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Uganda Update – Autumn 2013

Partnering with the future of Others

Dear Friends,

The Psalmist wrote, *'Like an open book you watched me grow from conception to birth, the days of my life were all prepared before I'd even lived one day'*.

Chris Mujjabi from Kabubbu is very aware that God is mapping out his life in a way he could not have planned himself. He began in Kabubbu Community Primary School and graduated to Trust High School, where he had a problem! He



only attended when his Mum had the money for his school fees. She couldn't afford to educate him and his three sisters. Despite this Chris excelled when he was in school.

Then in 2010 he was delighted to learn he had a sponsor to support him through his UNEB 'O' level exam year. After the exams he was surprised to learn he was one of 28 students selected to take more exams and to be interviewed for a two year scholarship at the Pestalozzi International Village to study on the International Baccalaureate (IB) programme. In 2011 he became the first Ugandan student to be awarded this scholarship. In the UK Chris was a popular student; he learnt to play the guitar and performed with the 'Pestalozzi Pirates' at the White Rock Theatre in Hastings. He learnt Spanish as part of the IB course, but he had no idea as he struggled with his 3rd language how this would later open the door for the next part of his journey.

In May a member of staff from The Earth University (Escuela de Agricultura de la Región Tropical Húmeda) in Costa Rica came to the UK to interview Chris for a prestigious four year MasterCard Scholarship. This is only available to Spanish speaking students from Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa. In July he received a letter stating: *"You have been selected from among a large group of highly qualified candidates, but you have stood out for your academic preparedness, your determination, your commitment to the community and your*



Irene & Doreen have completed Vocational Training and now work in Kabubbu (see next page)



potential to become a leader of change and your commitment to the future of the planet we share." Chris is the first student from Kabubbu to study in a university outside of Uganda. He will study Agricultural Science and Natural Resource Management.

We are amazed by the generosity of 68 QT sponsors who regularly donate £83 - £156 each month to support a student like Irene or Doreen in University/Vocational College in Uganda. QT is possibly one of the only community development charities in Uganda to complete the education cycle. Who knows what the future holds for these students!

Partnering with a child for the future of Kabubbu

Child sponsorship continues to be one of the best ways of planning for the future.



Through this friendships are built, a family is supported and a community develops. It's a memorable day when a sponsor and child meet for the first time and a deeper understanding of each others world begins to emerge.

Many sponsors who started in 2002 are continuing to support a student who is, by now, in University. However, we are sad that this year several long term QT sponsors have died. Over the years we had developed friendships with many of them. We miss them! Some sponsors have provided a legacy to ensure their child can continue in education, but the children still feel the loss from their letters, their visits and friendship.

Sadly sometimes we also have to inform a sponsor on the loss of their sponsored student. David was 19 and waiting for confirmation of his place at University. His Mum Betty is our loving foster mother caring for 15 children plus her own two teenagers. In June we heard that David had TB, but he was responding to treatment and the other children in the home hadn't caught it.

In mid-August we heard that David had developed heart problems and was admitted to the TB ward in Mulago Hospital. Enoch and Lilian visited him in hospital two evenings



later and found he was on oxygen but appeared to be stabilised and very cheerful. They were shocked four hours later to receive a call from his Mum to say that David had died. How? Because the oxygen cylinder he and two other patients were sharing had run out and staff couldn't find any further supplies! What a tragedy! What a health service!

We seek to find new sponsors for a child who loses a sponsor. But we still have 9 of the 30 small children that began school in February still needing a sponsor. In December we will receive the photos and profiles for 30 new children who will start school in February 2014. We have 4,500 people on the QT mailing list and 600 are regular donors of a child, student or granny. Maybe you had always intended to sponsor

a child but it slipped your memory? Or maybe you are lost for a Christmas gift idea for your family? Sponsorship of a child can give hope for the family in Kabubbu. But you will also gain ongoing fulfilment from seeing 'your child' develop and knowing you are making a real difference.

Partnering with the future of Kabubbu Schools

Christmas Present

Volunteers to Kabubbu have fun using sign language to demonstrate to a parent how to play games with their child. Parenting here is not like it is in much of the UK because daily life is pre-occupied with finding money to buy or grow food. A child is an extra pair of hands to carry water for plants or to do the washing. There is little time for play!

In 2000 when we travelled to Kabubbu the only toys to be seen were a doll or a ball made out of dried woven banana leaf fibres. Now Kabubbu life is moving on but not at the rate of the developing world. Sadly the poor are getting poorer and lag even further behind. So there are no games consoles, I-pads or techno wizardry. But, now, old plastic water bottles (recycled from guests in the resort centre) are used as skittles - even a wheelbarrow for games - and old bicycle wheels for gym lessons.

Here in the West we understand the value of play as a vital prelude to learning. Kabubbu children have few opportunities to play. With this in mind this year we want to give them a Christmas gift that will give pleasure and aid learning but last for years to come.

For Christmas 2012 the children had a treat to Didi's World theme park and ten pin bowling. This fun brought lasting memories. This year we are partnering with East African Playgrounds (www.eastafricanplaygrounds.org) to build an imaginative playground costing £10,000. If each person reading this letter donated just £3, or if 434 child sponsors each donated £23 we would meet our target. This playground will include a swing, slide and sandpit. It will also feature more imaginative play ideas like a miniature village of shops, a mock radio station and a school. Also floor/ground giant draughts or chess as more advanced play items. Much of this will be made from recycled materials like old car tyres, scrap metal and plastic bottles.



Kabubbu Community Primary School

Stanley the head teacher at Kabubbu primary school has moved on to pastures new. For now James, who was his deputy, is acting head teacher. Some of you will remember James from his British Council visit to Mayfield Primary School in 2008.

We continue to have challenges in the nursery and primary school as many village parents struggle to pay the school fees for their other non-sponsored children. We will continue the 'School Meal Appeal' at £10 a month as this provides 40% of the sum needed for a non-sponsored child to attend school. Probably only 50% of the children in the village have regular education. Many never complete primary school.



Trust High School

It's incredible! For the third consecutive year the THS girls' volleyball team were the national champions and took part in the East African finals held in Uganda in August. Unfortunately they were beaten in the quarter finals by the Kenya team.

We are delighted that Marvin, a THS student and funded by a UK charity partner, has been awarded one of two

2013 Pestalozzi scholarships for Uganda students. He arrived in the UK in September.

Only 1,187,785 students in Uganda are enrolled in secondary school. This represents 27% of all the eligible children in the country. 60% are day students and the average national student to classroom ratio is 51. (Ministry of Education and Sports statistical abstraction 2011)

These and other statistics on tertiary and university education would indicate that the QT/KDP partnerships aim of providing education from the beginning in Nursery class through to the end of university/vocational training for the children is almost unique.

Partnering with the future of Adult Literacy & Agriculture



An update on the food growing programme Foundations for Farming (or Farming God's Way) which started last year. Early results show the first 15 farmer trainees enjoyed increased maize harvests - from 5 to 16 times the normal – compared to using their traditional methods. This had a dramatic effect on the rest of the farmers who had laughed at their efforts.

A further 150+ have now been trained. By following the principles they should, in theory, never go hungry again - even in times of basic drought - with spare food to sell providing a basic income. Those carrying out the initial experiments produced so much extra crop that storage became a problem and every part of their homes were filled with bags of maize. We are now looking at the provision of a maize mill and storage barns.

The project is funded by Graze, a UK internet based healthy snack food supplier. It has brought a radical benefit towards helping the community to provide for themselves through self-sufficiency. The 'Graze School of Farming Excellence' is being set up to provide further training in other crops and over 100 allotment plots to ensure families without the necessary land can provide for themselves. 'GSoF' is also developing a programme to bring back pride in subsistence farming to encourage the younger generation to get involved coupled with training at all levels in both Kabubbu schools.



Partnering with the future of Primary Healthcare

For most people in Kabubbu 'sickness' is the biggest fear. Why? Because it quickly leads to poverty! A patient needing hospitalisation for TB, malaria, brucellosis, typhoid or other tropical diseases suffers financial ruin, an inability to grow crops and some children then suffer all their lives from its consequences.

At the Kabubbu Health Centre you only have to say 'Mulago Hospital' to a Mum in labour to see her shudder with dread - or plead not to go there. A woman experiencing labour complications or needing a caesarean operation is obliged to be referred on from a private clinic (like Kabubbu Health Centre) to the nearest government health centre. For Kabubbu Mums this is Kasangati Health Centre, six miles away.

In Kasangati our Kabubbu Mum will waste hours waiting. Kasangati has an operating theatre and an anaesthetist. But an operation can only be performed in daylight hours because of an intermittent electricity supply without efficient back-up, the surgeon doesn't live locally, his government wage is not paid regularly and he often can't afford the transport to work. So later, often too much later, a Mum in labour is referred on again but now to Mulago. By now she is in extreme pain or in a critical condition.

Here, our Mum will lie on the floor of the corridor awaiting her operation. She is entitled to free treatment. But the first patient to receive an operation will be the one with the money to bribe the surgeon. After that it's usually too late for our Kabubbu Mum. However, 18 year-old Jackie was ecstatic when she survived the birth of her first baby after referral to Mulago. She was lucky to have her husband (pictured) with her to support her and speak up for her. Ugandan men rarely attend a birth.

Thanks to a generous donation (see the back page under 'Thank you for gifts, fund raising and legacies') Kabubbu Mums can now be transferred from our Health Centre to a non-government hospital for their caesarean - a hospital that has a fully working theatre and positive treatment!



Partnering with the future Welfare and Christian spiritual needs of the community

Enoch recently asked if QT could find support for a child in the Foster Home. This was set up for vulnerable children to ensure they could continue in school despite their circumstances. A small charity like QT with funds donated for specific purposes has to consider carefully how to find £20 a month extra for a needy child. Geraldine reports:

"I heard that two girls aged 9 and 7 had been left alone in their home because their Dad was sick. But when I met them I learnt that their Mum and Dad had separated three years earlier. Mum had returned home to look after the girls while Dad was in hospital with TB. Later a neighbour filled in more of the story. She said that Mum was an alcoholic. One evening she left the girls alone while she went out drinking. Without money, food or paraffin for their lamp they were vulnerable and were approached by a stranger who appeared to be kind. But he sexually abused the older girl. Reading this story is sad, but looking into the eyes of a child victim is even worse. How can I look at these girls and then say "No" to the request to provide a safe home? But how can I say "Yes" when we know that, so often, QT lacks the resources needed to provide the care?"

"Later I returned to their home to meet their Dad. He had just returned from five months in hospital and would return later that day. I learnt the girls had a small brother who was being cared for by an aunt who was herself destitute but had finally agreed to care for the older girl. I sent an email from my phone to the UK office. A phone call was made to the sponsor of the 7 year old girl who agreed to pay an extra £20 a month to ensure the girl could be protected in the foster home. For this child the story has a happier ending."



Pet kitten in Kabubbu
needing love and care

We often wonder if it would be easier to run a charity for animals rather than orphan children. Even though we don't support it we recently received a magnificent glossy multi-page brochure through the mail from an animal charity. In its accounts it showed that it brought forward £52,874,000 from 2011 into its 2012 accounts; it raised £5,565,000 more in donations in 2012 than it spent to carry forward £58,439,000 into its 2013 accounts. Oh, and it also has 'reserves' (resources they don't currently require, sitting somewhere gaining interest) of over £29,000,000!

Quicken Trust, of course, has no reserves giving 100% of all donations received every year to its work with the orphans and community in Kabubbu and lives 'hand-to-mouth'!

Law and order is the basic requirement for a community to work effectively. A Police Station was set up in Kabubbu over a year ago with 12 policemen but this has since been reduced to just 2. The police work without a computer (not even a typewriter), filing cabinet or transport. Detecting a crime can be a problem because by the time the police get to the scene on their bikes, the thieves have absconded! The government will supply vehicle fuel, but the community must provide the motor cycle or other transport.

The government also trains them and pays their salaries but as QT/KDP requested their

support we have to fund their rent to ensure they are accommodated in the village.

Despite this they provide some deterrent to lawbreakers in the community, support for some victims of domestic violence and offer law-abiding advice in local meetings.

The need is now to ensure that perpetual perpetrators are taken to court so their victims receive justice and the law is seen to be effective. However the law is only one way of changing lives. God continues in his own unique way to bring change to the lives, behaviour and attitudes of individuals.

We are delighted to have now received £48, 496.95 towards our target of £150,000 to build a Church/Community Centre to enable these changes to continue. It will provide support for victims of abuse, counselling and a place for education, community meeting, worship and quiet prayer. If you wish to help us make this a reality, please see the enclosed 'Christmas Card and Gift' order form.

Partnering with the future of the Resort & Conference Centre

We had a fun and productive time with a volunteer group from Burgess Hill School for Girls this summer. For some staff it was their third visit and by all accounts it gets better every time! The staff and girls had raised funds of £10,264.27 towards a new foster home they helped build and decorate each morning.



They also gave support to a family in need and worked alongside staff in the primary school. Caroline, one of the teachers, later commented that what had made the biggest impact on her was: *"The incredible faith that is within the community and the importance it plays in their lives"*. It appears that when you have so little then faith, hope and love are the things that really matter!

And now for something completely different!

Needed - Supporters and friends to host/drink tea/coffee and bake/eat cakes at a QT monthly coffee morning on Thursday's November 14th and December 12th, 2013 and February 13th, 2014 from 10.30am - 12.00pm in the meeting room at our office. Bring friends! This event provides sponsors, supporters and donors:

- an opportunity to introduce QT to a relative, colleague, neighbour or church friend
- an opportunity to deliver gift envelopes for the child/elderly they support
- time to meet with others, to catch up on projects, ask questions or view a DVD
- an opportunity to find out how you can volunteer your skills to Quicken Trust



Christmas Fairs - Do you live in East Sussex? We have a range of assorted crafts for sale in our 'Shop-in-a-Box' which you could use to sell at a school, club or church Christmas Fair. Limited number of boxes – but a great way to help!

New range of Christmas Cards handmade in Uganda - See the enclosed 'Christmas Card and Gift' order form. Early ordering recommended as we sell out quickly!

Quicken Trust Online Shop - Visit www.quickentrust.com and click the **SHOP** link for lots of new crafts from Uganda which make perfect Christmas gifts. A simple way for you to give a unique gift and 'Make a Present of the Future' of the children of Kabubbu.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Next Travel Planning meetings are Sunday February 9th and May 11th 2014 from 3.00pm – 6.00pm in East Sussex. Contact: caroline@quickentrust.com

LAST DATES FOR GIFT ENVELOPES in 2014

for children or elderly are Friday 14th March, 4th July and 3rd October

We deliver 500 envelopes for children and it's often not easy to identify each envelope.

Please ensure all envelopes returned to the QT office include the KAB or ELD reference number, and the name in large black BLOCK CAPITALS on the outside of the package

EXTRA FUNDS FOR SPONSORED CHILDREN AND ELDERLY ATTRACTS GIFT AID

To keep luggage weight by air to a minimum we can organise to buy items in Kabubbu like bikes, clothes, and shoes etc. This reduces the weight we carry and provides extra income. All financial donations with a signed Gift Aid Form for any fund or project from an individual who pays income or capital gains tax enables the charity to reclaim from the HMRC a further 25p in every £1 donated

FINALLY - THANK YOU FOR GIFTS, FUND RAISING AND LEGACIES

A donation of £50,000 came with this message: "Today marks the day 50 years ago when I was born! Why am I telling you that I hear you ask! To celebrate this momentous time in history I would like to offer a donation that will make a real difference, maybe even save someone's life is it too vain to still desire that maybe some lives would be saved (or born safely) because of something I did"

We are grateful to many friends who raise funds through a coffee morning, Chari-Tea Party, marathon running, sponsoring an event, organising an auction etc. Some donate money instead of flowers at a funeral of a loved one, some send QT a donation instead of receiving wedding or birthday presents. Some sacrificially give their time or collect razors and soaps or knit baby blankets. Some use their influence or their Church supports a project, others network in their place of work or at the school their child attends. Others make a tax free donation from their company. Gifts can be used for development projects or in support of a nurse, teacher or patient.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

We wish you a very Happy Christmas and a peace-filled New Year. With thanks for all you do, Geoff, Geraldine & Team