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Alternative Christmas Gifts Delivered



Thanks to all of you that bought alternative Christmas presents in 2007.

Your contributions were all taken by Chris and Andy to Uganda when they visited in January/February and converted into the various gifts. Shopping in Kampala is not like anything that can be experienced in the UK. Andy would describe it as “all part of life’s rich tapestry” and “character building”.



Africa Greater Life Mission UK

Newsletter

Spring 2008



Pastor Joshua and some of the children unpack a purchase of shoes

Alternative Gifts Unlimited



We have decided that we could provide “alternative” gifts for all occasions - birthdays, wedding anniversaries (valentines??) Our talented card maker, Tully Stott, will be developing a range of attractive greeting cards. Contact us for details.

One of the most popular gifts this year was mosquito nets and very welcome they were too! Take a look at one of the old nets that was in use a few weeks ago.



...and one of the new ones – on a triple-decker bunk bed.

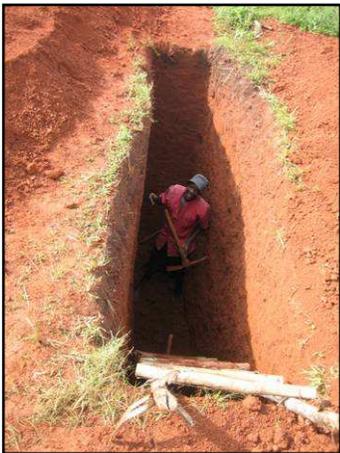


New Toilets for the Village

The main development put in train during AGLMUK's 2008 trip to the Children's village at Bulabakulu was the construction of new toilets.

Up until the new toilets are completed there are only three cubicles for around 120 people (240 when the school is in use). They are pretty smelly too.

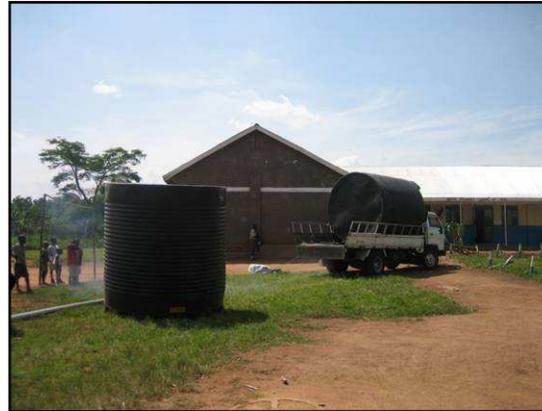
Two blocks of 5 toilets similar to those shown below were ordered whilst we were there.



A start was made on the digging of the pits whilst we were still in Uganda. The toilets were in kit form.



Unlike the old toilets, the new ones will utilise urine diversion technology. The urine is piped away and stored for use as a fertiliser. The solids fall into the pit and dry out – less smell and fewer flies.



Water Storage & Guttering

As part of the same contract with, local firm, Crestanks the school will be getting guttering for the first time. The roof water will be collected and stored in two new 10,000 litre tanks. Water will be used for washing floors, watering plants etc.

When the heavy rains pours off the roof it washes away soil and makes gulleys. More gutters are needed for the other buildings.

Lots of New Buildings over last 12 months

Lots of new buildings have gone up at Bulabakulu over the last year. Most of them are houses but there is also a very nice kitchen and dining room funded via the Ugandan Child Development Fund. This will be of great benefit with the new kitchens meaning that wood will be burnt more efficiently than the current open fires.



The other new buildings are often un-finished but this will, hopefully, be rectified over the coming months. One was built by a team of Swedish volunteers, others funded from Austria and yet others from the USA. It is hard to remember how little there was at Bulabakulu just 2 years ago – but there is still much to do!

Feeding the Village



Feeding everyone at Bulabakulu has always been a problem and for many years the diet was poshu and beans twice a day for 360+ days per year. Over the last year and more the Ugandan Child Development Fund has been funding a much better food programme but this cannot be maintained forever. UCDF is looking to buy for the village as much land as can be afforded so that villagers can start to grow their own food. Whilst we were in Uganda we visited a Ugandan NGO that specialises in community development and has excellent training facilities around 10 miles away. Our hope is that we can get appropriate older boys trained in sustainable Agriculture.

Sustainable Fuel

Another issue for the long-term security of the village is fuel for cooking. It pretty much has to be wood but all of the available material on-site was used up long ago. Joshua has planted some eucalyptus but these are not going to provide the solution. AGLMUK is likely to take on the project of trying to buy land that can be managed to provide a sustainable source of fuel, whilst also protecting some of the native flora. We are seeking funding so look out for alternative present options – 10 sq m of woodland.



At present there is little choice but to buy wood by the lorry load with every likelihood that it has come from a completely unsustainable source.



Brian

Brian (the guy on the right) is one of the older boys at the village. He is pictured here with his friend from another village. They have, between them, started producing beautiful Batiks – we have some for sale and can get more! Brian is also Mr Fixit at the village. He fixes the bikes, solar system etc. He is in the sixth form and we don't have a sponsor for him – hint, hint!

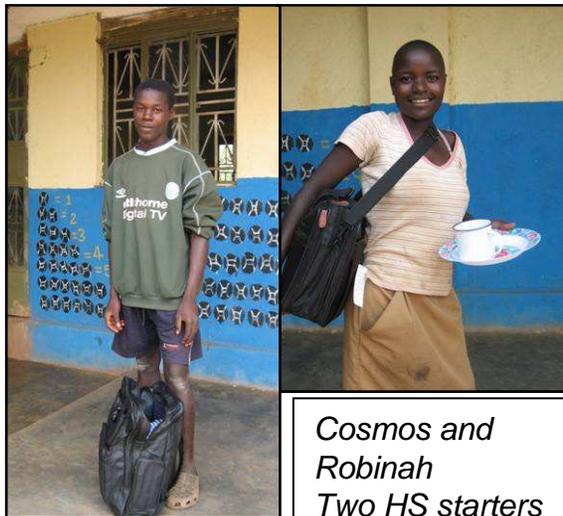
Beads

Brian's mum and others from the village make fantastic Beads, necklaces & bracelets. We've got lots of them for sale too.



2008 High School Starters

The reason we visit the school/village when we do (end of January) is that it is the end of the long school holidays and the start of a new academic year. Exam results come out and students move classes or schools (or not as the case may be). This year saw 9 graduating from the Primary School and looking to move on to High School. Thanks to some lovely people all 9 have been registered at St. John's HS, Wakiso although we have done so in faith that we can find more sponsors. If you would like to sponsor a student through High School we would love to hear from you.



*Cosmos and
Robinah
Two HS starters*

Or may be your heart is with the young people that struggle at school. May be you could sponsor them on a vocational course?



*Ready for a life-
changing experience?*



2009 Trip

Chris and Andy are planning to visit the project again during the last week of January and the first week of February 2009. If you think that you might be interested in going with them please ask for the briefing sheet. The cost is likely to be around £1,000 all in. We are giving plenty of notice to give you time to save up and make your arrangements but we will want to book flights at the end of October.

AGLMUK Online

There is a website up and running for AGLMUK where we can make available latest news, information and photo's about the work of the Charity. It's also possible to donate online.

At the moment the web address is:

<http://aglmuk.freecharity.org.uk> (NB no "www")

however soon we hope to register a simpler address, which will be: www.aglmuk.org If anybody would like to be involved with keeping the website up to date and learn how to work with it please get in touch with Mark Brown on mark-brown@supanet.com

Priorities for 2008

It is easy to get over-whelmed by the lack of what we would consider to be absolutely basic facilities – like beds! Not all of the children have beds. Some are even sharing mattresses. We bought 3 triple decker beds before we left Uganda this year but we need many more.

The other key priorities are:-
Ensuring everyone is fed
Medicines and healthcare
Paying teacher/staff salaries
Buying woodland



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