

BEGA KWA BEGA

March 2004

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In this News Letter:

Water,

Animals,

Knitting,

Orphans & Schools,

the Clinic

and Fund Raising



before

Martina Boylan writes: 'Thanks to the generosity of all those who celebrated my Golden Jubilee with me, thousands more Ugandans now have clean water. 3 bore holes, 3 'harvesting' rain water (gutters & water tanks) and 16 protected springs have been completed.'

22nd March, 2004
World Day of Water



after

THE LUXEMBOURG COW: Last year, the students from a school in Luxembourg (St Sophie) raised £700 to buy a heifer. A grandmother nursing a sick husband and caring for orphaned grandchildren received this gift. The cow calved in November, fortunately a heifer calf which will be given to another needy family. All future calves will remain the property of the original family. It has taken less than a year for the grandmother to be able to sell milk and to open a Credit Union account where she puts her savings towards a new iron roof for her house.

PIGLETS: Martina Boylan and Angelina Campbell (of knitting fame) have recently returned from a 6 week 'knitting class marathon'. At Mityana, 40 miles west of Kampala, they heard a choir of some 60 children aged from 3-14 years old, singing and drumming at Sunday Mass, small ones of around 7 conducting the congregation.

Later Martina was out looking for a Boda-Boda (motorbike/taxi) when the choir master offered her



a lift. He told her of his dream to start a 'Pig Project'. A church choir (St Ignatius) from Wishaw (Scotland) had given a donation to be used for something special. This donation was quickly changed into 12 piglets. The choir master writes: 'The children are grouped into 6 divisions of ten. Each group has 2 piglets. When the pigs reproduce, every child will eventually come to own a pig. This project will enable them to raise funds for school fees, clothes, books and other needs.'



GOATS, WHEELCHAIRS AND TRICYCLES: Last Autumn, Angelina Campbell was lent a shop by William Hill the bookmakers to be used as a 'charity outlet' in Wishaw. Many local residents helped her by bringing gifts of all kinds. With the proceeds 11 wheelchairs and 3 tricycles were bought which enabled those who had been crawling on their hands and knees for many years to become fully mobile. There was enough money left for goats.

The choices when purchasing goats: the cross-breeds (local goats crossed with an exotic breed) or the local breed. Billie goats are £65 or £25 respectively, nannies £65 or £15. Ssagala David (Manager of Bega kwa Bega) attempts to have 3-4 families in one village involved in a goat project. Each family will have 2 nanny goats and there is one billy goat for the village. The quickest and best results come from buying cross-breeds, but this is expensive and such goats need more care and attention. The more usual solution is a cross-bred billy goat and 2 local nanny goats.

ORPHANS and SCHOOLS: School fees are paid for 40 orphans in 8 schools. Most are in nursery school, though three are pupils in secondary education, two preparing for their advanced level final exam. £50 a year is budgeted for a child attending nursery school. Two deaf children are in a special (boarding) school near Masaka.

When up in the North West we lived in a hotel, the first I had ever stayed in. We walked through large doors into a large lounge, up marble staircases into large rooms with double beds and 'en suite' bathrooms. No water or electricity. It was up here that we visited a school built with money collected by two parishes in Scotland. Children whose parents could not afford school fees would carry large bricks up to the site (on their heads), which gave them the feeling 'this is my school'. The same went for the Church. Two people had no money so each gave a tree used for the doors and rafters. People have so little but what they have they share. They gave us a large stalk of bananas and a live cock! When the priest in charge of this Parish had been in Scotland he had seen Celtic play. After each goal he had expected to see a replay in slow motion as on the Television!'

Martina adds: 'There were 57 new students in all. Some were young orphans and some drop-outs from school. The going was hard and the lack of understanding different languages a problem, but, success in the end. We stayed at one time in a house which was badly damaged during the war 16 years ago, and in which Musevini lived during the fighting. It was only re-roofed last year. There still remains many signs of the ravages of war, physically and psychologically. Angelina spent a short time with the group which started 4 years ago. We again met the couple who have become 'experts', not only in looking after the machines but in teaching others. They are both very ill, just skin and bone. No wonder AIDS here is called the 'slim disease'. We felt gladdened that over their last years they have been well occupied, not just sitting at home waiting to die.'

In the Autumn, a Knitting Fair was organised in Kampala. Ssagala David e-mailed: *Many people attended and were amazed by the products produced by the ladies. The King (Kabaka) and Queen of Buganda attended. The ladies offered a sweater to the Queen and she was very grateful.'*

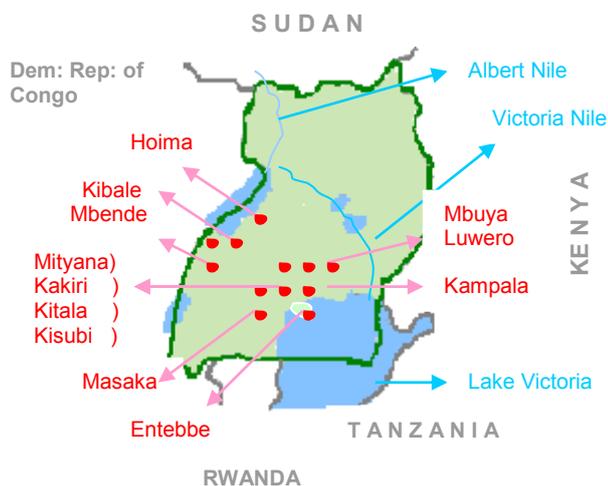
THE CLINIC and FUND RAISING. For some months last year, the clinic was forced to close through lack of funds, but thanks to efforts of energetic people in High Wycombe, it is now functioning again. The clinic is a van, driven by Ssagala David. There is a volunteer nurse and sometimes a volunteer doctor. They drive to a different village each week and have up to 120 patients. It is a long day as they start early and drive long distances.

Both Wishaw and High Wycombe continue to raise money for Bega kwa Bega. It is only through their efforts that the charity is able to carry on. And, again thanks to High Wycombe:

Bega kwa Bega is now a

REGISTERED CHARITY

The Advance of the Knitting Machines



Two weeks before Angelina and Martina arrived in Entebbe, Ssagala David had collected 2,000 kilos of machines and wool, sent courtesy of the shipper, Phil McMahon, and British Airways. A journey of 1,000+ miles was planned, beginning at Masaka School for People with Disabilities. Angelina: *'The degree of handicap was more severe than last year, but by the end of the week, sweaters, hats and scarves had been produced. Mr Otto, their teacher, had already taught them the basics on machines which should have been given to*

leaving students. This was later sorted out: a centre would be set up where former students could meet and work. The second week was spent in Mbuya giving 'advanced' classes to students already taught by Jane Kiduzi, a pupil of 2002. Jane had



secured a contract for sweaters with a local school and later had met, quite by chance, with Nolla, one of last year's students at the school for those with physical disabilities. Nolla is now working for her. Amazing!