

SPRING

2013



REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1115766

AFRICA GREATER LIFE MISSION UK

I WANT TO GO TO SCHOOL

We would like to introduce you to Emma - short for Emmanuel. He was one of three "street-children" that were taken in by Kibuli Miracle Centre (the church founded and led by Joshua and Precious Magezi). They came in as a result of the regular feeding programme run by the church in their area of Kampala. The challenge involved in adapting to life "off the street" proved to be too much for the other two but Emma expressed a strong desire to go to school and make a new start. Joshua took him to Bulabakulu and he started at Wakiso Children's School of Hope just a few weeks ago.



We weren't at the village very long before Emma introduced himself! He might have come from a very tough situation and be small of stature - but his personality is huge. He is always on the move and might be a bit of a handful for the teachers but just can't fail to love his cheeky character. He is the kind of boy that you can see has lots of brain but you can't help but wonder whether he will use it properly! Will he be at Bulabakulu when we visit next year? We really hope so and would be devastated if he wasn't - but there are no guarantees in the precarious business of being a streetwise kid in Uganda.

I WANT TO GO TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

AGLMUK knew that this was going to be a tough year for decision-making. The trustees had come to the conclusion that the number of high school and university students to be supported by the charity had to be limited. This had been agreed with Joshua and Joseline (the Primary School headteacher) with the number at secondary school limited to 50 and one student at a time supported through university. Those numbers have now been reached with the consequence that a number of the 28 students that graduated from "Primary 7" were not able to be fully supported by AGLMUK and we now have a lengthening waiting list of potential university under-

graduates. The trustees are learning from experience and whilst those experiences are not always very comfortable, longer term objectives sometimes dictate shorter-term tough decisions. This is the first year when students have been told that they cannot go to secondary school and this has not been easy.



We should rejoice over the fact that 11 students were enrolled into Senior 1 and

that many other students are progressing through high school education. A massive THANK YOU is due to everyone who sponsors - we hope that you know how much it is appreciated. We believe that the removal of an expectation of automatic progression was not only

necessary, but ultimately for the best. We would love to send more to university but it is a very expensive business. Be assured that no-one will be abandoned because our over-riding objective is to see the young people equipped to live fulfilled independent lives.

THE BOYS' DORM. PROGRESSES

Progress has been slow on the boys' dormitory - not least because it is a very ambitious project. There have also been technical and builder competence issues but we are

pleased to say that the roof is now complete. The next stage is to finish the front part of the building so that it can be used. This will eventually be accommodation for the warden, store

rooms and an area for doing homework. In the short-term it will be used as dormitory rooms. Completing this project will be our capital spending priority.



The number of children at the village has now gone up to 250 so more accommodation is needed - as are more beds, mattresses, mosquito nets and, of course, food!

LIGHTING THE SCHOOL

When asked what their priority would be for the un-allocated money that the team took with them to Bulabakulu this year, Joseline and Joshua agreed that it would have to be putting lights back into the school. There is no

mains electricity in the village and there has been several attempts at lighting solutions in the past. There were 6 photovoltaic (solar) panels on the roof but none of them were still connected to a battery. With confirmation that all of the panels still

worked, we commissioned Kampala-based specialists to join them together, add an extra panel and provide a new battery and charge controller. This time, we put an inverter in the system so that we could also put in a couple of sockets from which to run computers.



YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN TO BE PROUD OF....



Harryson



Glory



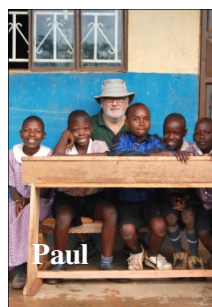
Stephen



Joshua

These are just some of the young men and women who are offering fantastic role models to the younger children at the village. Harryson should be off to university in the autumn but in the meantime is helping to keep bikes on the road. Glory has overcome real hardship and is about to finish her catering course. Stephen has used his income from fish-farming consultancy to set up a small shop. Joshua is awaiting his A level results and wants to go to university - he will volunteer as a teacher in the primary school.

SLIGHTLY OLDER MEN AND WOMEN TO BE PROUD OF.....



Paul



Tim

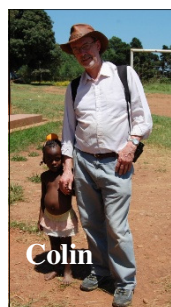


Janice



Louise

Jessie



Colin



Elisabeth

Michael

The pattern for our visit this year was slightly different in that the team did not all go at the same time—although there was a period of three days overlap. Chris and Andy, and Michael and Elisabeth, arrived a week before the new academic year began as this is a time when many key decisions are made. Chris and Elisabeth spent many hours with secondary school students whilst Michael and Andy set about the electrical wiring. The second part was six strong and all from Holy Trinity, Llandrindod. Janice and Louise provided invaluable assistance to Jessie as she checked out the health of the children she knew and saw a hundred and more that were new. Paul, reminded the village that he is handyman extraordinaire as he set about various tasks. Tim's big job was to film "A day in the Life of Bulabakulu" although the "equalities" session that he and Colin delivered for the primary school was also very enthusiastically received.



BRITISH AIRWAYS



Thanks to all of you that responded so well to the call for ladies under garments. To say that the bras were gratefully received is a significant under-statement! The

call for clothes etc, is pointless if we can't get them there - so thanks to BA for the tripling of our baggage allowance on our outbound flights (and sorry for messing with your logo).



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You can find ways of supporting and donating to AGLMUK - some that don't cost you a penny.



Chris & Andy had the massive privilege of meeting Archbishop Desmond Tutu when he visited Wales in the autumn. Here he is sharing a joke with Carwyn Jones - Wales' First Minister

There will be a group of us attempting to walk across Wales on the 1st and 2nd June 2013. The route will take us from Felindre on the English border to the north west of Knighton, over to Llananno and Bwlch-y-Sarnau before heading down past Gilfach and then over the hills to the Elan Valley. We would finish the cross Powys section by following the mountain road to the county boundary. The next day will see us heading on down in Cwmystwyth, following the river down to Pontrhydygroes and then Llanafan. We would use roads to get us to the

Ystwyth Trail just past Trawsgoed and then follow this cycle route down to the tidal river just short of Aberystwyth. The total distance is around 49 miles and so is quite a challenge. If you would like to join us on both or either section of the walk you would be very welcome. If you would prefer not to try to walk this far then you are, instead, allowed to choose to sponsor one or more of those that are doing so. You can go to the AGLMUK web site to find the link to the donation site or you

can promise real money through completing a good old-fashioned sponsor form.



Thanks

There are lots of people that have raised or given money for the children and young people of Bulabakulu so thank you all - whether you provide monthly donations, occasional gifts or organise events. There is a small group of supporters at Corsham that have been raising thousands of pounds every year to provide some of the money for food at the village - without them the very basic needs would not have been met. David and Deryn Gambles ran another week of sales in the community charity shop in Llandrindod - with help of local supporters. Attleborough High School and Infant School have raised loads of money towards the boys' dorm. The Spar shop in Llandrindod (known by locals as "J.O's") donated 6 months worth of the special Welsh plastic bag tax. This is just a few of the many Thanks, thanks,

The Team for 2014

We already know of some people that are interested in joining us next year. If we use the usual guest house we would be looking to take no more than could be accommodated in the 5 double bedrooms. The trustees have decided that the only fair way to decide upon the composition of the team is to invite all persons interested in going in late January/early February 2014 to register their interest with Chris and Andy by the end of August 2013. Please talk to us if you are interested. We have briefing notes that might help you.

WALKING ACROSS WALES IN A WEEKEND

Alternative Presents

Alternative presents are available all year round—not just for Christmas. How about purchasing a tin box (£10) or a bike (£50) for someone. Mozzie nets come in at £7 and can be a real life-saver. General unspecified gifts of any value are always welcome as are contributions towards some of the specific projects mentioned in this newsletter - and we are more than happy to provide cards for all occasions.

Container

Phillip Wells and friends from Bradford have decided to send a container to Bulabakulu. We are keen to collect really useful things that we are unlikely to get out to Uganda in any other way. If you have good strong gardening tools for instance then these would be very useful - particularly spades and shovels. Black shoes and football boots would be brilliant. Towels and sheets would be really useful too. A leaflet from Phillip is available so please ask us if you think that you can help.