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Registered Charity No: 1102474 Registered Company No: 5047081



## **Uganda Update – Autumn 2015**

### **Partnering with the future of Others**

Dear Friends,

We are writing this in September after watching TV images of nameless but desperate refugees who have come to Europe to escape war, poverty or death in cramped boats or suffocating in lorries and who have died, been abused, exploited or treated with indifference. How tragic!

In Kabubbu it's very different! A few years ago migrants without education, healthcare or homes would also have been on the move in search of work, food or shelter. Now, because of QT developments a community is stabilised and some have a new home. Isn't it better to go or to help develop others in need around the world, to create stability to prevent a tide of refugees always on the move?



Because of caring and growing relationships between schools, churches, sponsors, companies and groups in the UK with individuals and with the Kabubbu community, some deep friendships have developed. Kabubbu has volunteers who help them, some who pray for them, and sponsors who have lovingly looked into the face of a child they know by name and with whom mutual love has developed. Growing to know and care about someone in need, and having empathy for them, turns charity into love - and we all have times when we need a 'God with skin on'!

Sarah was top in her P3 class last year. Her brother Solomon is also top in his year group. They live with their Dad and their Mum, Eudisie (pictured) who originally came as refugees to Uganda from the genocide in Rwanda. Now they are successful members of the Kabubbu community. Both of Sarah's parents were previously married and both watched in horror as their respective partners and some of their children were hacked to death during the genocide. Today they still have surviving children in Rwanda but they won't return as the memories are too painful! The couple work very hard and are always willing to try something new. When



Graze farming came to Kabubbu, Mum and Solomon were among the first to sign up. Later there was a chance to learn how to use a knitting machine. Mum signed up. She became so good at the work that she earned and saved enough money to buy her own machine.

## Partnering with sustainable development in agriculture & education

In our Spring newsletter we wrote about developing food security in Kabubbu to enable families to grow enough maize to feed themselves. We wrote about a returning land owner who sold his land to a developer, leaving the families, who were like squatters, without any land on which to grow food. This had prompted us to extend the Graze funded maize project to enable more families to grow food on the small gardens around their homes.



A report from Augustine who heads this Graze programme in Kabubbu recently informed us of the projects success: *'Graze School of Farming used 1 acre and produced 2,200 kg of maize grain, a record achievement in the village. Very few farmers in Uganda can produce 2 tons per acre, they may produce 1.5 tons.'*

Great! But more problems were to come!

In June we learnt that the same landowner had sold his final 150 acres, also for development.

Bulldozers arrived, trees were uprooted and a bleak brown scar remains on the landscape! On this land the women worked every day in a stone quarry, in the heat of the sun they smashed the rocks into small stones to sell as ballast. A quarry Mum could earn £4 a week. If she was thrifty, she paid school fees for a child for a term; or she saved money to buy medicine in case her child was sick with malaria. Once in a while she afforded the luxury of a piece of carbolic soap to wash, or to do the laundry - but now she has no income.

The good news is that God hears the cry of the poor! We sent out an email asking for funds to enable non-sponsored children to complete their studies in school this year and we had an unexpected response! A businessman in the UK was praying about a long-standing debt of £25,000 owed to him. He prayed that if God answered his prayer then he would commit 20% for charitable purposes. Out of the blue that very week his debtor rang. He said, *"I want to start paying my debt to you"*. Within days he made his first payment and the businessman kept his promise. He donated funds for 356 school children to have a school



dinner to complete their end of year exams - fantastic! Now we need to extend the maize project again for the 200 women who worked in the quarry so they can grow, then sell or exchange maize for a child's education. QT is prolonging lives today carefully balancing this with its aims of educating a child for the future.

Selling maize is one way to sustain education but regular support also helps us plan for the future and continue projects. It's £24 a month to

sponsor a pupil in primary school. £34 a month for the first three years of secondary school, then £50 for students who board to take GCSE and 'A' level exams from S4 to S6. That's the cost of a cheap bottle of wine a week for a month, or less than a monthly beauty treatment or membership to play golf. A sponsor can exchange letters with a child and receive reports and photos. If you need a smaller monthly commitment you can donate £10 (or multiples) for a child's school dinner. You'll be given the child's name and can send a Christmas card but no other regular contact. The child's mother pays for their schooling. 531 of the 4,603 people - that's 11½ % - on our mailing list sponsor each month.

## Partnering with sustainable developments in the Health Centre

A Ugandan couple and their two children appeared one evening recently at the Resort Centre for drinks. They were well dressed and had a car. After welcoming them the man said, *'I had no idea this place existed, it's amazing.'* When we asked where he lived he pointed to a location 4 miles away. We asked how he came to be here. He said his pregnant wife had been told there was ultrasound equipment for a scan available in the Health Centre but didn't believe a rural health centre could have such equipment. She decided to check it out anyway and was surprised to find a well-equipped health centre, two successful schools, a maize mill and other facilities. We pray that others who can afford to pay for treatment and services to help subsidise the poor will also find the village!

Other things remind us that we still have a long way to go in developing a rural community. As we were leaving Kabubbu to catch the flight home the crowds gathered (no, not to see us off!) but to attend a funeral. It's a sad time but even sadder when we know that someone in the prime of life has died unnecessarily. Teddy (not her real name) was 20, well known and popular in the village because she worked in a shop. She had realised, two days earlier, she was pregnant. Although many single Kabubbu girls have a baby, Teddy felt ashamed and decided to self-abort. Old wives tales abound – many gruesome! Some consume certain herbs (including marijuana – grown and easily available in Kabubbu) to self-abort. Teddy decided to try it but with devastating consequences. Girls in the local community still need accurate information on sexual reproductive health to save lives.

Other things remind us that we can't do the work we do without you! A couple of years ago a lady in the UK was celebrating a very special birthday. She decided to donate £1,000 for each year of her life and generously gave a large sum of money to provide equipment, training for midwives, some staff costs and emergency support for mums and babies. Her gift continues to make an impact saving lives.

Gorreti, 32, is a mother of two. Like her they are HIV/AIDS positive. She has been attending the antenatal clinic in Kabubbu and hoped her third baby might be prevented from having the virus transmitted. But Gorette went into premature labour at 34 weeks. It was highly likely that, without intervention, her baby would get the virus. She was referred on from Kabubbu Health Centre to Mulago, Uganda's leading government



hospital, for an emergency caesarean operation. 24 hours later she'd had no medical help. Nurse Susan sent the Kabubbu ambulance to collect and transfer her to a private hospital. Immediately on arrival she went to theatre for the operation. Baby Natasha was delivered weighing 1.7kg. The operation, food, hospital care and treatment for both cost £720.

Thank you to those who recently donated toothbrushes and toothpaste. We had 360 of each. As a result of funds donated the dentist has extracted and filled many teeth. A team of dentists, hygienists and others from DentaId, a UK charity, will be in Kabubbu for a week from 28<sup>th</sup> September promoting the service and extending it into nearby villages.

### **Partnering with sustainable developments in the UK & Uganda**

Ben, head teacher of Trust High School, was in the UK on a Commonwealth Scholarship (funded by DfID) in June. The scholarship is aimed at professional development of personnel from Commonwealth countries. Ben spent time in London studying leadership, strategic planning and finance. He benefitted from the mentoring provided by staff in Willingdon Community School and learnt as much from interacting and observing as he did from the courses he attended. Thank you Phil Osborne and head teacher Ian Jungius for providing this opportunity. Also to Anna Reid and Christine Woodward for hosting Ben.

We hope, next year, to have other staff from Kabubbu in the UK. QT needs to eventually



transfer some detailed records and work from the UK to staff in Kabubbu - it's cheaper! We can employ 10 staff there for the cost of 1 in the UK.

Some of you will remember Doreen. She was our first student to be given a Bedes Scholarship in the UK back in 2006. In July she married Nicholas Opade at All Saints Cathedral, Nakasero in Kampala. 300 guests helped the happy couple celebrate their day - including us! Doreen will continue to work at the Kabubbu Resort.

### **Welfare that can never be sustained or predicted!**



Geraldine sat there from 8.30am and had listened one-by-one to the stories and needs of 133 women as we planned how the donation received from their child's sponsor could best support their family. She was now tired!

Out of the corner of her eye she saw a lady whom she didn't recognise but who had been sitting there motionless throughout the day. Geraldine beckoned to her to come forward, and slowly, as if in pain, she moved towards her. Her face was gaunt, her shoulder blades and ribs were clearly protruding from the flesh exposed from the clothes draping loosely around her frame. She looked about 50. This lady said someone had suggested she came to the group, but she wasn't an invited participant. She said she

had returned to her home village a few weeks earlier because there was an empty family room where she and her child could shelter. She was now too weak to work, she could barely walk and had no money or food for herself or her 10 year old son. She was only 36 years old. She had grown up and had a few distant relatives in Kabubbu.

But in truth she had probably planned to come home to die. Maybe, she thought, someone might take care of her son in the event of her death. But relatives made it clear she was an embarrassment because of her HIV/AIDS.

We quickly organised for food to be bought. Later some volunteers visited her at home on a programme we call 'Development Challenge'. They organised immediate purchase of items like food, blankets and a mattress. They also bought a pig hoping that her son might rear it and in the long term he could sell it and make a little money. Thank you to the many donors who give an occasional gift from a fund raising event. Through this we are able to extend love to those with tragic stories and little hope.



Humanly speaking we come across situations where the person we meet has little vision or hope for themselves. At these times we have to hope and believe for them. Augustine and Ronald were two boys who had little enthusiasm for studying; no idea of what they wanted to do in life; low self-esteem and little motivation. They were troubled boys. Both joined a college learning to make and lay block paving. Now, two years later they have graduated. They both got jobs at a construction company based three hours from Kabubbu. Recently the company boss rang a member of Kabubbu staff and asked, *'Have you got any other young men like these, they are so motivated, hardworking and enthusiastic'*. How did they change?



Both boys had someone who prayed and encouraged them and one sponsor visited. Both boys went to a Catholic college run by priests. There they were taught new ways of expressing their feelings and handling conflicts. They graduated with new personalities.

### **Other news, some which makes our lives more challenging ...**

British Airways announced in August that as from October 3<sup>rd</sup> they would no longer be flying to Entebbe. Now volunteers - we have five groups totalling 130 in 2016 - will have to travel with another airline and change planes in either Addis Ababa, Amsterdam, Brussels, Dubai, Nairobi or Qatar to mention a few. The knock-on effect is that you may get a cheaper fare but may spend more funds on overnight hotels and/or the journey time will be extended from 8½ hours to 13+ hours.

It also means without a direct flight and BA concessions we will have **restricted luggage allowances. From 2016 QT can only transport gifts in A5 envelopes at Christmas and July.**

***It also means we can't make exceptions for larger envelope sizes as we simply can't deliver them.*** However hundreds of our sponsors make regular donations of money for items to be purchased in Uganda. These items are a huge blessing to many children and families there. We checked out the shops on a recent visit to Uganda and discovered that with improved trading links between Uganda and China there is now a much wider choice of imported items to be bought in Kampala. So with restricted luggage please can we encourage sponsors of a child or an elderly person to donate money regularly instead?

When we travel with a large group of volunteers we may sometimes be able to stuff some specific quality items needed in Kabubbu in small spaces in their suitcases. A list of donated items as gifts follows; then specific items needed in schools and the health centre.

**For kids under 11** - underwear, children's socks, handkerchiefs, tee shirts, soap, small tubes of toothpaste and brushes. Craft kits: small cross stitch, painting by numbers, jewellery kits or for boys, model aircraft or boat kits, small packs of Lego and so on.

**For children over 12** - word search, simple crosswords, other puzzle or Sudoku booklets. Simple watches, bracelets, necklaces, manicure sets, underwear, tee shirts, handkerchiefs, scientific calculators.

**For Primary school** - crayons, geometry sets, puzzles, small games & science experiments.

**For Secondary school** - art materials, educational DVD. Musical instruments: cello, clarinet, English horn, flute, oboe, piccolo, recorder, saxophone, trombone, ukulele, violin & zither.

**Health Centre** - small guest soaps, latex gloves, cotton nightdresses size 12/14 only.

**Please arrange your delivery time with the QT office before bringing items!**

We will take a small number of knitted baby blankets or baby cot size sheets. Sorry, but **we are no longer able to take knitted baby clothes.** If however a volunteer can organise and run a market stall in the UK we could arrange for these items to be delivered to you and the proceeds could come to QT. Other support we would welcome includes:

- **Funding to buy a modern second-hand laptop computer for a Ugandan student**
- **Donate a good quality unused gift as a raffle prize for a QT event**
- **If you can't think what gift to buy a friend, check the QT on-line shop**
- **Think about running a Chari-Tea Party in the Spring or Summer**
- **Ask for a display stand at a village, school or church fayre and take QT literature and a 'Shop-in-a-Box' to the event**
- **Can you spare a regular 3 hours each week for QT administration work**
- **If you're a musician organise a gig and donate funds to QT**
- **Bring a friend or group to a Coffee Morning or Afternoon Tea at the QT office**
- **When you celebrate a special occasion and don't need gifts, ask your friends to donate money for a sick child or someone in need in Kabubbu**
- **Volunteer to run in the Brighton Marathon on Sunday April 17th**
- **Offer to volunteer 1 hour on Friday afternoons to clean the QT offices**
- **Check and sign up if your employer is part of a match funding scheme**
- **Search charity shops for good family entertainment or educational DVDs**
- **Invite someone in QT to speak at your church, U3A or community group**

## And now for news from the QT office

Contact [caroline@quickentrust.com](mailto:caroline@quickentrust.com) for information on 2016 travel plans  
There will be a travel meeting and an introduction to volunteering on  
Sunday 8 February from 3.00pm - 6.00pm at our offices

**Coffee Morning** dates in 2016 are on Thursdays from 10.30am – 12.00pm:

**11 February; 17 March; 26 May; 30 June; 6 October; 17 November; 15 December**

**Afternoon Tea** dates in 2016 are on Wednesdays from 3.00pm – 4.30pm:

**20 April and 7 September**



Coffee Morning and Afternoon Tea reminders are also sent by email



**Last dates for cash donations for children/elderly in 2016 are 4 March; 1 July; 5 October**  
**For all A5 labelled gift envelopes or cash gifts the last dates are 1 July and 7 October**

## Christmas is coming ...

This Christmas we need to complete an infrastructure project that we began in 2012. The Community Centre will be a marvellous resource for everyone in the village who have no large space where they can have fun. It will be a venue for the elderly to enjoy their Christmas party and lunch; a place to come together for a family celebration, christening or marriage ceremony; a place for corporate worship. A safe drug free venue for young people to enjoy some good films or watch their favourite team in a Premier League football match - these are more popular than the Ugandan teams!

The Community Centre will also include smaller rooms for counselling, discussion groups, Girl Guides group and so on. It will be a place to learn and grow. Located in the very heart of the village, the QT/KDP have already obtained the land. It was bought by a QT volunteer several years ago but with no specific purpose in mind at the time. When we asked later if we could build a community centre on the land the donor was very excited!

We'd like to open the building when a volunteer group is in Kabubbu in October 2016 at the latest. And have a bouncy castle (if we can find one in Uganda) and, possibly, balloon sculpturing & face painting for the kiddies – provided we have someone skilled in them!

We are finalising plans for the 300 seat building. The total cost will be up to £150,000 to build and equip! We have over £60,000 already donated. We have £25,000 promised. We have applied for a grant for £50,000.

**We would love to raise £15,000 this Christmas  
and then we can start the building process in the New Year**

There are three ways to make a donation:

1. **Web:** [www.quickentrust.com/donate](http://www.quickentrust.com/donate) and click the Christmas 2015 Donate button
2. **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/QuickenTrust> and click the Donate button
3. **Printed Order Form:** Included with this Newsletter. Complete the section on our CHRISTMAS 2015 ORDER FORM and mail to the address given on that form

**No donation is too small – every little helps! Will you, can you, hold hands with us?**

*Finally, a HAPPY CHRISTMAS & A HUGE THANK YOU for all you do,  
Geoff, Geraldine & the QT team*

# Last Christmas you put a Maize Mill in Kabubbu

Thank  
you

[www.quickentrust.com](http://www.quickentrust.com)



## Hand in Hand

Join with us as we  
hold hands with the  
children of Kabubbu  
this Christmas  
to create the  
**Jewel in the Crown**

We want to appeal to you this Christmas for one more very special project - and one very close to our hearts. Kabubbu's very own Community Centre and Church. **The Jewel in the Crown.**

A place drawing people together healing the devastation of abuse, unemployment, AIDS, malaria and all the consequences which rob people of family, community and a settled life

A safe place for counselling, parenting training, family entertainment, educational seminars and workshops, community clubs and a centre of worship

### So, what is happening?

The land in the centre of Kabubbu was donated a few years ago. We are finalising plans for the 300 seat building. The total cost will be up to £150,000 to build and equip! We have over £60,000 already donated. We have £25,000 promised. We have applied for a grant for £50,000

**We would love to raise £15,000 this Christmas**  
and then we can start the building process in the New Year  
No donation is too small - every little helps!

## Will you, can you, hold hands with us?



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Thank you

Funds raised above the building costs will be used to equip the Community Centre and any excess donations above that will be used for the general purposes of the Trust