

SPRING

2018



REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1115766

AFRICA GREATER
LIFE MISSION UK

Change Continues

In the equivalent newsletter last year we reported that Bulabakulu Village was being transformed into a boarding school campus - and that this was probably the only way of implementing a successful transition to self-sustainability.

This change has accelerated over the past 12 months and is particularly obvious with the start of the new academic (calendar) year. Joseline, who had been headteacher for the whole of the 15 years of Chris and Andy's involvement was on maternity leave (see story on page 2).

This left us not knowing any of the staff at the school - such was the change at the end of last term! The widows have moved out, the matrons have changed and there was even a new school nurse - although it was arranged for Harriet to also work in a week-day, day-time role.

Medical Africa International (MAI), a new Ugandan charity had signed a Memorandum of

Understanding with the school that had seen further changes that included a new striving for increased numbers in each class.

None of us find change easy but lots of talking took place with the school leadership and MAI and, as a result, AGLMUK has started on a transition from direct support of the costs of the school to the payment of (full) fees for named individuals. It is seen as being a further sign that Wakiso Children's School of Hope is moving to a new model of financing itself that does not directly rely upon non-Ugandan support.



Changed Lives

The way in which AGLMUK supports AGLM (the Ugandan charity) may be changing but the fundamental objectives of AGLMUK still revolve around the changing of the life prospects of children and young men and women from impoverished backgrounds. We will do this by:

- Paying school fees and buying requirements for primary school children.
- Supporting young people in the post-primary years in the most appropriate way for them. This might involve secondary education but may also involve vocational training, apprenticeships and/or assistance in finding work or setting up in business.
- Paying directly towards food, medicines, maintenance and some salaries at Bulabakulu over the next few years.
- Making some contribution towards building improvements at Bulabakulu.
- Employing at least one person to mentor and look-out-for the youngsters in question.

We can't do any of this without your support and so we give a massive THANK YOU to all of you who contribute through individual sponsorship, regular donations or one-off gifts. A particular thanks goes to the person (whoever you are) who dropped an envelope containing a £1,000 through the Cefn Prysau letter-box.

A Visit to Jonathan's Village

During our recent visit to Uganda, the UK team visited the home of Jonathan. It was quite an exciting journey as the village concerned sits on a high plateau with an access via an un-surfaced road, the steepest section of which was very rocky and eroded. It is hardly surprising that there aren't too many visitors and that Jonathan is one of the few people living there that can speak English - let alone have a secondary school education. Part of the reason that Jonathan has shown such determination to reach A'level standard at school was that he has ambitions to be a local politician. A level's are a requirement for politicians in Uganda!



Above. Jonathan and his Grandma outside the house in which they live. Tim and Jess have sponsored Jonathan over a number of years.

Left: Jonathan proudly showing us the land on which he is growing various crops.

Joseline, Jude, Agape and Zoe

The love, care and education that has been available at Bulabakulu over the last 15 years or so has changed the lives of hundreds of children and young people. At the heart of the "village" and the life-blood of that compassion has been Joseline. When she married a few years ago, we were so relieved that her chosen husband, Jude, was the one-in-a-million sort of guy that we all knew that she deserved. Joseline gave birth to her third daughter, Zoe, in January and like Agape before her, the birth was not easy to say the least. Her first daughter died at a few days old. The fact is that we are very fortunate to have Joseline still with us. It is almost certainly true that without the



pre-arranged financial help from AGLMUK Joseline and Zoe would not have been in a hospital that could have saved their lives.

Jude is the pastor of a small fellowship known as "Praise Arena Church". Some of us were privileged enough to attend a Sunday meeting there and were truly blessed by Jude's preaching.



Jude (far right) and the rest of the band at Praise Arena

Graduation Party

The graduation party for Martha took place whilst we were in Uganda. It was a much less lavish affair than normal—graduation parties are “big” in Uganda. We arrived at the family home following a whole morning of torrential rain but the food (which is largely cooked outside) was nearly ready. We squeezed into the main room of the little house and were joined by a neighbour, Barry and his colleague Heartwell. We ate the delicious food and



listened to the very moving speeches from several people, including Martha herself and her mum Rosemary. We visited the neighbour's home on our way back to our guesthouse. The whole experience will last long in the memory of us all.



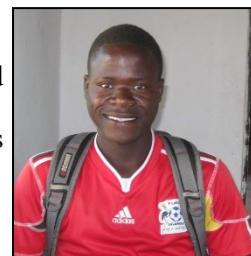
Shoes

Over 90 pairs of shoes were purchased whilst we were at Bulabakulu. This involved drawing around 90 pairs of feet, sending Heartwell into Kampala on at least three occasions and then seeing if there was a pair of shoes to fit everyone concerned.



Tools for Carpenter Anthony

Anthony has just finished an apprenticeship in carpentry and is wanting to set up his own business. Carpentry without tools is difficult and decent tools are expensive in Uganda. There are cheap tools available but their cheap cost is more than matched by their cheap quality. In short - they aren't worth having. When visiting someone in Entebbe just before returning to the airport, Tim and Jess saw several containers in the garden. It was explained that these belonged to a UK based Christian charity known as Tools with a Mission. One email later and we are told that a tool-kit beyond Anthony's wildest dreams has been added to a container and will be available for him to pick up in exchange for £10 in 3 month's time. Thank you Tools with a Mission.



Toby and Marathon Des Sables

You might recall that Toby Tattersall, a GP from Llandrindod was featured in a newsletter last year because he was about to run the London Marathon as an official representative of AGLMUK. He completed that challenge and is this year taking on the Marathon Des Sables. The web site of this challenge states “The MdS is a six day race. There is only one rest day. The distance is about 254 km – that's 156 miles! The longest stage is about 91 km – that's 55 miles! You may struggle to explain to people why you would want to do this!” A key piece of information missing from this text is that the race is in the Sahara Desert! Toby has decided that he is inviting people to sponsor him for this piece of lunacy - and AGLMUK is his chosen charity. Although Toby's wife, Gill has now visited Bulabakulu twice, he has not yet made it. Goodness only knows what he will do to raise money once he has been himself.

For the event web site: <https://marathondessables.co.uk/race-overview/>

For Toby's fundraising page: <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/TobyTattersall>

**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER
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Trustees
Chair: Becky Webb
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**From October to December 2017
AGLMUK raised £20.40 from just 4
shoppers who did their on-line
shopping via
www.giveasyoulive.com - and
specified Africa Greater Life
Mission UK as the recipient of the
money donated. It is easy and
obviously has great potential. You
still buy from the same people - just
via Give as You Live.**

Follow us on Facebook

AGLMUK has a facebook page! We produce 2 newsletters a year but hope to be able to post more frequent updates on Facebook. We think if you just search for AGLM UK on facebook you should find it.

The 2019 Trip

There will be a trip to Bulabakulu in February or March of 2019 and the trustees have put in place procedures to brief any people that might be interested in joining us. It is an important point to understand that neither AGLMUK nor the individual trustees are responsible for the health or well-being of anybody joining the trip.

If you might be interested in visiting Uganda with us please get in touch and we will send you the key documents for you to carefully consider. The deadline for expressions of interest is August 31st and the cost is likely to be around £1,200.

If more people ask to join the trip than would be practicable, the trustees have policies in place to resolve the situation.



Open Evening and Talks

We will be organising an open evening at Holy Trinity Church, Llandrindod on Monday 4th June at 7.30pm. If you live in the UK and would like one of us to come and give a talk to a group near you please do get in touch.

The 2018 Team



Left to Right:

- Jessie
- Derek
- Sarah
- Tim
- Chris
- Andy
- Gill

Update on the Karamajong “Street Children”



The front page news in this newsletter last year was that former street children had been settled at Wakiso Children's School of Hope.

Given the notoriously difficulty of getting such children off the streets and away from a life of

begging we were obviously very keen to get news of them at the start of a new school year.

We were disappointed, but not altogether surprised, to hear that a few of them had returned to their old life and not re-appeared at school for the new term.

On a positive note, however, we are able to report that many of the Karamajong children are still being educated at the school and, although Ambrose has left, there is another teacher that is taking over with the programme of music and dance.

We did see Ambrose on a few occasions as he still visits the school.