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Quicken Trust PO Box 113 Hailsham BN27 4US

& fax: 01323 832361

Email: contactus@quickentrust.com

www.quickentrust.com

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Uganda Update ~ Autumn 2011



Partnering with the future of Others

Dear Friends, **"Let there be gardens and produce and food ..."**
Summer has come and almost gone. We are now enjoying the colours of the autumn leaves and berries, sampling the freshly harvested produce in our supermarkets and tasting the fruit of the vine.

For many in East Africa there is no harvest, only drought and hunger. Uganda hasn't had the same level of drought as Somalia but the knock-on effect has resulted in food trebling in price in just three months. Sugar almost ran out in August and the government banned its export. For families in Kabubbu without land this is devastating. Inflation is 20% and food prices are rising. Some families are reduced from 2 to 1 meal of posho (maize flour and water) a day. Thank you for helping to feed hungry families!



Quicken Trust has carefully invested in the projects in Kabubbu and has provided many 10,000 litre water harvesting tanks on houses and classrooms. Other funding has provided nine water bore holes around the village. Also, an additional 60,000 litre tank stores water for Trust High School. Families will shortly learn new methods to intensively produce food in a small garden and provide more for themselves.

Quicken Trust is seeking to ensure the poor have justice. A local landowner attempted to deny his tenants their legal right to buy the leasehold land on which QT had (with UK donations) built them a home. The landlord sought instead to sell this land to a developer which would have resulted in the demolition of their homes. Thank you for the gifts for the 'Land Appeal Fund' that was launched in April 2011. It now has £11,750 to purchase the land title for 13 homes under immediate threat. We need a further £138,250 to secure the land titles for other homes and to buy land to feed 1,000 students + 80 staff on the project. And if you can contribute to the 'Land Appeal Fund' there will be some very grateful families in Kabubbu. *If you are not a regular supporter* can you complete the Standing Order Form enclosed? Just £8 a month will provide a school lunch for 1 of 480 children who are fee paying, but whose parents cannot meet the lunch bill!



Partnering with the future of the Orphans

“Let there be life, so children have mothers and are not labelled as ‘orphans’...”

In 2003 we were advised by Paul, a Ugandan and CEO of Ambassadors of Hope, to consider the long term consequences of what QT planned to do in Uganda. He indicated that it may not be wise for an NGO to spread itself too thinly and in too many places! He thought that a health centre in Somalia, a primary school in Ethiopia, a bore hole in Uganda did little to assist the long term needs in Africa. He said it was not sustainable over so many countries despite its appeal in glossy charity brochures.

From that point, QT focussed only on Kabubbu and by then we had only built a primary school. Slowly we understood that health care was vital to ensure that sponsored children were able to complete their education. Later we realised that the investment made in primary education was only of value if children had access to secondary education, and Trust High School was built. Then we saw children's emotional and educational development suffer as some mothers died as a result of HIV/AIDS. And so QT built an AIDS centre. Now we have begun to work at saving the lives of mothers and babies who die in childbirth, leaving yet more orphaned children.



As a result of the dedicated long term support of sponsors our plans are coming to fruition. The first group of 8 students started at University in August. The students are included on BA or BSc degrees in Education, Accounting and Finance, Economics, Human Resource Management, Clinical Medicine or in Computer Science at various universities. The courses selected could lead to employment and income generation - so marine biology was not on a list of courses we supported! Two sponsored students are on vocational courses and one is on a gap year at Ashburnham Christian Centre.

Budallah is going to study Accounting with the help of a computer provided by The Rotary Club of Hailsham.

Students in supported education are asked to sign a contract with the KDP. After completing their education they may be offered work on the project at a reduced pay for a certain period, if their skills are needed. If work isn't available locally they may work elsewhere and they are then asked to support a sibling through their education.

Partnering with the future of Kabubbu Schools

Primary School “Let there be order, structure and routine ...”

Quicken Trust is so blessed by the number of teachers that volunteer to travel to Kabubbu with us. This group represents more than any other professional group and they greatly enhance the work in the primary school, introducing interactive approaches to education. As a result of the visits more children are able to converse in English and children with special needs are now identified and supported.

In the UK these teachers convey to their UK pupils the challenges faced by children in the developing world, and through this inspire their students. The third round of the British Council funding this year enables 4 teachers from Uganda to travel to the UK in September. The reciprocal exchange of 4 UK teachers to Uganda is planned for October.

Not all children in primary school will of course graduate to secondary school. Sometimes girls don't complete as they become pregnant or become the main carer. However,

education is not the only benefit for a child in school. Here childhood is restored as children play and school creates some order for them. The school routine of getting up, washing, putting on a uniform, walking to school, arriving on time, attending assembly, lessons, breakfast and play all help to provide a routine for children whose daily life is often chaotic. At home in the middle of the night the rain may pour through the roof as you sleep and without an electric light it's impossible to find shelter in the dark. Homes have no clocks to tell the time, no pegs to hang their clothes on, no cupboards to put things in and a child may eat today, or may go hungry!

Trust High School **“Let there be fun and learning and success ...”**

Education also creates a team spirit and discipline as we learn to recognise each other's abilities and skills and follow the rules of sport. If you visit the Head Teacher's office in you are in for a big surprise. There are 10 gold trophies proudly on display! The trophies have been awarded to the girls volley ball team for their performance in the Ugandan volleyball championships. The team are now the national champions and represented Uganda in the East African finals in Mbarara. Congratulations to Ben, his staff and students on their success - not bad for a school that only opened in 2006!



Winnie, a Trust High School student, was awarded a scholarship to St Bede's School near Hailsham. She recently completed her GCSE and has returned to Uganda to train as a State Enrolled Nurse. We thank St Bede's for supporting Winnie and for providing a new scholarship for Dan Sajabi who started at the beginning of September.

We also thank Pestalozzi International Village for selecting Christopher Mujjabi. He also started in September and will study for the International Baccalaureate examinations.



Christmas 2010

For Christmas 2010 the poorest families were provided with a Christmas meal. Other donations enabled each child to take a set of crockery home for their family.

CHRISTMAS 2011

Gifts and letters for children or grannies will only be delivered for Christmas if they are received by **October 10th 2011**. Gifts of **money** for a named child or granny will be used to buy shoes, beds, clothes, food or medicines, secondary school boarding costs or extras like school field trips.

We also need **toothbrushes, toothpaste & face flannels** to put into little wash bags for Christmas.

A **£15 donation** will buy a gift to benefit the named child/family that is sponsored.

A **£15 donation** will buy a Christmas dinner for an unspecified poor family.

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

BOOKS - ONLY Dorling Kindersley type colourful information books on any subject. Lightweight modern illustrated **paper back books** for secondary school on science, physics, maths, biology or chemistry.

New or good second-hand DVDs needed - Inspirational, biographical, geographical, historical, natural history, Christian, Disney cartoons or humour (like Mr Bean!)

Partnering with the future of Adult Literacy

“Let there be joy...”



When we visited Remegio and his family in 2008 he lived in utter chaos. Remegio and his 30 year old son were both severely epileptic. The straw roof had collapsed over most of their mud-walled home and the floor was awash with mud. There was only space to put one mattress. Remegio and his wife had 9 children, several of whom were young adults.

A QT sponsor kindly funded and built a two-room brick house and, with 4 sets of bunk beds, mattresses, blankets and nets, the family was transformed and could sleep at night. Remegio and family took pride in their new home and his epilepsy was then stabilised with medication. He decided to join an Adult Literacy class aged 71! Imagine our surprise and

joy when we met him in August and he greeted us in English with a huge smile.

Others who have attended various other training projects in horticulture are learning how to improve their land with funds supplied by GRAZE.

The community is also learning to make washable ‘Afripads’. These will save girls the embarrassment of missing vital lessons simply because they are menstruating.



Partnering with the future of Primary Healthcare

“Let there be peace ...”

Since January, 4 families in a village of 500 families have lost a mother. We recently received a text message from Enoch (CEO in Kabubbu), “Another mother and baby from Kabubbu (in labour) have died in Mulago hospital. This time they blamed the neighbour for bewitching her and they attacked her. She is also now on the point of death and I’m now trying to also get her to Mulago hospital.”

We later learned that the neighbour who was wrongly accused of ‘bewitching’ was attacked by 12 people. One woman attacked her with an axe and has since gone to prison!

Lydia, a beautiful 4 year-old, also lost her mum in obstructed labour. She and her two younger siblings were taken by their father from their home in the village to be cared for by relatives. Imagine his horror on returning home from long distance lorry driving a few weeks later to find that Lydia was being mistreated. In desperation he came to Enoch and begged him to allow Lydia to be included in the foster home. The decision was referred to QT. As a small charity, our funding cannot meet all the desperate needs in this community.

It was, like many decisions, difficult to make. Lydia had been through such trauma in losing her mum and her home. But if she moved back to the Kabubbu foster home she would then be separated from her siblings (who remained with the relative). We couldn’t abandon Lydia in her time of need. But providing for her and 15 more children without relatives in foster care is also daily challenging!

But our mission is to be God’s arms of love around the poor and needy.

In August 2010 a friend passed onto us the contact details of Dr Andrew Weeks, an

Obstetrician from Liverpool Women's Hospital, who was seeking to improve maternal care in Uganda. It was six months before we had time to contact him but as a result of the contact Professor Ackers and Dr Porter from Liverpool visited Kabubbu Health Centre in April, and Dr Weekes visited in June. Following their visits Kabubbu Health Centre was invited to join a partnership which is planning to link six Ugandan hospitals with six UK hospitals/universities in the 'Ugandan Obstetric Hub'.

During September, Karen, a biochemist, will visit Kabubbu to report on benchmarking the records held in the Health Centre. She will also do some research among mothers in the local community and later some funding may be available to provide skilled expertise to further train midwives and local birthing aids. This aims to reduce the numbers of mothers and babies who die in childbirth.

We thank Metaltech for organising the 'Bike Ride for Uganda' and enabling it to continue. Through their support teams have raised £10,000 towards providing a community focussed midwife to educate women on the benefits of antenatal, delivery and post natal care in the health centre.

Donations of nightdresses (by Slenderella) and soap (by Bronnley) encourage mothers to seek maternal support.



Partnering with the future of Welfare and the future of the Church

"Let there be truth, followed by compassion and love ..."

When staff from Uganda come to the UK for training their first comment on arriving at Heathrow is "How organised you are" or "I see you stop for each other at roundabouts!" In the UK we take most of our developments for granted.

Sometimes when Ugandan personnel visit the UK for staff training we give them a little tour around East Sussex. We usually stop at Westham Church where a sign outside states that it was "The first the Norman's built ~1080 AD".

We explain to our visiting Ugandan friends that Christianity came to Sussex with St. Wilfrid around 700 AD – and that's about 1,300 years ago. Later monasteries were built to provide hospitality and shelter and as centres of learning. Slowly order was created out of the chaos of the Dark Ages. Much later the Bible was translated into English and ordinary people began faith communities or understood the importance of educating children and caring for the sick; and so schools and hospitals were built. History records how Elizabeth Fry, William Booth and others from faith communities introduced welfare programmes. After hearing the stories of faith and responding to the needs they then put their faith into action! Our heritage is a challenge to us all for today.



Uganda has had a similar process. Here the missionaries arrived from the UK in 1880+, that's only 130 years ago! They began to build schools, hospitals, orphanages and meet other needs. While England has had 1,300+ years of social development, Uganda has had just 130+ years. Comparing development in Uganda with development in the UK is like comparing the wisdom of an 8 year old child with that of an 80 year old adult!

We can all be shocked when we read the story of the woman in Kabubbu who was attacked

by another woman with an axe, until we recall the recent riots across the UK! Development, both in the UK and Uganda, is a process and, like bringing up children, it takes time. From a dependent baby to an independent young adult may take 20+ years.



We think back to our first visit to Kabubbu in 2000 and the sea of dejected and expectant faces. The first partnership project, a primary school, opened in February 2002. And, in a few months, this first project will only be 10 years old!

Quicken Trust is speaking into the chaos and darkness in Kabubbu. As we speak out the words “Let there be...” order begins to be slowly created. Since 2002 hundreds of children who were in rags and bare feet now have the dignity of a school uniform

and learning. Staff or educated personnel who would once have chosen only to work in a town or city with infrastructure developments are now willing to work in a rural community among the “forgotten people”.

Some men in a community where it is traditional to have multiple partners are choosing to remain faithful to one partner, and so reduce the spread of the AIDS/HIV virus. Others are learning, through peaceful dialogue, the alternative ways of handling conflict.

The Church in Kabubbu is not a building with religious people but a very small group of dedicated staff and ordinary people who, in faith, reach out to others with love. They help others in need though they themselves lack most essentials and have great needs themselves!



Partnering with the future of the Resort & Conference Centre

“Let there be new hope, new values and a purpose for our volunteers ...”

The QT programme for volunteers visiting Kabubbu is well organised. After taking part in a morning assembly in the primary school, volunteers work for 3 hours either decorating or helping to build (moving bricks, mixing cement, getting water from the borehole) on a construction project. After lunch volunteers may go on a ‘Development Challenge’ and come face to face with those in desperate need. Some volunteers do craft work or organise sports with children. Some experienced volunteers also give a ‘careers talk’ to students.

A new literacy project has proved popular. Volunteers are given a work plan and text book for the literacy lesson with a small group of 4 or 5 children. The subjects are informative and intensely practical. They teach children hygiene, how to visit the post office or work in the garden etc. The UK volunteers also learn some vital cultural information on daily life including how children improvise without toilet paper!

Volunteers raise £400 each for the project they will be involved with. Many raise a lot more. This summer funds have been raised to rebuild, extend and re-equip the delivery room in the Health Centre. This was funded by Burgess Hill School for Girls and Hillview School in Tonbridge. Other volunteers funded houses. We also thank Liberty Christian Centre in Thetford, Horam Chapel and St Bede’s School ‘24 Hour Workout’ for raising funds to provide houses for secondary school teachers. We thank you all for your support in these difficult days. Everything you raise is used in full at the point-of-need in Kabubbu.

Some reasons people give for not visiting Kabubbu include “No time” or “No money” or “We will donate the money instead of spending it on travel” ~ but often forget to do so!

However, for all who visit, they claim their time in Kabubbu is one of the most worthwhile, rewarding and life changing events of their lives.

And here’s just a small sample of 12 of their comments:

1. **The most rewarding thing is that in your own small way you become a part of a truly amazing place and experience and you have a chance to see what a difference you can make.** *Chris Malyan*
2. **We were given this brick (for helping to build a house)... and it means so much more to me than any trophy or award I could win back here.** *William Parker School student*
3. **At home, I teach on a £250,000 athletics track but the most beautiful classroom I have ever taught in was the open bush - in the middle of nowhere - in Kabubbu.** *Matthew Hyde*
4. **The experience of Kabubbu Village has changed my whole outlook on everything we take for granted.** *Charlotte Russell*
5. **It was hands down the best experience of my life, completely changing my outlook on things.** *April Pogson Browne*
6. **It has completely changed my outlook on poverty - I now want to be pro-active rather than reactive.** *Gillian Ives*
7. **I was attracted to Quicken Trust by their thorough, holistic approach, their transparency and the ease with which it is possible to be a supporter.** *Katie Moore*
8. **I have never felt so much joy and felt closer to God than through this visit to these amazing people.** *Gillian Ives*
9. **The whole KDP and QT set up far exceeded my expectations ~ I was so impressed with the whole experience from when we arrived to when we left the village.** *Carolyn Abbott*
10. **Doing the ‘Development Challenge’ made me realise that problems can be solved and that families like these are not ‘doomed’ ... we have made a big difference to this one family and so we realise that each can do our bit to help.** *Will Mata*
11. **What has been achieved out there is incredible and I feel like the luckiest person alive to have been a part of it 3 times!** *Abi Suggate*
12. **And, finally, a comment by the leader of a school group visit: Our stays in Kabubbu have given our St Bede’s students an unparalleled opportunity ~ albeit for a short time ~ to experience a completely different lifestyle but one that is lived by billions of people all over the world. It gives our students the chance to meet their Ugandan counterparts in their own environment and to begin to understand what life is like for those unfortunate enough to be living in poverty, to re-evaluate what they have to offer and to realise how much they can learn. The impact this visit has on each individual is very varied and personal but it is a terrifically unforgettable and immeasurably educational way to spend a couple of weeks.** *Lou Belrhiti*

Why not come and visit Kabubbu?

Why not come and find out what up to 800 people have found so life-changing in Kabubbu. We call it

The Kabubbu Experience

Learn about the community in the village, life in Uganda and all you need to know about a visit at an Information Meeting. Please see back page for details

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

An Information Meeting for those considering volunteering or travelling is to be held on:

Sunday January 29th 2012
from 3.00pm ~ 6.00pm
in East Sussex

Just contact Caroline (01323 832361) or email: caroline@quickentrust.com to ask for a brochure or to book your place. We offer a '7 Night Special' for those on limited time or who are not able to carry out a full 10/12 day volunteer programme.



Seeing is Believing Live the Kabubbu Experience



7 night special visit for £998*

Discover for yourself how personal and corporate sponsor donations have brought change to a Ugandan rural community

Quicken Trust

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Website: www.quickentrust.com



We thank all those who held a **Chari-Tea Party** during the summer. Also all those who ran the Brighton Marathon in April and raised £3,000. **We still need three more runners for Brighton 2012 on Sunday April 15th. How about you?** Join Simeon Drage who ran this year wearing a sombrero! For pack & full details, email geoff@quickentrust.com

Don't forget that we offer a special range of hand-made Christmas Cards each year. Our 2011 supplies are just in ~ brought back from our



August visit ~ and ready for you now. Please see the Order Form for these & other items mentioned in this Newsletter.

A final plea concerning Christmas gifts for your sponsored Orphan or Granny! With 500 envelopes with gifts, it's not always easy for us to identify *your* child or granny. **Please ensure all envelopes sent to us have the full KAB or ELD reference number and the name in large black BLOCK CAPITALS on the outside of the package containing the gift. To make it easier for you we enclose an envelope you can use inside the envelope you send to our office to be received by 10th October 2011. Thank you.**

A special 'Thank You' goes to Muriel, Ruth and team of ladies who have knitted teddies in bags for hundreds of small children in Kabubbu for Christmas; to Margaret Simmons and other ladies who knit shawls, cot blankets and small baby clothes for Kabubbu and to all the children in UK primary schools who collect vegetable seeds to plant in Kabubbu.

As ever, we are so thankful to all of you who have 'walked' with us over the past year. We couldn't have done so without you. Thank you for the sacrifices you have made to help the community of Kabubbu move ever closer to becoming self-sufficient. May you have a blessed Christmas and a peace-filled New Year.

Geoff & Geraldine Booker

Quicken Trust newsletter is sponsored by

Halcyon, The Brewery, Bells Yew Green, Tunbridge Wells, TN3 9BD Tel: 01892 752920



Gift Aid Donations

We thank so many of you who donate to Quicken Trust by Gift Aid. This enables us to reclaim, from the revenue authorities, 25p for every £1 donated at no extra cost to you. 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. Thank you.