

Anna Parmiter in Uganda – Part II

The teachers of English in the top classes at St Jude's and Lake View Primary work hard and are very keen to improve. I know them both quite well and was therefore able to make suggestions in a relaxed way, knowing that they would be receptive. The three schools try to put up good charts on the wall but are often defeated by the surface of the bricks and the dust. St Jude's, in most classrooms, has lined their walls with cardboard boxes which was a wonderful solution to the problem.

My chief worries about the primary system in Uganda is that there is far too much repetition of what the teacher has put on the board and not enough individual questioning to make the pupils think and find out if they have understood. I did a lot of this in my own lessons to give them examples. Also the teachers are too severe, not enough smiling and individual praise, although the class claps a good answer.

The Knitting Project

I have had the great blessing of being able to work with Bega kwa Bega for the last ten years. Our part in the organisation is the Knitting Project. I travel round the villages showing the basic workings of the knitting machine to enable the women and girls to make school sweaters. These knitting machines are donated to us from all over the UK. Even though Uganda is a very warm country, the children still need a sweater as part of their school uniform. As long as their sweaters are perfect, both inside and out (there is great competition from other knitters) the opportunities are endless. So we insist on perfection. Each machine is for 2 or 3 ladies who work in groups. We go back each year to make sure the machines are well maintained and used.

The project has grown enormously as has the women's ability to use the machines. They are more expert than I am and now show me different ways to use the machines even though I have been knitting for over 45 years! Without a pattern they have knitted socks, baby booties and clothes, fashion sweaters and ladies suits!

I used to worry the project would not take off. Perhaps we would be giving the women too many problems to overcome, such as obtaining the wool, finding contracts and still being able to make a profit.

However, the last 2 years has seen the work flourish and make a difference in the women's lives. There are over 200 machines in the country serving 13 groups in 6 districts and the project has gone international to Rwanda. The Pupils are now The Teachers. The Teachers' Pupils are now Teachers! The ladies, and a few men, are getting contracts for 300-400

Workaid container

Early in 2011 a container from WorkAid arrived in Kampala, with a good supply of agricultural tools and 13 hand sewing machines. The tools went to the organic demonstration farm. Three of the sewing machines were kept at the farm for future teaching. Camilla went out in March to demonstrate the use of the machines.

The teachers have a real problem in lack of text books. Not only are books for the children non-existent but they don't always have the necessary books themselves. Money for this would be a great help as all the books are easily available at Aristoc Bookshops in Kampala.

In spite of the President having said that beating is now against the law I found this was going on in all three schools. I pointed out that this was illegal and got tepid acknowledgement from the heads of Lake View and St Jude's. However the head of Aston said of course he beat the children as it was part of Ugandan culture!

I also had time in my last week to visit the boy I have sponsored for twelve years. He is at Maperra School and is doing his A Levels in November. He would like to study Environmental Studies at Mbarara University. We shall have to see.

school sweaters as well as undertaking private orders.

In July this year I heard two testimonies. One lady told us how her life has been enriched. Her children's school fees paid, her food bought and her medicines paid for. She has built a pit latrine and was in the process of putting a tin roof on her house. Another lady told the same story, but she had bought piglets as well, a secondary income generated from the knitting project.

Over the years my life has been enriched by the many hardships I have seen which have been overcome thanks to Bega kwa Bega. I hope to continue this work for years to come.

Angelina Campbell
& my great companion, Sr Martina.
Wishaw Scotland



One group met at the farm where we used the teaching room. The women worked in pairs and took the machines away with them, after being encouraged to share them with other women.

The second group met up in Kakiri, Wakiso District. All the items had been packed with children's clothes which were given out by Conche at the mobile clinic's visit to the villages.



UGANDA ORPHANS
BEGA kwa BEGA
Shoulder to Shoulder

Issue 2

Spring 2013

Welcome to our second newsletter. You can see here The Friendship Spring, funded by Bega kwa Bega. It is located in Kyambizzi Village, Kavule Parish, Kiringa Ente Sub-County, Mpigi District. Over 50 families will collect water from this newly finished Well.

The most obvious ways that most of our readers are involved with BkB fund-raising will be the events we run during the year, such as quiz nights, suppers, and the sponsorships of individual orphans to provide for their education. We are extremely grateful to everyone for the continuing support of both of these types of activities.

Allied to this are individual sponsored activities such as the parachute jumps by Sarah Preston and her mother Elizabeth Day during 2012.

Two extremely important additional sources of funds are individual donations and company donations; and in some cases, individuals have made donations that have been matched by the companies they work for, doubling the contribution! Donations have grown to become one of our major sources of funds.

For donations and sponsorships there is additional income possible through Gift Aid, which allows us to reclaim basic rate tax and thereby increase the net funds.

In recent times, we have seen the emergence of the Internet as a way of generating funds, through sites such as www.JustGiving.com, which fit in with the increasing use of the web.

Finally we are pleased to welcome a small fund raising team (OFS: Order of St. Francis Secular) in Flint, North Wales who have sent £200 raised through donations and the proceeds from a charity flower stall.

Please visit our web site www.BegaKwaBegaUgandaOrphans.org where you will be able to see in more detail the work being carried out by this charity. Please also see the web site for our sister organisation in the US, <http://bambiugandaorphans.org/>

Forthcoming events

Coming up on 13th April a family Ceilidh will be taking place at the Memorial Hall in Wendover which is always good fun so we hope to see you all there!

Also please look out for the Annual Supper on 10th May at 7:30pm at the Christian Centre in Wendover.

The annual Supper and Auction will be taking place at OLG in June.

And the annual Quiz Night at OLG will be in November.

Bringing you up to date

On 26th March 2012 we had our Annual General Meeting where elections of officers took place. Clare Bysouth was elected Chair, other posts were filled by Dave Russell (Vice-Chair), Marguerite Spain (Secretary), Mike Spain (Treasurer), Kevin Duffy (Publicity Officer) Louise Mazzullo (Fund-raising coordinator), Camilla Broadbent (UK Coordinator) and Cathy Mulcahy (Gift Aid Coordinator)

In the year 2011-2012 a total of £40,494 was sent to Uganda.

Recently BKB approached the Charity Commission to request a change to our charity's object which reflects how BKB has managed to extend the range of support to Uganda. The suggested wording is as follows:

"The prevention or relief of poverty in Uganda by providing or assisting orphans and their communities in the provision of education, training, healthcare projects and all the necessary support designed to enable individuals to generate sustainable income and be self-sufficient."

News from St John of Beverley

Sarah's Challenge parachute jump in July raised £404.14, and Betty Day's parachute jump, also in July, raised £905.45

The annual Advent Appeal in December raised £1,150.00.

Want to help?

If you would like more information or would like to help, please contact Clare Bysouth on 01296 696776 or email clare.bysouth@gmail.com Thank you.

A Fairy Tale

Once upon a time, in deepest darkest Africa (Southern Uganda) there lived a husband and wife who were among the first Ugandans to be trained as Primary School teachers. They named their fourth child Conche. She, with her ten brothers and sisters, lived an idyllic life in their small village of Kisubi, playing together in great freedom with their many friends and being looked after by all the grown-ups around.

After many adventures in adulthood Conche arrived in the USA and from there, when her children were older, she returned to her country from time to time and taught the village women how to put together a business plan and run a small business. These women became less dependent on their husbands and were able to send their children to school and provide other small necessities.

Then AIDS struck. On one of her visits her mother said to Conche: 'You have to organise something'. She knew the growing number of orphans needed to stay in their homes among familiar people. She knew that if they left their land they would have no means of keeping themselves when they were older. She knew all the needs of these orphans must be provided for if they were to thrive.

After much thought and discussion she conceived a plan which later became Bega kwa Bega. She had raised money in the US and in 1999 invited volunteers from the UK and the US to help provide clean water tanks for families of orphans, work with the children, and teach the women some skills. This was in her home village of Kisubi.

While working in this village, a delegation came from a neighbouring village to ask if we could help them. At first Conche said no. After several representations Conche relented. We found the entire village had turned out to meet us. This was the first intimation for the volunteers of how badly help was needed.

News from Wendover

The Annual Supper was held on 11th May at the Christian Centre; all enjoyed a wonderful meal, raising £965.

Wendover Celebrates on 4th June, a community event attend by over three thousand people where BKB had a stall with lucky dip - gave us an opportunity to share information about the work of BKB

Bucks Theatre in the Villages on 5th October raised £526, this will be an annual event.

On 24th November BKB had a stall selling cakes, jams, chutneys etc., held on the Manor Waste in Wendover, this raised £70.

On 1st December the Christmas Fayre in Great Missenden; BKB received £1,350, a quarter of the total funds raised.

On 15th December a Tudor Concert took place at St Anne's Church - local musicians Andrew Challinger & Veronica Thomas brought a festive flavour and £259 in aid of BKB

The aftermath of Idi Amin's reign of terror and the civil war had devastated whole swathes of the land and its peoples, and now there was AIDS. Over the years requests for help have poured in from dozens of villages. Wakiso district was chosen as the main focus of the work as it had been so adversely affected over the previous years. During that first visit, a Manager was appointed, David Ssagala, who together with Conche, has worked tirelessly ever since and built up Bega kwa Bega in Uganda to what it is today.

This has been made possible by those in the UK and the US who support BKB with the funds needed to carry out the work. The thrust for the future is towards BKB becoming financially self-sufficient. A large private, revenue-generating primary school will produce enough income to pay for much of BKB's work. This will be a centre of excellence where teachers can receive training and orphans and other children will receive an excellent education. This is happening now in Conche's small Nursery School, which is in its fifth year and is seen by the Ministry of Education as a model for their plans for improving the quality of education in the country.

Camilla Broadbent, UK Coordinator BKB

Help to make this possible by spreading the word and raising funds so the work continues while we prepare for BKB to be supported by the Ugandans themselves

Ugandan Registration No 2869
UK Registered Charity No 1100378

News from OLG

The annual quiz night on 2nd November at OLG was a great success, attended by over 100 people and raising £1,122.



Grandmothers in Africa

Grand mothers are considered by African tradition the guardians of the generations. While the black family has undergone dramatic changes in the past few decades, the one thing that has remained constant has been the role of grandmothers to enrich lives, generation after generation. They remain an important source of knowledge and stability.

Grandmothers help the younger generation to understand the past and encourage hope for the future. They preserve and strengthen the values held most dear, compassion and generosity, responsibility and tradition.

African grandmothers are central to the life of their communities. With almost no support, they have stepped forward to care for millions of children orphaned by AIDS, sometimes as many as ten to fifteen in one household. They display astonishing reserves of love, courage and emotional resilience, even while grieving the loss of their own adult children.

When in Uganda I have witnessed all this.

Sabaly, 68, provides daily childcare for four grandchildren, assists her farmer husband, advises seven children and their spouses, and works in the garden and fields. "In my village," she says, "Elders always occupy the foremost position. They are consulted about the most important things in life."

How are Orphans chosen for Sponsorship

A Village Leader will approach David Ssagala our Manager, with a child too poor to pay for Nursery Education. Most villagers will have no money – they live off their bit of land. David will then visit the child and if we have the money that child is taken on BKB's list of sponsored children. The list is managed by Gladys Nattabi, BKB's Administrator, now confirmed in her post after a six month probationary period.

At this time there are 159 children on this list; 66 of these are paid for by sponsors from the UK. The others are paid for from donations which are given with no particular project in view.

Nursery education costs have risen in recent years, to about £80 per year per orphan; this pays for the nursery class teachers' salary, and in some schools it might cover the uniform and a pencil and some paper.

Primary and secondary schools are 'free' – the government pays for class teachers' salaries. However to attend these schools when they reach the appropriate age, the children must have a uniform (it

My own mother was widowed very young and although she was left with seven young children she fostered 54 babies, sometimes three babies at 6 weeks old at the same time! I hope the values and gifts my mum gave me will be instilled in my children and grandchildren. My sister has bought me a book called "A GRANDPARENT'S BOOK, OUR STORY, OUR LIFE." I have only just started filling it in. I have found out so much about my own grandmother's strength and hardships by asking my aunts for their recollections. Sometimes the tears run down my face

Angelina Campbell, Wilshaw, Scotland,



is not unusual to see children in a smart uniform but no shoes as these are not on the uniform list); plus paper for writing, drawing and making things; and pencils, pens, and toilet paper; plus money for lunch and occasional outings...

In addition, Secondary schools are often some distance from a child's village, so travelling and sometimes boarding is involved.

This is why sponsorship money is still urgently needed when the children leave Nursery school.

Camilla Broadbent, UK Coordinator BKB