



In the beginning ...

Dear Friends,

It was a hot day in February 2000. Four of us were travelling over dusty tracks to Kabubbu to interview 12 orphaned children on how they survived. That day changed our lives for ever!

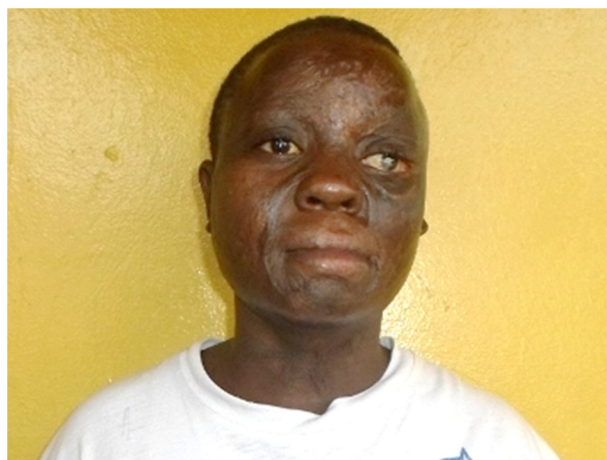
We were greeted by a large crowd including 400 children and among them a small girl aged 2 who was facially scarred and with infected wounds all over her body. Jackline became an orphan in a house fire in which her family - her mum and brother - died. She needed urgent treatment. But we were in the bush, miles from a hospital and we had no funds or plans to be charity workers. Everywhere there were children in rags with bare feet, all desperate to go to school. So a child with complex medical needs was not on our immediate list. We were then asked to speak to the crowd, but needed to turn away from Jackline, in case we burst into tears.



Two years passed. By then we had new volunteers travelling with us to Kabubbu, including 17 year-old Paula. She met Jackline and said, *“I’m going to sponsor her!”* We responded, *“Paula, you can’t possibly do that because you’re still at college and it costs £20 a month to sponsor her!”* Paula’s gutsy reply indicated her resolve to help Jackline come what may. *“I work in Thorntons chocolate shop and earn more on a Saturday, than I need for her month’s fees!”*

Not only did Paula sponsor Jackline but also twice raised £40 for two operations as a result of the fire. One to repair her left eye because Jackline couldn’t blink and the other to graft skin to her left arm enabling her to use it properly again.

15 years later and as a result of Paula’s step of faith Jackline completed her secondary education and ‘O’ Level exams at Trust High School. In February she graduated to a vocational training course at a catering college. ***Congratulations Jackline!***



So, what happened to Paula? We hadn’t seen her since 2002. But we met her last Christmas.

Paula's story - Life with a different purpose



When I was about 14 years-old, I felt like I wouldn't live in the UK all my life, but maybe I would live overseas. I knew I would be living a different life, but at this age I didn't really get it! Then, when I was 17, I was given the chance to go to Uganda with Quicken Trust and help build a chain link fence around the school that had been built the previous year. I was determined to go and saved my money from working on a Saturday. I didn't know then that this visit to Kabubbu would confirm my next steps.

I found myself in a Jungle Village sleeping in a small dark mud hut that belonged to a pastor and his family. I shared the hut with another girl and there were spiders, cockroaches and animal noises I couldn't identify.

We worked hard but had to be home at 6.00pm as we weren't sure if it was safe after dark! I was muddy, sweaty and exhausted and I couldn't wash for two weeks as there wasn't running water and it was 40c, but I had never felt so happy and fulfilled in my whole life.

It was in this place that I believed God confirmed "This is what I made you for!"



I knew then I would later go on mission trips abroad. Today I work full time in Mexico and Brazil with Youth With a Mission. We work in the city among those in poverty and build houses for the homeless. We teach and train church leaders on building, education, health care in the largest red light district in North America. It's amazing to see how my first trip to Uganda revealed what my passion was in life, and that's to serve and love those that are forgotten. Many don't have a family

or any self-worth, so to love them as God does is a challenge. I constantly learn and grow and I love this "calling" for my life, and wouldn't change it for anything! I depend on God for my rent, my food, but he never leaves me short. I'm honoured and blessed to help others!

Inspirational!

Failure – or situations beyond our control?

Some people say to us *"You must feel so happy with all you have achieved in Kabubbu."* We usually respond honestly with something like *"There is so much more to do, that we never sit back and feel we have arrived!"* Then of course sometimes when we think we've cracked a problem something even more desperate happens - and we go back to square one!

Five years ago we introduced a project funded by GRAZE that taught Farming God's Way, a method that a-maize-ngly increased the crop yield by at least five times the usual yield. But that all began to change from July 2016 - when drought struck - and right up to now. After planting, mulching and weeding but without rain there was little or no harvest. Many women

reverted back to their traditional growing methods, hoping for results that never came!

But we won't give up, we just try again!

Fatigue from fighting famine!

Singer and writer Auliq Ice wrote *"As long as poverty and hunger is prevalent in any continent or country, then the world at large is never safe"*

Famine and food shortages are now a big problem all over East Africa. Around 1,000,000 refugees have poured into Uganda from Southern Sudan. The food shortage won't begin to change until at least July 2017 when, perhaps, there will have been rain and a harvest from what is being planted now. But with more mouths to feed, will the harvest be big enough? Julian Hattem in 'Global Post' wrote, *"More refugees entered Uganda last year than crossed from the Mediterranean"*. You can see this on <https://a.msn.com/r/2/AAmKLyS?m=en-gb&ocid=News>

The situation is made worse in Africa because without good quality building materials many living in poverty build themselves a house using the top soil to make their bricks. Some know they are destroying their environment but their choices are very limited without money.

Children learn about the effects of global warming and the need to boil their water and cook their food to prevent sickness. But what alternative is there to firewood when they have little or no access to rural electrification, bottled gas or cookers - which are all too expensive for them anyway. How can people in poverty ensure they cook food or boil water to prevent sickness? How can an environmental disaster, without huge infrastructure investment, be averted before it leads to famine?



Many people ask us why the Ugandan government doesn't invest in infrastructure or a good health service. Many accept the western media perspective that African governments are corrupt. Of course corruption happens. But the issues are far more complex and Africa has lacked the investment we enjoy in the West. According to the Ugandan Bureau of Statistics the population is 41,579,798. 80% of this total live in a rural area, so 33,263,838 have limited opportunities for regular work and have suffered educational deprivation and poverty.

In Uganda 48.7% of the population are under the age of 14 - that's 20,249,361 children! Only 28% of the country, that's 11,642,343, are of working age (25-64 years old) and if we consider that 80% of this total of 11,642,343 live in a rural area, that's 9,313,874 casual labourers earning from £470 - £996 annually without needing to pay income tax.

This then leaves, maybe, 2,328,469 in regular paid work. If the average annual salary is £15,032 and the income tax rate is 18%, then 2,328,469 people, each paying £2,705 tax, makes a grand total of £62,985,086. Of course VAT, business taxes and other taxes will increase the Ugandan tax revenue but it's still very low! If in Uganda the government built a hospital, to equip it with an ultra sound scanner or other equipment it would cost almost the same as in the UK. How can Uganda fund the infrastructure with so little revenue? This helps

explain why a grassroots charity in a rural area is vital for the future of rural development.

School Meal Appeal – a ‘Meal Deal’ for just £10 a month!



So what's the knock on effect in Kabubbu of the food shortage in East Africa? On February 6th this year, 80 sad children were unable to return to school after the holiday. Why? Because their mums didn't have the money needed for their school dinner. 80 children who had hope for a better future are now condemned to ongoing poverty.

QT has sponsors for 50% of the children in primary school. The remaining children have parents who try to contribute towards their school fees, but now without any produce to sell they can't pay the fees.

QT has a mailing list of 4,311 of whom 541 are regular monthly donors supporting a child or elderly person.

QT has 931 occasional donors who, at Christmas and other times, provide funds. QT has 2,828 who receive this letter but are not regular supporters.

If only 7% of the 2,828, that's just 220 people, set up a monthly standing order for a child's school dinner at £10 this would lift the burden from their mum and restore the hopes and dreams of a child. ***That's the cost of a bottle of wine, a pack of crisps and a choc bar a month!***

Success is always sweet!

Exam results are now beginning to show some improvements. 21 out of 21 graduated from primary to secondary school with 16 children achieving a Grade 1 or Grade 2 pass - more than in previous years! At 'O' Level 30 students took exams. Nine graduated to 'A' Levels.

This year in the 'A' Level results the number of sponsored girls who succeeded with 10 or more points rose from 12% in 2015 to 66% in 2016 and they have enough points to go to university. *Thank you to all our faithful sponsors* who support a student at £150 a month for their education in college or university. To reduce some expenses further and enable vocational students to remain at home while studying, QT has been given a grant to build five classrooms next to Trust High School. This amazing story appears on the next page.

If you like scouring charity shops, bankrupt stock, E-Bay or other social media sites we need 100's of items from cutlery to cookers and combs to laptop computers for our students studying the vocational courses planned from February 2018. Courses include catering, tailoring, hairdressing and beauty, plus secretarial and computer skills. A container, our second, is to be shipped to Uganda in September 2017. Email: caroline@quickenstrust.com for a list of items needed in good condition or good working order to donate.



Marion

We are delighted that Pestalozzi International Village has selected Marion from our 'O' Level stream at Trust High School for a scholarship in the UK. This is a fantastic opportunity for her. She is excellent at volleyball and was voted 'the most valuable player' from among 300 students. Marion is interested in global current events, she is good at science and maths and we believe she has a bright future ahead of her. *Thank you friends at Pestalozzi*

We call them Divine appointments

Sometimes we are amazed at how God opens the door for us to meet someone, or how he provides just what QT needs at a specific time.

18 months ago a member of staff went to Surrey to help her sister organise a charity quiz night. At the end of the evening a lady spoke to her saying she had just become a Trustee for a charity focussed on Africa. She asked our colleague if she could pass some QT information on to the other trustees. After many emails and a later meeting we received a donation of £24,000 + for the operating theatre in Kabubbu. Now that Trust has provided the funding for the vocational classes and some other smaller projects. *Thank you ladies!*



We struggled for some time with an idea of how to set up a patient record system in Kabubbu Health Centre. Most patients in Uganda drift from centre to centre when they are sick. But in Kabubbu, because we have developed the necessary village infrastructure, the community has stabilised and we now need to know our patients. Recently, out of the blue, a doctor in Brighton contacted QT to talk about a library he had built in Uganda. We arranged to meet in a coffee shop near Polegate station. In the course of conversation a patient record system was mentioned. He knew someone who had created one specifically for Uganda. It's now in three health centres there, and it's coming to Kabubbu - and it's free!

If you would like to hear more amazing stories invite Geoff or Geraldine to a community group, club or church you attend. *Some of our stories of Divine appointments, interventions and provision are almost beyond belief!* Email us on: geraldine@quickenstrust.com

Home reports and extras for sponsored children

Sponsors regularly send extras from £30+ to buy shoes, food, clothes, blankets, beds or mattresses to ensure a child can remain in school and sleep well to make the most of their education. *Thank you from the children who appreciate this!* 164 sponsors and friends who have seen pictures of a mud house with a thatched roof have, over the years, replaced these with brick built houses with two rooms, an outside toilet and a water tank for a family. Sometimes the circumstances in which this happens are both poignant and surprising!

Recently Veronica, aged 46, sadly died of cancer in Kabubbu. She had eight surviving children and had worked hard to provide for them. Her dying concern was for her four youngest children aged 8 to 15. Who would now care for them? This is often a big concern for a dying mother. Two of her four children are sponsored, but the sponsors are young and, with a

limited income, were unable to provide extra funds.

A few weeks went by and QT had a phone call from a man living 100 miles from our office who we didn't know. He was also a cancer victim and asked for information on QT projects and ideas on things he might fund in gratitude for having survived his treatment. After learning about our projects a QT colleague talked about some personal ways QT supporters help us and mentioned Veronica and family. The man later sent a donation of £5,000 to help Veronica's children. After Veronica died it was decided that a house would provide long term security for her children. This house is now being built and will be rented out to provide an income for the children to have shoes and clothes as they are now living with their Aunt.

Such love is immeasurable

In the autumn of 2016 we simplified the process for 541 sponsors who make a donation three or four times a year for extras for a child. **The enclosed envelope** can be used for cheque donations *at any time of the year*, or a BACS payment can be made *whenever or as often as you like* as we now make bi-monthly bank transfers to Kabubbu. For BACS the details are:

To: CAF Bank, West Malling, Kent

In favour of: Quicken Trust

Account number: 00088771

Sort code: 40-52-40

Reference: Either KAB or ELD + the number for your sponsored child/elderly if you know it *OR* the name of the child/elderly you sponsor.

Together we have done so much

We are so grateful to so many of you who, in 2016, ran marathons or half-marathons, walked miles, baked cakes, filled shopping bags or did some other wonderful sponsored event.



So far this year Libby and Jamie Hyder have run the Bath Half Marathon and raised more than £1,000 to further help the family they support. Matt Rayner will be running the Southampton Marathon to help his sponsored child around the same time as you receive this Newsletter - how will he get on? Join us on Facebook to find out. Sadly, no-one ran the Brighton Marathon for us this year - our first missed year. But there's still a whole summer of activity time ahead!

Can you or your family set up a fundraising project in the coming months? Maybe walk together, cycle together, run together, sail together or celebrate a 'high spot' in your lives? Run a marathon or half-marathon for

QT? Let us know and we'll provide a running vest! Why not hold a relaxing 'Chari-Tea Party' in your garden for a few friends. **For ideas, just email: sarah@quickentrust.com**

Would you believe that the locals in Kabubbu organise an annual marathon? It's not 26¼ miles but is over two courses, either 5 or 10 kilometres! It's strenuous as it's more like a cross-country run



round Kabubbu's tracks. Last October some of the 21 UK volunteers ran or walked the 'marathon' raising funds for the Kabubbu maternal health programme. We plan to have a UK team this October. Maybe you can combine the 'marathon' with a volunteer opportunity?

Volunteer opportunities

We are now looking for qualified and experienced volunteers with the following skills, for later this year, to be in Kabubbu for up to six weeks from **September 12th to October 27th**.

In Primary School	8 nursery teachers
In Community Education	4 volunteers for gardening/horticulture
In the Health Centre	2 midwives and a doctor
In the Community	2 social workers
	6 volunteers for a Children's Christian Holiday Club*
	6 volunteers for spiritual and youth development*
	(*for 3 weeks from August 21 st – September 15 th)
In the Resort Centre	3 resort staff
Plus	2 experienced in developing small overseas business initiatives

Short term volunteer visits from **October 20th - 28th** for opticians, dermatologists and dentists for outreach health camps.

February 2018 - short term

Experienced teachers to help plan courses in the following vocational skills: catering and hotel management, tailoring and fashion design, secretarial and computer skills, carpentry, hairdressing and beauty, childcare and as a nanny.

All will need to

- Attend a planning meeting in May 2017
- Provide character and professional references, DBS check and CV
- Attend an interview
- Meet up to plan with others a work plan for the subject/skill/curriculum etc
- Fundraise £500 for a short trip or £1,500 for a long trip
- Pay for their air fare, accommodation, transport and food

Contact caroline@quickenstrust.com for information on the next travel planning meeting on 12 November 2017 and for travel arrangements for volunteer visits in 2018

Gillian Clark

Gillian, our loyal and passionate part time child sponsor co-ordinator for nine years, retired in December 2016 to keep a promise to her husband to spend time with him when he retired. In February she was very poorly with pneumonia and taken to hospital as an in-patient for several days. While there, her husband died suddenly at home. Please pray for her.

Feedback

We always welcome comments or **feedback** to our QT newsletter. We send it to you so that you can keep up-to-date with what is happening in Kabubbu. Are we giving you the right information? What more could we do better? Please feel free to contact us on:

geraldine@quickenstrust.com or geoff@quickenstrust.com

Last date for receipt of Gift Envelopes for children/elderly in 2017 is 1 June

Coffee Morning dates in 2017 are on Thursdays from 10.30am – 12.00pm:

May 25th, June 29th, October 5th, November 16th & December 14th

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

April 26th & September 6th

Coffee Morning and Afternoon Tea reminders are also sent by email



Did you know we have over 750
Friends on Facebook? Why not
join them and keep up-to-date?

CELEBRATE

with our On-line Shop

To make a real difference this year to a life in Kabubbu

just CELEBRATE something!

Instead of socks, a scarf, perfume or a tie, give your loved ones a piglet or a chicken or a goat to help a destitute family in Kabubbu! There's lots of ideas. **CELEBRATE** gives a better future for the people of Kabubbu at www.quickentrust.com/shop/

Make your purchase on-line and we'll send you an email you can print or forward to your loved ones. Happy Celebrations!



Put mailers@quickentrust.com
into your Safe Senders list so our
emails never end up in Junk Mail



You made last Christmas a Marvellously Memorable Magical Moment

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to our 'Aladdin's Cave' of goodies for the Kabubbu Kids. You raised the £15,000! We received a text notification of this around mid-day on Christmas Eve. We've already provided a 14 seater mini-bus, laptops, text books, mosquito nets, Bibles and calculators. More items to be provided!

Finally, a **HUGE THANK YOU** for all you do
from Geoff, Geraldine & the whole team at QT

It is our policy to send newsletters or general email communications only to those who want them. So please let us know if you'd rather not receive future newsletters or general emails. Tell us by email: caroline@quickentrust.com or by letter to: **Caroline Thompson, Quicken Trust, PO Box 113, Hailsham, BN27 4US** or by phone on **01323 832361** and we'll ensure you are removed from our mailing list. **NB: If you would prefer to receive our newsletter by email as an A4 format please tell us at the same contact details, Thank you.**