike Ride for Uganda 2008 and events over Christmas raised £20,000 towards treatment for mothers and children with AIDS. Others sent funds for some of the poorest 120 families in the village to receive a Christmas dinner and we were delighted to be there on December 23rd when people came to collect their food. Thank you for caring enough to provide for them.

Partnering with the future of Kabubbu Schools

We are delighted that the British Council partnerships with Mayfield Primary School and Heathfield Community College will include an opportunity for a curriculum exchange this year and for a reciprocal visit of teachers. Two teachers from the UK will visit Kabubbu in July. Loy, art teacher at Trust High, and James, primary teacher, will visit the UK in September.

Schools come up with very creative ideas for fundraising. Broad Oak Primary School raised £280 to provide extras to care for their sponsored child, Deo. They organised a 'Dress for Less' fashion show borrowing second-hand clothes from local charity shops which the children paraded in to become 'catwalk models' for an evening!



As a small charity with limited financial resources some difficult decisions often have to be made. How do we choose which orphan to assist with ongoing education? Vocational training and University fees cost up to five times that of primary education. Some sponsors are able to continue their support through the lengthy process. Others may be unable to meet these extra costs and Quicken Trust has to rely on ad-hoc gifts to ensure a child can continue education to reach their goal of financial independence.

With limited resources the decisions on which children we can continue to provide for are complex. If you had limited funds and could only care for and support one student which of these you would support?

- (1) A non-academic student age 16+ who has completed primary education (the minimum requirement to continue into further education) and wants to take a 1 year vocational course in agriculture or as a mechanic. This might cost £500 and assist a young person with income potential helping the development of a rural community.
- (2) A student who has already had extra investment for 4 years in secondary education and taken GCSE exams. She now wants to train as a secretary or nursery teacher. These skills are needed but the course costs £600 a year for 2 years.
- (3) A student who has benefited from 6 years of sponsored education to 'A' level. This student could now go to a higher educational institute to train as a policeman or nurse or to University and become a lawyer or doctor. Probable cost £900+ per year for up to 5 years (total £4,500) but these skills might help a nation (if the NHS doesn't entice the doctors to a better life in the West!)
- (4) Invest in a young person who has some basic education but shows flair and initiative as an entrepreneur (a subject on the Ugandan curriculum) and has ideas to develop businesses, create work and make money.

Quicken Trust is unable to afford to support every child through further education or training so we leave the decision to each individual sponsor who is kept informed of the welfare needs of the child or family and the student's exam results. Each year we visit and provide such information for up to 80 sponsors. From this they can determine if they are able to raise the extra care needed for the further education according to their disposable income and what they are able to provide. As a result many children are



fulfilling their dreams. But it is the sponsors who will determine the age and the level at which the student completes their education, rather than the decision being taken according to the child's potential. Primary School fees remain at £20 a month, Secondary School at £30. A student in College or University is £40-£80 a month depending on the course.

This year very few children in Uganda obtained Grade 1 in primary exams. These results were reflected in Kabubbu. The KDP Board decided to improve the standard of

spoken English (the language of education) and appoint a new Primary Head Teacher.

Meanwhile at Trust High, 72% of students who sat GCSE attained a Grade 1 or Grade 2 pass including Mahad, Diana and Christine, three of the first children to start sponsored education in 2002. We congratulate them, Ben (Head Teacher) and his staff.

Each year 20 out of 30 children who begin education at the start of the school year in February will have a sponsor by March/April. This year the 'credit crunch' has meant

several sponsors have been unable to continue their support. We must first find new sponsors so these children can continue education. This means a number of small cute kids who started school in February still need a sponsor. We don't use donated money for marketing or advertising but rely on those receiving the newsletter to encourage new sponsors among relatives, friends, churches, clubs, schools or companies.

To celebrate Quicken Trust's 10th Birthday a new Children's Choir from Kabubbu will visit from September 25th-October 4th. Events include visits to schools, churches and a concert at 7.00pm at the Congress Theatre in Eastbourne on Sunday October 4th. Tickets will soon be on sale at £5.00 for adults and £3.00 for children and concessions.

Partnering with the future of Adult Literacy

This project was started by a BA employee in 2002. She raised funds for a library and later a literacy programme. Alongside literacy and numeracy, students apply their learning to every-day circumstances to improve their environment, hygiene, simple health protection and to learn to grow good garden produce and healthy livestock.

Augustine has worked with the KDP for five years. He started in the Library overseeing literacy and later included welfare work. He has a background in education and social sciences with practical knowledge and experience in horticulture and agriculture. Both departments have grown so Augustine will now develop Community Education and concentrate on providing this education to improve livestock and food production.

Uganda is fertile with two growing seasons a year and a climate of between 18 and 30 degrees all year round. It is capable of producing a wide range of fruit and vegetables. However, many of the adults in Kabubbu were migrant workers or refugees from Rwanda. Some were orphaned and local knowledge and skills needed to produce good nutritious crops had not been passed on to them. Some believed they needed to purchase expensive and toxic chemicals to enrich the soil and failed to use natural animal waste.

Other people constantly on the move had no land of their own and no means of providing for themselves. They survive on a monotonous high starch diet of cassava (a root vegetable), maize, beans and possibly sweet potatoes or plantain bananas.

Some small land owners know they cannot make an income from growing vegetables (transport costs prevent profits) so they opt for a short-term gain from making bricks which erodes the topsoil and removes the nutrients that produce good crops.

Encouraging people to grow new types of fruits and vegetables is not easy. Finding solutions to the food and income problems in Kabubbu is challenging! The KDP has 7 areas of non-developed land, a total of 20 acres. On some, five cows will be kept (1 cow = 1 acre) to produce the 270 litres of the milk needed in the schools. On other land an exotic goat project and a new pig project are aimed at teaching school children and adults the new skills needed to produce quality milk and meat at low cost so they can have protein in their diet, a missing dietary essential for so many.

In his new role Augustine is developing horticultural initiatives. These may not generate income to reduce poverty but they will greatly improve nutrition and health.

He has asked for donations of selected vegetable seeds that grow well in the Ugandan climate – the list is copied as received: *carrot*, Nantes; *cabbage*, Gloria F1, Red Head; *green pepper capsicum*, California Wonder; *onion*, Red Creole; *water melon*, Sugar Baby; *squash*, Azabache F1; *Chinese cabbage*, F1; *egg plant*, Long Purple; *cucumber*, Hybrid (long); *tomato*, Onyx or Heinz; *lettuce*, Great Lakes, Ash Grow; *cauliflower*, Snowball; *broccoli*, Green Sprouting; *French beans*, *spinach*, *leeks*, *parsley*.

We also need to purchase a Greaves Rotavator with a range of attachments (coming to approx £4,000) to assist cultivation processes throughout the community.

Partnering with the future of Primary Healthcare



Sometimes as we work with those in need the inexplicable occurs and God steps in and a miracle happens! In the Autumn 2007 and Spring 2008 newsletters we highlighted the ongoing story of Enid and her daughters Elizabeth, Irene and others. We were surprised when we heard recently that Irene was now no longer AIDS/HIV+. We decided to visit to check the facts. Their story and photo is shared with their permission but we continue to use their pseudonyms to avoid confusion!

At 15, Irene is the youngest of the four children. Mum Enid told us Irene was first thought to have the virus when she was 8 months old. She frequently had a fever, malaria and skin problems. Her father had died of the disease. Irene was diagnosed as HIV+ at 2 years old, was prescribed daily Septrin and was regularly monitored by Nsamba Hospital. Treatment continued through until 19th October 2005 when hospital clinical records show that her CD4 count (which shows how strong the immune system is) was very low. The hospital decided to include her on their ARV drug treatment programme. She continued on this treatment.

Recently Enid and Irene, both HIV+, decided they would fast and pray together every Saturday to be healed. A few weeks later on 21st May 2008 Irene went for her quarterly check-up at the hospital. The doctor was very surprised to find no trace of the virus in her blood. He told Irene to continue to take Septrin and return in three months.

At her next appointment in August 2008 the doctor was shocked to find the tests were still negative. After discussion he again told her to continue on Septrin and return in three months. A further test on 15th October confirmed that Irene continued to be free of the virus and was no longer HIV+. She has no pain, no skin irritations and no problems with her eyes. Hospital clinical records and her Pastor both confirmed these details. The name of Irene's church? 'Amazing Grace Miracle Valley Church' - but despite its name the Pastor wrote to us saying this is their first clinically proven miracle!

Our Mildmay Mission Hospital partnership for AIDS victims has resulted in unplanned expenditure for an extension for a records office, counselling room and laboratory.

Partnering with the future of Welfare



A number of projects are part of the welfare programme. These include mosquito nets, foster care, nutrition and a transport support for victims of AIDS and the elderly programme.

A Christmas party was a special occasion for the Kabubbu elderly who are rarely able to meet together because of their reduced mobility. However, a full Christmas dinner of chicken, Christmas presents plus entertainment and with transport laid on they were all able to enjoy a memorable occasion!

Partnering with the future of the Church

Many of the 400 water filters have now been distributed to the households in the village. Once installed it takes three weeks for the bacteria to work effectively and ensure each family is able to have clean water. Funding for this was provided by Samaritans Purse International as part of their Integral Mission programme which takes an holistic approach to sustainability, integrating faith and action.

We continue to hear encouraging stories from Church Leaders around Kabubbu. Immaculate (Augustine's wife) recently sent this:

"We are soon finishing the third course of Alpha. The first registered 11 members; the second 26; and the third, 36. All from different denominations. We have Catholic, Anglican and Pentecostals, Moslems and a few who didn't want anything to do with religion ... I am happy with the Alpha Course. People are able to minister to one another in their small groups. You don't need to be a big preacher with a decorated pulpit to minister to a friend and, what is amazing, people continue to be close friends even after they have completed the course. I thank God for Quicken Trust. Your help, training and resources were timely.

A leader of one small group, Margaret, told me a pregnant woman who was formally not a Christian came to attend an Alpha Course. She joined their group, showed them a hospital card. Her pregnancy was long overdue. They prayed and later she delivered a baby. These days when I enter our Church, either I thank God with all my heart or weep tears of joy. Without Alpha and its methods as a tool in evangelism nobody would be drawn to fellowship in our church. It's not beautiful, no amplifiers, no expensive drums, and no modern music instruments. But to everyone's surprise whoever comes to an Alpha Course doesn't leave. They all stick to attending this papyrus church".



Partnering with the future of the Resort & Conference Centre

The Resort Centre is set in beautiful gardens. On arrival one member of the Halcyon Group from Heathfield said "Wow! This looks like the garden of Eden!" They went on to build a piggery on the demonstration farm.

Volunteers to Kabubbu frequently tell us our newsletters and information do not accurately portray the size of the village or the breadth of the projects supported. On arrival in Kabubbu a volunteer begins with a 'tour' before work begins the following day. Volunteers take part in a variety of fourteen activities from primary school assemblies to recording the stories of the elderly and from building to teaching.

The process begins long before travelling when potential volunteers meet for an information afternoon and then begin organising events and networking to raise the £400 needed to travel as a volunteer. This means that volunteering is affordable for





many young or older people as so many charities require £3,000-£4,000. This year groups and schools booked include The Square Youth Project, Hailsham; Heathfield Community College; Burgess Hill School for Girls; Hillview School for Girls in Tonbridge and St Bede's School in the Dicker plus many individuals and families.

For all who travel it is an unforgettable experience. Extra accommodation for groups of up to 40 people is now under construction and will be complete by Easter.

Some volunteers have thought of amazing ways to raise funds in a short space of time. Last year Joshua age 12 raised £1,200 all on his own! What did he do? He had his head shaved in front of all his school mates!

Now, what can you think of doing?

Bike Ride For Uganda 2009

Bike Ride for Uganda held in July 2008 raised £12,662 for Gift of Life. We are 'biking' again in 2009 on Friday & Saturday July 10th & 11th ~ 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. Please, can YOU help?

Don't live in the Hailsham/Eastbourne area? – Don't worry

Family and friends teams of cyclists across the country can get together to go for a ride along a former railway track, nature trail or similar route 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!

**Dates for receipt of A5 envelopes including small gifts for the community are:
30th June 2009 and 1st October 2009**

With over 200 parcels it's not always easy to identify who they are for so please ensure **all correspondence/envelopes sent to us must include the full KAB or ELD reference number and name in large black BLOCK CAPITALS on the outside of the package.**

To keep luggage transported by air to a minimum we can organise for items like bikes, clothes, shoes and so on to be purchased in the village. This has the advantage of reducing the amount we have to carry and provides a local income. Also, money donated against a signed Gift Aid Form attracts a further 28 pence for every £1 given for the charity to use.

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 and you pay tax we can send you a form.

Thanks to Google Maps you can now see the sites where we work. The distance from the Trading Centre to the Primary School site is about 600 yards. **See large map at: www.quickentrust.com**

1 = Primary School, Health Centre & Resort Centre

2 = Trust High School & Kabubbu Community Church

3 = Kabubbu Trading Centre

And finally, our thanks for everything you do to help care for the orphans and community in Kabubbu. Your support makes such a difference to their lives and we could not care for them without your help. Thank you.

Geoff & Geraldine Booker

