



Christmas Basket

Orphans with their Grandmother.
Their home



In January Ssagala David wrote in an e-mail:

'There has been a serious shortage of water in Uganda as a result of a long dry season and many of the springs have dried up. Our boreholes are now saving lives wherever they are located. For example there was an article in "The New Vision" (Uganda's leading daily newspaper) about the residents of Kitale and the neighbouring villages who are experiencing a serious shortage of water. Their only source of water is one borehole which serves more than four villages. This is one of our first boreholes.'

Boreholes and Drought

The borehole recently drilled at Masimbi village is in good working order and is very busy serving the inhabitants of Masimbi and those from the neighbouring villages. This area suffered most during the liberation war which brought in the current government. There are two clinics nearby and a small primary school. The elders of the village look forward to a healthier future free from diseases and the daily burden of spending hours collecting water from contaminated sources.

The precious time saved is spent in improving household incomes and in spending more time with families. There is also a new borehole at Kikandwa serving both the local people and a primary school.'

These boreholes were donated by the Motherwell and Wishaw Rotary Club and cost between £4,000 - £5,000.

Angelina Campbell once again travelled to Uganda to keep an eye on her knitting machine students. She was accompanied by Sr Martina Boylan. The purpose of her visit was threefold:

To increase the numbers proficient in using the machine (5 new groups followed the 5 day courses), to raise the standards of 2nd year students and to facilitate a residential workshop for the most skilled. 9 women took part in this weekend and decided to repeat the experience with or without their tutor.

Highlights of a nine week visit

The reward for the tutor was to learn how some of the women had started 'Knitting Schools', Women's Groups or Teaching Workshops in their own villages or trading centres. Both Angelina and Martina returned home exhausted. There were groups which arrived at 6.30 in the morning and did not leave until some 12 hours later.

Martina writes: 'One day David took us out with the mobile clinic. He parked the pickup truck in the village by the side of the 'road'. Three nurses set up a table, a couple of benches and a weighing scale which was hung from the branches of a shady jackfruit tree. In minutes the patients began arriving; old men and women, some barely able to walk, younger women and grandmothers carrying babies and toddlers, older children following on. Around 140 were treated that day.'

The day after their return, Martina and Angelina heard that the leader of the opposition party had been arrested. There were demonstrations in the capital with cars being burned and shops being broken into. Kampala became a ghost town. Shops closed, residents stayed at home and the town was flooded with the military.

