



Uganda Calling!

Home and Away

August 2016

It's african-type weather here in Somerset, so we thought it would be an ideal time to give you an update on what is happening in the beautiful country of Uganda.

First, an update on **Zion Community School, Kakuba:**

Dave visited the school when he was in Uganda at the end of May. He took with him a book of letters from Longvernal School, Midsomer Norton, which the teachers at Zion School received with great enthusiasm. The children were on holiday at that time so although Dave never got to see them in their school situation, he met some of them in both the village and the church.

You might remember that we started to build the school during 2013 and it first opened in February 2014. The latest news is that the Mukono District Education and Sports Department has now 'caught up' with us and has carried out its' first inspection of the school. These are the recommendations from the visit and we need to comply over the next 12 months:

- Process a licence for the school. *We had already started this process. It can be a bit drawn out because we have to get letters of agreement from various local leaders.*
- Recruit trained teachers. *All of our teachers are already trained. We have one teaching assistant who will need to take her certificate.*
- Provide a hand washing facility. *This has been done.*
- Have the government curriculum in place. *We have worked to this ever since we opened but a new one has been introduced which we will now purchase.*
- Provide teachers with an appointment letter. *This is being done.*
- Have a technically drawn building plan for the school site. *This has been done.*
- Provide a visitors' book. *It seems that everyone wants a visitors book in Uganda. We now have one!*
- Provide separate pit latrines for the teachers and for the pupils. *At the end of this year we will be constructing a new block of latrines for the children. The existing block will be for the sole use of the teachers.*

The inspector was impressed by the buildings as we had built them all according to government requirements for schools.

We tend to carry out works on the school during December/January as this is the time when the children are on their long holidays. This is our plan of works so far for the end of 2016:

- Construct verandas on the existing buildings. This not only provides the children with shelter from the sun, but also protects the foundations during the wet seasons.
- Redecorate all buildings inside and out. We want the school to look attractive for prospective new parents as well as providing a clean and welcoming environment for all of our children.
- Construction of a block of six new pit latrines plus urinals. This enables us to comply with education authority requirements.

Overall, we are very pleased with the progress of the school. We have strong leadership as well as great interaction and involvement of the parents committee.



At the meeting held in June this year, the parents were walked around the acre or so of land we were able to purchase at the end of 2015. When the land was surveyed, it was found to be much bigger than we originally thought – so it was a really good buy!

This year the land has been planted with maize, for use by the school and also to sell in order to raise further income for the school. You can see here (left) that it is growing really well!

Next, our **Discipleship Ministry:**

Our 'Disciple' book ministry in partnership with the Pentecostal Assemblies of God Uganda continues to flourish. Our colleague, Dan Muwanguzi, is in the Karamoja region of North Eastern Uganda this month meeting with PAG pastors and distributing around 500 books to them. Discipleship is part of PAG's UMOJA programme, in conjunction with Tearfund UK, seeking to bring an holistic approach to villages all over Uganda, with the goal of bringing physical, social, material, and spiritual transformation to communities. We are honoured to be just a small part of this.

Last, but certainly not least, **Uganda Mountain Ministry.**

We are so pleased to work with, and support, our friends Alfonse Bwambale and Alimos Secondborn with training pastors in the Rwenzori mountains. Dave, together with Pastor Mike Howell, visited some of the pastors in May. This is part of their feedback, in their words:

Meeting at Kibiri Full Gospel Church

The roads were not so good and I am happy to tell you that the pastors are very happy, being the first missionaries going up mountains in Kibiri. Kibiri has over 80 churches and only 5 pastors have any theological training. We have divided the churches into centres, with 9 churches making up each centre. In this centre we were able to meet 14 leaders from 14 churches plus other ministry leaders from those churches. These pastors walked 7 kilometres up the mountains. These really show commitment in ministry.

David Banks and Pr.Mike worked along with Alfonse and Alimos in Uganda mountain ministry. Kibiri Full Gospel have been in existence for over twenty years but has never got a missionary going up to visit the work they are doing. All have been coming and do seminars in Kasese town because of having all the facilities. So when they give invitation to visiting pastors they want to teach pastors who know English of which not all the Pastor here knows English. *(Basically, well known pastors and Mission Agencies will hold conferences in Kasese, which is below the mountains, they will not go into the mountains).* Alfonse and Alimos has brought a difference by following us up in our villages, thank you so much. Uganda mountain ministry is interdenominational working with all, teaching them the word of truth and how to apply it.

The discipleship books have done a lot by changing our ways into ministry. We have passed into this book several times and we leaders have come to help our churches to make disciples. You have also helped us on how to become good servants in the ministry. *(We taught on servanthood this time)* We have helped other Christians in the churches on how to make disciple which we did not do in the past. We

had copied other churches and we wanted to have very big congregation – that was our goal. *(They did not understand teaching and growing the people in the faith was important)* Discipleship book is helping us a lot. We praise God for the writer. In the lesson of servanthood, we have understood that a servant is called by God to serve and is going led by the Holy Spirit because this is the work of God.

Meeting at Kithoma Baptist Church

We thank God for Pastor Alfonse and Pr. Alimos for the love they have for us here in the mountains. We have seen them working very hard to come up and beyond here, even in hard condition mainly in the rainy season. God bless them. Please, we still need more training like this so that we can become good servant in the Lord in applying the word of God. We want God to speak, not us speaking. We have repented where we have not taught the word of God well. We have learnt that the word of God speaks himself; it does not need our words to support the Bible. It needs “reading several times and then apply it to yourself, then you will be able to teach others after working on you”. That has helped us very much.

The discipleship book has become a song to every leader in the mountains to be read by every leader here and then apply it in their churches. We really need more training please come again. Up in Kithoma Baptist Church, we thank you very much for the gift of the bible *(in Kinandi, local language)* and this also was the first time here and it has never happened. The need of bible is really needed up mountains because they are very expensive, and due to having big families *(they cannot afford it)*.



We are pleased to report that we were able to source 100 Kinandi Bibles from an agent of the Bible Society and they have now been distributed and very gratefully received. More Bibles are needed as there are hundreds of pastors in the mountains who need the resource in their own language.



Travel is hard in the mountains!

The work of teaching and resourcing the mountain pastors is an enormous one and at the moment, although Alfonse and Alimos are going there weekly, we are still only regularly getting to a fraction of those needing help in their ministries.

Uganda Mountain Ministry has a vision. The vision is to be able to buy a piece of land and build a residential teaching centre where groups of pastors can regularly come for a period of time to be developed in their faith and in their leadership skills and also to enjoy the fellowship of like-minded people. These men and women have been neglected for far too long and deserve better support from those who are equipped and able to help them. We do not know how quickly this vision will develop or even how it is going to happen, but we know someone who does and we are trusting in Him to accomplish it!

As always, if you are a praying person, please remember us and our ministries in your prayers



*Well, that's all for now, God bless & love to
you all,*

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15th August 2016