

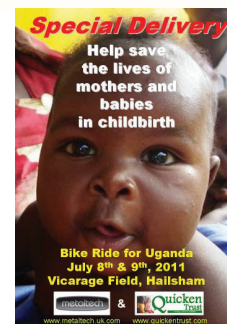


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Uganda Update – Spring 2011



Partnering with the future of Others

Dear Friends,

Oh happy day!

Tuesday 15th March was a very exciting and happy day in Kabubbu! 12 years ago without a school capable of educating children through primary & secondary education (GCSE and A level), university was just a dream! Now 9 out of the first group of 11 sponsored students who took their 'A' Levels last year have grades high enough to attend university. They will begin in September and have chosen BSc courses in accounting and finance and computer sciences. Mahad will train as a Clinical Officer and Irene, with the highest number of points, 17 out of a total of 25, will take Administrative and Secretarial Studies. Congratulations!

Each university or vocational training student funded by a QT sponsor is required to sign a contract. They confirm that following their graduation from university they will (a) offer their professional expertise for work in Kabubbu at a reduced wage if a vacancy exists or (b) they will sponsor the education for another sibling. Slowly, in this way, the project will become sustainable.



Land Appeal Fund

Many of you will have received a letter from Quicken Trust or read the QT website on www.quickentrust.com. You will know of the challenges subsistence farming tenants faced in Kabubbu when a landlord returned from the USA and threatened to evict them. Each tenant had an Agreement with him and had a home built and funded by a QT supporter.

In November another miracle occurred when a QC from the UK who had offered to volunteer, accompanied Geoff to the lawyer in Kampala. Here it was confirmed that any eviction under the Land Act 2010 would be illegal. A landlord must first offer his tenant the right to buy the land that his house stands on or to recompense the tenant/home owner if he, the landlord, wishes to re-possess the land to sell to a property developer.

As QT has recently received several comments from supporters asking why we don't make appeals for funds and, because the QT Board of Trustees advised us to start a 'Land



Appeal' fund, we are now making an appeal for funds! We are seeking 150 donations of £1,000 to enable QT to purchase the land and process the legal documents to secure the homes. A total of £150,000 would enable QT to purchase this and other land needed to ensure future food security for the projects - or that could be 300 donors at £500 each!

The Chancellor of the Exchequer recently announced in his Budget that from April 2012, if you bequeath 10% of your Estate to a charity in your Will, your remaining Estate would benefit by a 10% reduction (from 40% to 36%) on the inheritance tax due.

Regular monthly sponsors needed

We recently reviewed QT's progress and began to plan for the future. If Geoff and Geraldine retire, or reduce their fulltime voluntary roles, it would require QT to employ and pay for 3 or 4 new fulltime staff to replace them. This would greatly *increase* QT's UK costs and substantially *decrease* the amount of money transferred to Kabubbu. Low UK expenses (with only 3 part time paid staff) have enabled QT to develop Kabubbu and support those in greatest need! We question if we should increase our wage bill in the hope of raising the funds needed to maintain the developments in Kabubbu.

Currently QT has regular sponsors contributing £163,939 of the £315,000 needed annually for day-to-day expenditure in Kabubbu. If you regularly receive this newsletter and you are not a sponsor, can you consider setting up a Standing Order for £10+ per month? Additional monthly sponsors would enable QT to reduce the shortfall needed and plan for the future. Our Newsletter and public speaking are the only means of raising funds as QT does not use its donations for marketing or advertising. For the past 12 years we have been constantly fundraising for the infrastructure for health and education in Kabubbu. From 2012 QT would like to concentrate on providing resources but to do this we need another miracle of £103,000 to complete the infrastructure.

Partnering with the future of the Orphans

It's a very special time when a sponsor meets the child they support. It's extra special for a sponsor who has supported a child for over 10 years, and who is now a teenager! Gillian and Andrew Ives were one of QT's first 10 sponsors and Gillian writes:

"A Special Day...Ten years in the making...."

To quote a song "Oh what a perfect day, I'm glad I spent it with you.." was, without being a cliché, exactly how I felt at the end of it.

Ten years ago, in July 2000, my husband Andrew and I began to sponsor an eight year old girl named Evelyne. I was eight months pregnant at the time and our first born son Samuel arrived two weeks later! At that time I never for a moment thought it would be possible to meet Evelyne and, if I am totally honest - the thought of going to a different continent was quite scary!

But ten years and three attempts later, Andrew and I were driving to Evelyne's home. After a short and very bumpy ride over footpath type roads (something which I never quite got used to!) we arrived there. My heart was in my mouth! A myriad of questions were going round in my head - would she like us? Would we know what to say? Would they like the gifts ... so many questions!

Geraldine approached Evelyne's home with her usual cheerful manner, and after speaking with Edith - (Evelyne's mum) the penny dropped as she realised who we were!

Before I could compose myself, out bounded this beautiful young lady and gave me the biggest hug! It was amazing, and I was so happy to finally meet the girl who we have for years called "our other daughter". I cannot begin to describe the joy that I felt - to put it all into words is actually very hard. After much hugging, crying and dancing (on their

part!!) we were invited into their home to meet other family members and to get to know each other.

The time whilst we were there passed by very quickly. Our conversation flowed as we asked questions about each others lives, regularly interrupted with much laughter! Evelyne was eager to show us her garden - explaining that most of the food they ate was provided by them from the garden. Edith asked me if I could sing a song to them which I did. They soon joined us in doing actions to the song "Jesus love is very wonderful" in the late afternoon sunshine. Edith and Evelyne share our Christian faith, and they asked us to pray with them before we left - a very special moment when Edith prayed passionately.

I found it hard to leave, but I know that we will both return to Kabubbu to see Evelyne again. The whole trip was one of the greatest experiences of our lives. A piece of our heart has been left in the community there, and with Evelyne and her family. We have experienced many emotions, but I left Kabubbu with a complete feeling of peace - as I had finally been able to complete our family puzzle. I was later able to share with our own children the joy that the family and community have despite many challenges.

There are many children still needing the love and support of a sponsor family. I can say honestly, that whatever you offer to a child in Kabubbu, it is appreciated and used for them effectively. We have seen for ourselves the difference our help has made so far - which has given both Andrew and I a great deal of joy and satisfaction as Evelyne now moves on to take her 'A' Level examinations".

In Kabubbu recently QT and KDP staff discussed the impact that a sponsor makes in the life of a child they support. We noted that many of the children now succeeding have sponsors who write regularly, encourage and praise the child's performance and share some of their family news. We noted that many of the best students at GCSE and 'A' Level had sponsors who have visited their sponsored child. It is very evident that such commitment contributes to their achievements and success. Orphaned or destitute children often receive little attention and no praise at home and your own stories of how perseverance enabled you to succeed in your chosen career is very helpful. It seems like "Love makes the world go round!" is true for children in Kabubbu. It also explains why so many children in Kabubbu ask us "When is my sponsor going to come?"

Partnering with the future of Kabubbu Schools

Kabubbu Community Primary School

This year there was an increase from 46% to 64% of passes at Grade 1 and Grade 2. This means 29 children graduated from primary to secondary education. Congratulations!

Completing primary education is no small achievement! Uganda children have many challenges that UK children would rarely experience. Sometimes the heat saps their energy or crops and vegetables die and their families resort to pulling leaves off the trees to boil up for food as hunger sets in. Sometimes in the rainy season a child is drenched on their way to school and they stay in their wet clothes all day! Sometimes a child has to walk 4-5 miles to school and leaves home in the dark (before dawn at 6.30am) and returns in the dark after dusk at 7.00pm. Sometimes a child's world is turned upside down when they wake up in the morning and find that their Mum or Guardian has died overnight! Again, while in Kabubbu for three weeks in March, two of our children lost their Guardian, and for one boy it was his last surviving relative ... heartbreaking!

A recently retired UK teacher, Judith McAlone, worked as a volunteer in Kabubbu training primary school staff in 'special needs'. Such students are often unrecognised or may be considered as an inconvenience. Thank you, Judith, for sharing your expertise.



Special thanks also to Primary Care Africa for supporting our students with bikes and other resources to either get them to and from school easily or educate them when they are there.

Trust High School

GCSE results - 17 out of 19 sponsored students taking GCSE this year have now graduated to the Lower Fifth. Two students from this group have left school and will now take a course in Catering and Hotel Management. Thank you to all QT sponsors who continue supporting for 8+ years to make this possible.

We thank St Bede's School near Hailsham for educating Winnie for the past three years up to GCSE. Winnie will return to Uganda in July and then, if successful, begin a State Enrolled Nurse course. St Bede's have also generously extended their scholarship programme to enable Dan Sajjabbi to begin a GCSE course in the UK from September.

Enough is enough! Finally after three years of on/off electricity supply we have been able to overcome the supply problems in Kabubbu. We thank the cyclists and sponsors from 'Bike Ride for Uganda 2010' + a generous donation from Buckingham Rotary Club that has enabled QT to purchase a generator which automatically kicks in when the power fails!

Volunteers bring with them a wealth of lifetime experience. Gerry Page brought both his skills as an experienced music teacher and also donated guitars, brass instruments, recorders and other musical instruments and created the first Kabubbu orchestra! - Thank you Gerry.

We are also grateful to Eastbourne Lions Club for resources for Trust High School.

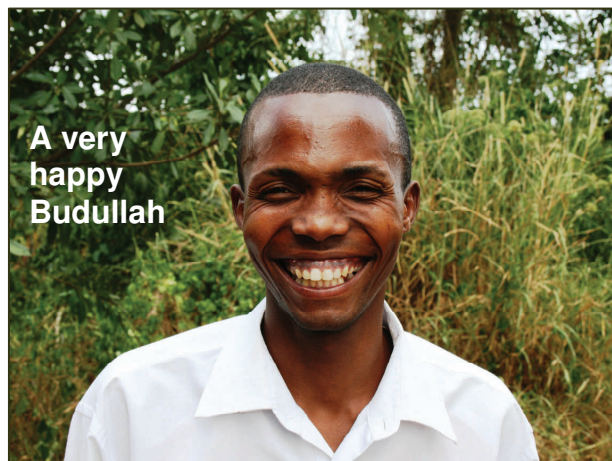
'A' Level Results

It was so exciting to be in the village during the 'A' Level results and to chat with the students as they planned for their future. In Kabubbu young people often hang about or endlessly play cards in the village centre.

In 2007 Enoch, the KDP Executive Director, decided to select one of these young people who had dropped out of school to become a 'role model' by enabling him to restart his

education. Now Budallah, with 4 'A' levels, will go to university to study Accountancy.

Finding good Vocational Training Institutes in Uganda with equipment is like looking for a needle in a haystack! Recently, in the UK, we visited the newly refurbished food and



A very happy Budullah

technology department in William Parker School, Hastings and found one cooker for every two students. Visiting one of the best vocational training institutes run by the YMCA in Kampala we discovered 120 students and only four cookers on which to practice! These colleges have qualified tutors and provide good information and theory. How do the students qualify as electricians, plumbers, mechanics and so on with so little equipment for practical work ... and the implications of that thought are quite concerning!

We thank Pitons Foundation for funding 2 vocational students + training for a nurse.

It would be good to find a volunteer who could commit six months to acquiring good second-hand equipment, packing it and organising shipping to Uganda.

WANTED - good quality scientific calculators, art materials, posters, science equipment or small simple equipment for experiments like weather forecasting. Small musical instruments, recorders, mouth organs etc.

BOOKS - Dorling Kindersley type information books on any subject. Lightweight, illustrated paperback books for secondary school on science, physics, maths, biology and chemistry.

DVDs - inspirational, biographical, geographical, historical, natural history, Christian, Disney cartoons or relevant humour (like Mr Bean – Geraldine's favourite!)

Partnering with the future of Adult Literacy



An interesting irrigation technique

Adult Literacy in Kabubbu has a functional application as students apply their learning to improving hygiene, kitchen gardens, animal welfare, healthcare and every day life.

Thanks to a recent donation the community in Kabubbu has received fruit trees, seeds, tools and will soon be able to improve irrigation from six new water tanks that have been donated. To date over £12,000 has been donated by Graze. *Stuck for a lunch time experience and want something tasty delivered to your office desk?* Visit www.graze.com. This

is an excellent partnership and QT welcomes other corporate sponsors.

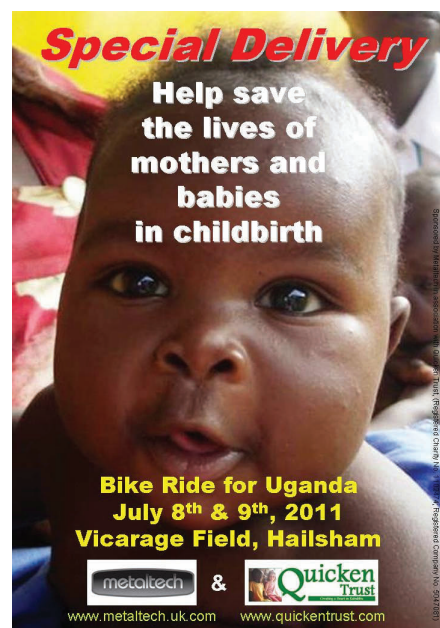
Partnering with the future of Primary Healthcare

With very heavy hearts over 600 people came to bury and say goodbye to Nurse Edward who died of cancer in February aged 57. Edward had served in the Health Centre since it opened in 2004. He was a good counsellor and supporter for the AIDS victims in the village. He leaves a wife, twins taking 'A' Levels this year, a child in her final year of primary education and a seven year old daughter ... we will all miss him.

Nurse Christine recently had her second baby and is now on three months maternity leave. Judith, a midwife loved by the community and who started in the Health Centre in 2004, has resigned to move nearer home as she had her second baby in December.

Now Nurse-in-Charge Susan is struggling to maintain patient care. She plans to launch a health education programme in nearby villages to encourage mothers to attend

antenatal, delivery and post natal care in the Kabubbu Health Centre. Her remaining staff is now Clinical Officer Andrew, Nurse Claire and Nurse Rose (who is past retiring age!). We are delighted that three girls who have completed GCSE, including Winnie, are planning to train as State Enrolled Nurses. Once qualified and working they can upgrade their qualifications to State Registered Nurses.



Just when we thought it was all over, it came back! 'Bike Ride for Uganda 2010' was to be our last. But Metaltech, a precision engineering company in Hailsham, who took part for the first time last year kindly offered to sponsor, organise and provide their man/woman power to run it for 2011. The event will now continue in Hailsham on July 8th & 9th and funds raised will be used for Susan's health education campaign, 'Special Delivery', to save the lives of mothers and babies in childbirth. Already 20 teams from last year have signed up. What about you? Why not join them? **For more details phone Alec Hill on 01323 845371 or email: alec.hill@metaltech.uk.com**

Partnering with the future of the Church

10 local Church leaders recently came together to benefit from teaching. Rev Mark Redhouse from the UK provided the group with excellent interactive teaching on Small Group Leadership, What is the Bible and How to preach the Bible. All participants declared it a great success and asked for more training.

It's good to see rural Pastors, denied local training in theology, benefiting from some visiting speakers. It's even more encouraging seeing them learning together as so often they view their Church as a personal 'business' to be passed on by the Pastor to other family members - who then also benefit from the 'tithes' as their personal income.

It is unusual to find Pastors working together in this way in 'unity' with each other as, sadly, Pastors often work in competition with each other. We are also delighted that some Pastors/Elders/Ministers are now recognising the need to operate within the law and to register their church as an NGO - a not-for-profit organisation limited by guarantee without a share capital owned by individuals - similar to the charity status of churches in the UK. This means that funds are properly accounted for; buildings constructed become the property of the church group on land owned or rented by the NGO, not owned by the Pastor and his family.

It's even more surprising how often we have discovered that UK donors transfer funds to Ugandan projects but have never personally checked in whose name the project, the bank account, the land and buildings are actually registered. Instead they assume that the project has NGO status, the organisation produces audited accounts and is for the sole benefit of the community; and they often ask QT for help when it goes badly wrong!

Partnering with the future of Welfare

The work David and Geraldine do with the welfare team is harrowing and emotionally

draining. Recently David visited a Ja Ja (aged 70+) whose family had told her that it was her fault her mother died in childbirth when she was born, and so she believed it. Then later she was repeatedly sexually abused and each child she produced from the relationship died, causing her to have a breakdown. Living in conditions similar to a pigsty she was dying. Through David's intervention she was put onto the 'Adopt-a-Granny' programme and a kind neighbour has now stepped in to provide care for her.

With rising costs for food and medicines we are regrettably no longer able to provide medicines in the £10 monthly sponsorship fee for 'Adopt-a-Granny'.

Partnering with the future of the Resort & Conference Centre

Sometimes the Resort Centre is used for small conferences, staff events, family celebrations or other occasions. Geraldine and Geoff spend three months each year in Uganda and are often there for a birthday but rarely have the time to celebrate. This year Geoff organised a special treat for Geraldine's birthday as it was on a Sunday. As their grandchildren are home in the UK they decided to adopt some children! Seven children, orphaned, neglected or abused were selected for a special treat.

We are aware that some people are unable to be a volunteer in Kabubbu because of physical limitations, limited annual holiday or age constraints etc. We are now able to arrange a 7 night/8 day (Saturday to Saturday including travel) visit for £998* to Kabubbu for guests, donors, those considering making a bequest to QT, corporate sponsors and potential investors. It includes a primary school assembly, visual presentations from the head of each KDP department, 'Development Challenge', African evening and other educational and cultural learning experiences. 'Seeing is Believing' is a perfect opportunity to see how donations are used and to be part of the Kabubbu Experience.

Presentations will enable short-term visitors to learn about education, health and culture while in the village and ask questions on the projects/developments with QT's founders.

One of the most moving experiences for all volunteers is the 'Development Challenge'. This takes place with a group of six volunteers over four afternoons. First they consider what questions they may need to ask on their visit to a home to ensure that the small sum of money they have can be wisely used for the greatest need the family has to help their long-term future. They visit a family. Later the volunteers shop for the items needed and re-visit the family to put the items in place. Volunteers feel helpless as, face-to-face, they sit with the family determining how best to support them with a 'one-off' gift. If medication is provided for a sick mother, how will



this be sustained after the volunteers have left Kabubbu? If a piglet is given to enable the family to earn an income what will happen in the drought when the family is forced to choose between food for the pig or food for the family?

The 'Development Challenge' is made possible because most families in the community are personally known to Geoff and Geraldine and their work is not a theoretical exercise taking place in a seminar room but in a real home with real people in desperate need.

On a recent visit even a strong, burly 6'6" sportsman/teacher was reduced to tears when we found two elderly people sleeping in a disused chicken shed!

We still have vacancies for visits in October 2011 and Easter 2012.



Why not hold a **Chari-Tea Party** this Spring or Summer?

It's quite simple! Just invite a few friends round for a cuppa and cake, have some QT brochures available (we can supply them) and ask them to make a donation for the tea and cake you have provided. They could then hold one for their friends - and invite you as well - and so on. It could be 'Tea for Two' or however many you wish and it means you and your friends, and their friends, have a nice time together. You may even want to invite lots of people and hold it in your garden when summer is really here. Now there's a thought!!

Details on the QT website: www.quickentrust.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Information meetings for travel in 2011 are **Sunday May 22nd** and **Sunday September 11th** from **3.00pm – 6.00pm**.

Closing date for cards, letters, small gifts in A5 envelopes or monetary gifts for us to take on our next visit is **June 20th 2011**. With 500 envelopes to take with us it's not always easy for us to identify your child or granny. Please ensure **all envelopes sent to the QT office include the full KAB or ELD reference number, and the name in LARGE BLACK BLOCK CAPITALS on the outside of the package**.

Money gifts from sponsors to your child or granny for extras like shoes, beds, clothes etc are also welcome and should be clearly identified when sent to QT. Even if you are not a sponsor you can still send money to enable QT to provide such items to other needy children and families and if you can Gift Aid it, so much the better (see below).

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 25 pence for every £1 given for the charity to use (see below). This is a vital source of income from the government from the tax you have already paid!

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, 25p 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 or download it from www.quickentrust.com

With our thanks for your wonderful and continuing support. We could not do what we do without you.

Geoff & Geraldine Booker

Quicken Trust newsletter is sponsored by Halcyon, 87 High Street, Heathfield, TN21 8JA Tel: 01435 868890

