

MANAGER: SSAGALA DAVID PO Box 5731 Kampala Uganda  
(00256) 41 321 286 [begakwabega@hotmail.com](mailto:begakwabega@hotmail.com)  
Coordinator: Camilla Broadbent 41 Goldhawk Rd London W12 8QP  
(for UK) 0208 743 0655 [ccbroadbent@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ccbroadbent@tiscali.co.uk)

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## NEWS OF NURSERY SCHOOLS

Babirye Petronilla (who spent 2 weeks in England learning further teaching skills) writes:

*"This year I have got again 119 children in the school. But this term is not good to me. Most of the parents have delayed to pay the school fees on time. I have 30 orphans and others have gone in primary section nearby. I have bought 2 doors and 2 windows for the new building. I am not in dust now.*



**THE NEW CLASSROOM**

*I had a problem with the latrine but Ssagala David assisted me. I am now preparing to make a new one. We are on good standard in our school. I have good teachers who know how to handle children. I need one teacher more but it has been difficult to get a fourth teacher according to the payment of school fees.*

**PETRONILLA IN HER NEW CLASSROOM**



*sub-parishes and giving seminars to the women. I am over loaded now, but the women love my work."*

*Now I am doing the work of the chair person at the parish level, visiting*

Susan Muanga's news: (Susan also spent 2 weeks In England)

*"Please allow me to register my appreciation for the continuous assistance you and all members of Bega kwa Bega give St Michael Nursery School, and the dumb girl. She is lovely and has acquired skills of sign language. Her parents are very grateful.*

*On a sad note, my school was partially demolished during a heavy windy rain on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2002, at night. The wooden structure is now in a very bad and weak state which is not advisable to accommodate children. The roof was blown off, poles uprooted because they were eaten by termites, and some iron sheets damaged.*

*Today we are temporarily using a church shelter nearby for conducting our classes. The population had grown up to 100 children, but parents are not paying school fees due to poverty."*

**SUSAN'S WOODEN BUILDING**



(High Wycombe sent Susan £500 to rebuild her school)

*"I have just finished taking my Grade 111 Teacher's Examination. It is not easy to study for such a difficult course at this old age!*

*I was recently elected Chairperson for the Catholic Women's Guild for a period of 5 years. I am Chairing Kampala Archdiocese which has 7 deaneries and 40 parishes. The work is not easy. I have to plan for the members, monitor the deaneries and report to*

**ONE TON OF KNITTING MACHINES + wool, 3 sewing machines, an overlocker and an organ.**



Angelina and Martina, both from Wishaw, Scotland, had planned to go to Uganda in March for six weeks to give Lesson Two to the women already familiar with knitting machines, and to teach new students using the 61 machines collected over the last year. Getting the machines packed, weighed and labelled (by Phil McMahon) took far longer than anticipated with the result that the departure date was continually being postponed. They finally left in June having made sure (as they thought) that all 79 pieces had been flown out, free of charge, by British Airways. It turned out that the consignment did not leave this country until a week later than arranged. This part of the proceedings was, unbelievably, the easy bit. Fortunately 8 machines had gone by another carrier, and two were taken as luggage. The 8 machines arrived a week late and were released only after visiting 15 different desks in the airport to obtain 15 stamps at a cost of £50. In preparation for the arrival of the large consignment, Martina spent days going from one Government department to another in both Kampala and Entebbe, 27 miles apart, obtaining papers and signatures. This, as it turned out, was worth the effort. The cargo arrived just 8 hours before their departure for the UK. It normally takes 4 to 6 days to clear customs. Martina : “Even with papers signed by the Permanent Secretary and at least 5 other VIPs, I wondered if we would make the deadline of 5pm. The last 20 minutes standing outside the enclosure gates anxiously keeping an eye on our watches, was agony. Against all odds, at 5.03pm, the 79<sup>th</sup> box passed through the barrier. It was dark when we arrived at Bugulobi (Conce’s Peace Corps garage), with our precious cargo, to start unpacking, sorting, labelling and

Despite these set backs, the teaching went ahead. Angelina worked from 8.30 in the morning until 7.30 in the evening, day after day. She writes: “We visited the two villages where we were teaching last year, Kitala and Kakiri, where the women were pleased to learn how to work with two or more colours.



*Jumpers like this are usually imported and these were the first to be made in Uganda. One of the women was so excited she proclaimed: ‘This is what we call development’. We had workshops in other centres: Mityana, Bwanda and Hoima Roughly 17 villages took part. Over 100 women learned the basics and are looking forward to Lesson Two when we return next year.*



**THE WISHAW WELL**

*Money is being donated and put aside for a well near Kakiri: a bore hole far out in the bush that will service a Clinic 30 miles from a hospital.*

**COLLECTING WATER FROM A STAGNANT POOL**

Martina: “I saw 2 stagnant water holes, the only water for many miles, hopefully to become our next project: Protected Springs.





## JOSEPHINE GARYO'S HOME

Martina writes:

*"On our arrival in Uganda, we stayed first in Kitala village with Josephine (Concepta's sister) and her family. It was an eye opener to see how hard she works. Besides her own family, she looks after a sick great aunt (her mother's sister aged 80+), a man who helps out, a nursery school teacher, and a small muslim boy, Yigi, 7 years old, who has been staying with her for 3 months with no payment. He was badly abused in his own home and looks no older than 4. He calls Josephine 'Big Mama'. Over these holidays she also has 4 of her nursery school children who are 'behind with their studies' - and all this in four small rooms."*

*At Hoima we stayed in the Bishop's house. We had been invited to Bwanda, near Masaka, by Veneranda and Salazia, (Old Girls from Nabbingo Secondary School). They had organised the workshop, which was very well attended. 'Students' included widows and older orphans responsible for their siblings.*

*Our journey back to Kakiri for the last week was a contrast to our other travelling experiences. The 'taxi' registered for 14 passengers had 26, plus 2 live chickens which were under my feet.*

*All went well until we suddenly stopped just passed Natate. The 'extra' 12 people were ordered out. The taxi then did a u-turn, and we hurtled back to Natate. Suddenly, the driver shot across the on-coming traffic, drove up a narrow, deeply rutted path, which led to a main road. By then, whoever had been following, had given up the chase. It was like one of those scenes in a wild west film, but without the shooting!*

## THE MOBILE CLINIC

Ssagala, David, Manager of Bega kwa Bega, visits the six parishes around Kakiri in turn week by week. There are 150 patients and one volunteer nurse, BkB providing the transport and medicines (bought from a chemist in Kampala) free. It is hoped that a volunteer Doctor will make himself available soon. The cost of this service is some £50-£60 a week.



**CONCHE (who started Bega kwa Bega) PICKING MUSHROOMS IN THE GROUNDS OF THE PEACE CORPS BUILDING IN KAMPALA.**

Conche (Deputy-Director of Peace Corps in Uganda) has 20 American Peace Corps Volunteers, stationed in relatively remote areas. They spend their first three months living with a family, learning the local language and customs. They are ready then to set up a Teachers' Centre to provide training and teaching materials to local primary schools. As if this were not demanding enough, 37

Health workers have recently arrived. She is hoping for a second Deputy-Director to take over some of this work.

Martina and Angelina spent a night at Conche's house. The American demand for security is demonstrated, not only by the presence, day and night, of an armed guard who is regularly checked on by his superiors, but also by double padlocked gates **inside** the house, fitted at the entrance to that part of the house where she herself works and sleeps.

