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Uganda Update – Spring 2014

Partnering with the future of Others

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your wonderful response to our Christmas appeal. This enabled us to provide Christmas lunch for 160 families, plus all the funds we needed to build the playground! This was built during the last two weeks in March.

Here's a photo of the playground awaiting dispatch from the makers, and a lady collecting her Christmas food. Pictures of the completed playground will be in the next newsletter.



A colleague in our QT office took a group of three friends to see the Oscar winning film '12 Years a Slave'. Afterwards over coffee she asked, "What did you think of the film?" A discussion began on how it had impacted them; the acting, directing and story line etc. Then our colleague asked, "What now?" And there was silence! She then said, "Well the film made me angry. I work in an office where we see the injustices of poverty and abuse faced by the women and children in Kabubbu." She was hoping her friends might have been inspired to act on behalf of those in slavery. But for them it seemed to be just entertainment. Some who travel to Kabubbu with us later make lifestyle changes, support an orphan, some change career choices or campaign against world injustice. For a few it's a holiday experience. Stories like the one below from World War II keep us focussed on what we are doing.

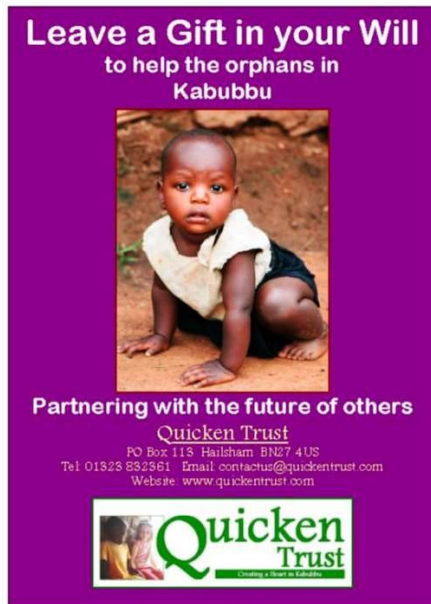


While Jews were being exterminated throughout Europe and most of the Church leaders kept their heads down, a German intellectual and Pastor, Martin Niemöller, became disillusioned with Hitler and began to oppose him. This was risky business. He was sent to Sachsenhausen and Dachau concentration camps, but survived. He is quoted as saying: *"First they came for the Socialists - and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a Socialist. Then they came for the Trade Unionists – and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a Trade*

Unionist. Then they came for the Jews – and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for me - and there was no one left to speak for me!" It is said, 'Evil triumphs because good men do nothing'. **Thank you** for supporting the children and families in Kabubbu who cannot speak for themselves.

God continues to meet the needs of our children, families and community in some surprising ways! Thank you for being a part of our surprises. Some recent examples are:

A QT friend has a relative in France who is a chauffeur. He sometimes drives a client who is a Director in a family foundation in the USA. A chance conversation developed about Uganda, resulting in the Foundation now considering a partnership with the KDP.



A sponsor visited Kabubbu for just two days. Later she gave a gift of £15,000 for the Health Centre.

A sponsor supported a child for eight years. Her friend advised QT that the sponsor was now sick and moving to a nursing home and would need to withdraw her support. A few months later her friend advised us that the sponsor had died and she was organising a memorial service. The elderly sponsor had few friends so Geraldine attended to support the friend. Geraldine hadn't met the sponsor, didn't know the friend or any one there. One surviving relative travelled 300 miles, the other lived abroad. Geraldine was surprised when a relative introduced herself and said QT would receive a £5,000 legacy.

With this in mind, we enclose a copy of the QT leaflet – 'Leave a Gift in your Will'.

Partnering with a child for the future of Kabubbu

Sponsors often ask stimulating and searching questions which sharpen our thinking. Two sponsors recently asked, "What happens to my monthly donation now my child has moved out of the village?" and "What happens to my donation if my child completes or abandons education?" Your donation and investment in a child's life is never wasted. Why? Because some of your donation is used for food and healthcare for a specific child, but the remainder of your monthly donation is used towards books, resources and the teacher's salary. A teacher's skills and knowledge enables *not just one*, but a class of children to be educated. So if your child isn't academic others in the class will be succeeding. The bigger picture is not just for *a* child or *a* commodity, but for developing a community that originally had no hope. Many sponsors continue to donate after their child has completed education and this support towards development is immeasurable and in some cases makes an eternal impact. **Thank you.**

Sponsors support a child for a variety of good reasons. Over the years we have found that sponsors often fall into three categories and all are equally important to us.

- (1) A sponsor who supports because they *value the relationship* they develop with a child through letters, reports, photos and a visit to their child in Kabubbu.
- (2) A sponsor who *believes that education* is vital in a developing country; they also

believe it is important that their child *succeeds academically*.

- (3) A sponsor who believes a *child should have an equal opportunity* despite disability, gender or age and for them a child's success is not measured academically.

If you are a donor, QT may not know what is important to you. If you need to chat about the child you sponsor, phone us. We may be able to help you prioritise your goals.

If, like many, you have found sponsorship a rewarding experience can you introduce a friend or relative to support a little child who has recently started school.



We are amazed how our sponsors sacrifice to continue supporting a student for 18 years from Nursery class to completing education. Occasionally a sponsor has to withdraw. We also need a few sponsors who can commit £70 - £150 a month for up to three years for further education to ensure a student completes their education at this critical stage.

Sometimes sponsors ask how we keep track of their donations or gift envelopes for a specific child or elderly person. We thought we would explain this process here:

- QT receives the presents/gifts of money
- QT writes to thank the sponsor/donor
- QT lists the name of the sponsor/child's name/gift value/any other information on an Excel spreadsheet and takes this to Kabubbu
- In Kabubbu Geraldine and Resty (Welfare Department) meet the group of guardians listed (often 100+). They discuss, with each of them, the donation received and their most urgent need. The guardian reaches a decision. Resty records the information in her book
- After Geraldine has left Kabubbu, Resty takes the children or guardians shopping for shoes, chairs or other items. She places money with local shopkeepers for food, pays the rent to a landlord, accompanies patients to hospital and pays the fees for students in colleges and universities
- Finally, after Resty has purchased all the items, she sends an email receipt to QT with the list of items purchased. This is then checked against the donation QT received.



Last dates for receipt of gift envelopes in 2014 are June 27th and October 3rd

Partnering with the future of Kabubbu Schools

Kabubbu presents challenges and we continually look for ways to overcome them!

Geoff Goodman, a professor in psychology from the USA together with his wife Valeda, a librarian, is working at improving literacy levels in Uganda. The couple have worked in several African countries and are now working in four villages in Uganda – but Kabubbu is



proving to be the most challenging! The programme is aimed at children age 3 - 5 years (with their mothers) in a small group. Here each child is encouraged to tell a story. Later the child acts out their story. Without resources this programme encourages interaction, stimulates creativity and visualisation, improves communication and builds confidence. Many mothers don't interact well with their children because they are depressed from the daily grind of supporting a large family with little money. We hope our pre-school children will later more fully benefit from their primary education as a result of this work.

Primary school results are still lower than we would like but are similar to last year. However in Trust High School the 'O' Level results have improved back to 2011 figures with 21 students graduating to start their 'A' Level course in the first year of Sixth Form. We are delighted that the



Pestalozzi International Village in East Sussex has selected two students from THS for a UK scholarship to study the International Baccalaureate. 18 students from 4 schools sat exams and interviews. Arnold Katende & Ashraf Maluge, both from THS, were the only successful ones!

For the last 18 months we have focussed on funding

an ambulance and other resources in the health centre. This year funds raised by individuals or groups will be used for text books, resources, shelves and cupboards for Trust High School. A new organisation or individual donating over £3,000 can have their name as sponsor on the uniform of the THS girls' volleyball team. This will enable the team (if successful for the 4th time) to attend the East African finals.



We are launching a trial fundraising initiative for schools in East Sussex called '**Summer of Hope**'. This year it will link to the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil and is subtitled 'Kick Out Poverty 2014'. It is hoped it will become an annual event with a focus on whatever is happening internationally each summer. It has the backing of three local MPs, Norman Baker, Greg Barker and Charles Hendry. Information is going to schools now so if you are not in East Sussex and

would like to take part, call Gillian on 01323 832361. Full classroom resources will be on our website.

Partnering with the future of Adult Literacy & Agriculture

The Graze School of Farming project continues to grow. GSoF trainers have met to review individual farmer trainee performance. 16 attended and resolved to expand the application of Farming God's Way on their vegetable gardens and train others. More than 150 families are using the technique. Everyone had benefited by increasing crop production more than three times the normal but domestic animals remain one major challenge to their gardens by eating some of their crops! The primary school and THS are now using the principles to train their students. Some have shown excellent results.

Partnering with the future of Social needs

Lilian was working in the resort centre early one morning. Suddenly a group of local women appeared and Lilian noticed one named Carol was distraught. Carol hadn't been to her Kabubbu vegetable garden for some weeks but this morning she returned. Her friends saw she was no longer pregnant, presumed she had delivered the baby, and so they clapped her. Carol broke down in tears. Six weeks earlier she had delivered a baby but two weeks later she watched in horror as her partner murdered their child. He was arrested and is now awaiting trial but is changing his story to implicate his wife.

Many other stories of injustice abound in rural Uganda (where 80% of the population lives) which explains why so many people live in fear. Exploitation on land issues, theft and abuse of women and children abound. And victims remain silent. Why? Laws are in place to protect people and property, but in Kabubbu despite having a supportive police force they lack the basic resources to do their work. There is no computer for records, no transport to follow up a crime, no forensics to detect a crime and no inquest to confirm the cause of death. And Judges seem to be easily influenced!

Crime is rampant. The Ugandan Police have little chance of convicting a criminal. But meanwhile the government has been busy making homosexuality illegal while the abuse which affects the majority is rarely successfully brought to justice.

Over the years the KDP has had goats and pigs stolen. To combat this, about 18 months ago, we chain-link fenced the piggery including fruit trees and land. Last month thieves came with a lorry at night and cut the wire fence stealing the equivalent of five rolls, worth over £1,000. Despite the setbacks the KDP staff continues to demonstrate an alternative way of living and show new ways of handling conflict. Volunteers give love and caring support to those who have very different values or beliefs. The battle between good and evil is stark in this community but eventually love always triumphs!

Sometimes we think we shouldn't support those in poverty in developing countries because we have some in need in the UK. Sometimes we don't understand the economics of a developing country. For example our police, refuse collection, firemen, education, health care, road maintenance and so on are funded from the taxes we pay. In Uganda a very small minority of people have regular paid work. A teacher or nurse might earn £35 a week; income tax may be up to £5 a week. So when repairing a road in Uganda where labour costs may be low, the resources and equipment, fuel and materials needed for the work are imported and at western prices. How can Africa ever succeed?

Partnering with the future of Primary Healthcare

Kabubbu Health Centre now has a "Well Woman" programme. This is a wonderful opportunity to engage with the women for a few brief moments while they have some simple routine procedures like recording their weight and taking their blood pressure. Some ladies who have little education feel intimidated when entering a health centre or talking to educated medical staff. This programme, which is free, helps to build patient confidence so that later they aren't afraid to ask for medical help.

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

David was in Kabubbu to organise the elderly Christmas Party. This was a great success and went with a swing! Food, entertainment, laughter, singing and presents led on, in some cases, to dancing! Later a spokesman stood up and thanked the sponsors for their



love and care over the year. Several other elderly people were inspired to comment:

"Without the love and support of my sponsor I wouldn't be here today." said one lady.

"I can't believe that I am loved by someone I have never met." added a granddad.

"I can't give anything in return but all I can do is pray for my sponsor." David says, "This is a comment I often hear. It's amazing that in a remote African village someone is praying for

each of us to be kept healthy and safe. This is both humbling and heartwarming. "David also learnt that the ongoing land problems are having a disastrous impact on the grandparents. Their gardens have been taken by land owners for development so they are forced into heavy work to support their families by earning money to buy food. We are now planting a piece of KDP land to help them and children they support. This project will cost £1,125 a year but should, if successful, enable each person to have 2.5kg of nutritious porridge a month + some greens. This will be cheaper than buying porridge on the open market. If funds allow, the project can start now, in the rainy season, to be a benefit to them all soon as possible.



In January four volunteers made a visit to Kabubbu to work with the 80+ KDP staff, many on school holiday. The team provided practical life related interactive teaching over four days. Subjects included our relationship with God, our relationships with each other, our responsibilities at work and our attitudes to money and the resources we handle. It was a good time for the staff to come together

across the departments, to chat over meals and in discussion groups. Later we celebrated communion together (pictured). David Upfield and Rev Andrew Lightbown (QT Trustees)

introduced a prayer walk and a silent reflection on the Lord's Prayer and the Prayer of St Francis of Assisi. A beautiful Prayer House designed and built by Yann was completed. You enter through a door made in the shape of a cross. It seats 40 people in the round and has a mosaic floor. Many staff expressed delight for this sacred space and we were surprised by their response. Then we imagined what it's like for them, with several children, to be in a two room house without space for peace and prayer! The Prayer House is hidden within the colourful and exotic plants of the resort grounds.



Partnering with the future of the Resort & Conference Centre

Another busy season is about to start in Kabubbu. For the fourth time a group of 30 from William Parker School in Hastings and a small group of independent travellers will be in Uganda during the Easter school holidays. In July a group of girls from Laser (London and South East Region) Girl Guides will be in the village. In between this, in March and May, two groups from the Library Association in Uganda will be holding conferences there. Recently some refurbishment has been done in the Resort Centre including re-thatching the restaurant and some Bandas. Adrian, a UK volunteer, is writing a new web site for the Kabubbu Tourism Resort to encourage greater use of the Resort from around the world.

Maybe you would think of Kabubbu as a venue for a corporate team building experience. Or organise a group of friends for an unforgettable life changing experience.

Contact caroline@quickenstrust.com for information on travel planning meetings on Sunday May 7th or Sunday September 7th 2014 from 3.00pm - 6.00pm in East Sussex

And now for news from the QT office

Once a month, on a Thursday, we have a coffee morning at our office. It's a time for friends to get regular up-dates, to meet others and to drop off their small gift envelopes.

In December we sold scarves, bags, cards and crafts from Uganda. Recently two sponsors showed their scrapbooks, letters and photos. Sometimes a volunteer shares their traveller's tales. Often we have a visual presentation and drink Kabubbu grown coffee. We are grateful to some wonderful volunteers: Anna, Anne, Barbara, Ian, Martine and Maureen for making scrummy cakes and several ladies including Judith who serve. Pat and Sandra cut and sew large bed sheets into cot sized sheets. Others knit baby clothes or teddies; some scour charity shops for items we need. Some volunteers train others for the literacy project in Kabubbu; some pack and mail our Newsletter or help with admin. **A big thank you to all.**



Some supporters ask what they can do to support QT. Here are 16 ways you could help:

- Nominate QT or a staff member for an award and help raise QT's profile
- Donate an unwanted and unused gift for a QT raffle prize
- Buy a gift or item for yourself from the QT on-line shop
- Organise a Chari-Tea Party or a summer event to raise funds
- Borrow QT display stands, literature and 'Shop-in-a-Box' to exhibit at a local church, village fete or summer event
- If you are an experienced fund raiser you could help QT make a grant application
- Shop on eBay for specific items QT needs for education, healthcare or for families in Kabubbu
- Bring a friend or group to a QT monthly Coffee Morning or the Afternoon Tea
- Become a monthly donor or sponsor an orphan, grannie, nurse or teacher
- Run in a marathon or organise a sponsored event for QT
- Volunteer to make coffee, help with admin/secretarial work or donate an hour a week to clean QT offices
- Introduce a friend to QT
- Knit blankets or clothes for new born babies
- Cut large bed sheets and sew to cot size sheets
- Search charity shops, spring clean at home and collect good board games or DVDs
- Invite a member of the QT team to take a school assembly, church service or speak at a club or dinner

Dates for **Coffee Mornings**: from 10.30am – noon on April 17th, May 15th, **June 12th**, **October 16th**, November 13th and December 11th, or an **Afternoon Tea** on Wednesday 10th September at 3.00pm (**Bold text dates** are also final dates to return gift envelopes).

We are increasing our use of email. To help us do this successfully please ensure *we have your correct email address* and you are *allowing receipt of emails from our email address mailers@quickentrust.com*. Some email programs place 'mass mailings' straight into Junk Mail. If you've given us your email address but aren't receiving Coffee Morning invites, check your Junk email box. If an email from mailers@quickentrust.com has arrived there, right click on it and choose 'add to safe senders list' from the options under Junk Email. Then you will receive future invitations and other information we send by email. **Don't reply** to the 'mailers' email, instead please send responses to caroline@quickentrust.com

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT GIFT ENVELOPES

We deliver 500 envelopes for children & grannies 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 ATTRACT 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

With thanks for all you do, Geoff, Geraldine & Team