



# Uganda Calling!

*Home and Away*

December 2017

Hi everyone – seasons greetings from Anona & Dave!

In this newsletter, we want to update you following Dave's visit to Uganda in November when he was accompanied by Teresa & Emma Chalker from Welton Baptist Church. It was their first visit to the country and was an eye-opener for them in so many ways!

We started our time in Uganda by travelling from Entebbe to Kasese in the pouring rain – not a nice journey. Due to the vehicle breaking down part-way through the journey, a seven hour trip extended to eleven hours and we were grateful when we eventually arrived at our hotel in Kasese.

Day one in Kasese saw us travelling up into the Rwenzori mountains to the village of Kibiri, at least that was the plan! About one third of the way up we had more trouble with the car. Both the radiator and the gearbox failed, so whilst our colleagues Dan & Alfonse took the car back to Kasese, Teresa, Emma, Alimos & Dave waited for two hours in the sun for a replacement so the journey could continue.



*Just like waiting for a bus, except there are none! ....*



*....but the view was worth the wait!*

We eventually arrived in Kibiri at about 2pm – much of our teaching time was lost but we were able to fit in our opening teaching on 'Servanthood'. As part of this, we taught on Jesus being a humble servant, as He demonstrated when He washed His disciples' feet. So, what else could we do but follow His example!

Doing this, we saw local custom and culture challenged. Firstly, Ugandans are very hospitable people and they would not even think about visiting muzungus (whites) serving them, let alone washing their feet. But we wanted to set an example to the pastors, that even though they might be in a place of authority, in Christian terms they are still servants. In fact, the Greek word 'Doulos' as used in the New Testament should be translated as 'slave' rather than 'servant'. The inference is that we are slaves of Jesus Christ when we are about His work. Again, this was a challenge for those present but we pointed out that in kingdom terms, a slave is held in high regard by his Master.

The second culture challenge was in the male pastors washing womens' feet. Normally, it would be the other way round but the men also embraced this change in their thinking.



*Not good for the back and knees, but great for the soul!*



*A servant, serving.*



*Breaking with tradition. It's good to be as Jesus.*



*If you can't afford drums, improvise!*

So, in these meetings in the mountains we taught on aspects of servanthood. Subjects covered included: What is Servanthood; Servants or Slaves; The Attributes of a Servant; How not to be a Servant; How to Serve and the Gifts we are given to use in service. Teresa and Emma were also able to share their testimonies, which included how they serve within the church. These were a great encouragement to those who heard them.

So, our travels into the mountains were not without their challenges! However, we introduced the pastors to different ways of thinking about how they serve in their churches and what real Christian service is. The challenge for them is to adapt to what they have learned; the challenge for us is to live up to what we have been teaching! It's easier to 'talk the talk' than it is to 'walk the talk' but we have to choose the more difficult path.

After Kasese, we limped back in our poorly car to Mukono – 300 miles away. The radiator on the car had been fixed using Araldite and is probably still working today. The higher gears of the automatic gearbox were non-existent and so we had a replacement gearbox fitted on arrival in Mukono. Praise God for safe journeys!

During our second week, we visited several churches in the evenings and were able to bring God's word to the people there. We also made two special visits. Firstly we visited The Elizabeth Centre for Children with Disabilities, a project started by our friend Val Crowhurst and her late husband, David. We enjoyed being there. The children sang and danced for us and a good time was had by all!



*Inside the education block, Elizabeth Centre*



*'Home' for about 30 children*

The following day, we paid a visit to Zion Community School in Kakuba, the school we are part way through building. Again, the children sang and danced for us, we met with the parents committee and also several parents attended the school for our visit. We visited the classrooms and interviewed some of the children with the aim of being able to produce a video to show the life and work of the school. Emma is working on this and we look forward to seeing the end result. We hope to show this both at Welton Baptist Church and Longvernal School, Midsomer Norton, who are twinned with Zion School. We took letters from Longvernal to Kakuba and also brought some back from Kakuba for Longvernal.



*Good school = happy kids!*



*Singing and dancing for the visitors*



*Everyone loves a soda!*



*Various gifts well received*

We were able to take gifts to the school for the childrens' use, such as footballs, skipping ropes and Childrens' Bibles for use in each classroom. It was a good time and an opportunity for Teresa and Emma to see another side of our ministry.



*The Parents Committee and other parents*



*Daniel showing us the boundaries of our land*

We also held a meeting with Daniel Kamywa and Pastor John Kasikende, the school directors, regarding future development at the school. All we are doing is under the watchful gaze of the Government Education Authority, and they can be rather demanding although they offer no financial help. However, they are pleased with what we have done so far, although like us, they would like to see future development move on. This is what we would like to construct in the not too distant future:

- Two classrooms to finish the primary school block.
- Three classrooms and two sets of pit latrines for the nursery block.
- New kitchen.
- Administration block.
- Additional water tank.
- Fencing for Primary and nursery blocks.
- Paved play area and outside play equipment for the nursery school.

There is much still to do but we believe God has given us this vision, so we must believe He will provide for it to come to fruition.

God has given us a big vision for 'The Pearl of Africa' (Winston Churchill's description of Uganda). It is a beautiful country but its needs are many; please continue to stand with us in prayer.

We wish you every blessing this Christmas and pray that you will experience the goodness of God in 2018.



*Love to you all,*

**Anona & Dave**

*Tel: 01761 452878*

*email address:*

*banks.uganda@gmail.com*

*20<sup>th</sup> December 2017*