



# Africa Greater Life Mission UK Newsletter

## Autumn 2021

## Latest News from Wakiso and Uganda



Covid-19, continues to impact very significantly on life in Uganda – particularly urban Uganda. Supplies of vaccines are at last starting to arrive but the delivery infrastructure is far less well developed than in the UK for instance. The emphasis at the moment appears to be getting teachers vaccinated with a view to re-opening schools properly in January. This will mean that a large number of children will have missed almost two years schooling. Most schools have been providing work packages which they also mark and some have used on-line teaching. Joseline and Barry have been working hard to facilitate access to this and extra tuition where possible for “our” students so that they are able to catch up better when they finally go back to school. Barry has also been working hard to assist those in further education – and those that were between courses. We are finally getting people onto new courses or making progress with starting businesses. Over all this time too, there has been the no-small matter of keeping people safe and fed. This continues to be a priority, as like in the UK, Covid-19 has not gone away.

Despite Covid restrictions and school and college closures, meaning their courses took a year longer than expected, all six Primary 7 students passed with Division 1 or 2, all three Senior 4 students passed their O' levels - Ivan and Sharifa with Division 1, Phionah passed her Senior 6 A levels, Emmanuel, Bennie, Sarah and Brendah all completed their courses! Well done everyone and a huge THANK YOU to all our supporters and the team in Uganda for enabling this to happen!

The Magnificent Six – The Primary 7 students who all passed with scores in the top two categories.



## Christmas Gifts and Food Distribution

As mentioned previously AGLMUK has been helping with very basic food supplies during the last year but would like, as last year, to provide a bit extra for Christmas. Also, we will not be visiting in 2022 so if you would like to send a financial gift to the people with whom you are linked, we can link it to Christmas as last year. Donations to either of these will be needed by the end of November in order that we can put in place the necessary transfers.

# A TIME FOR LEARNING NEW SKILLS?

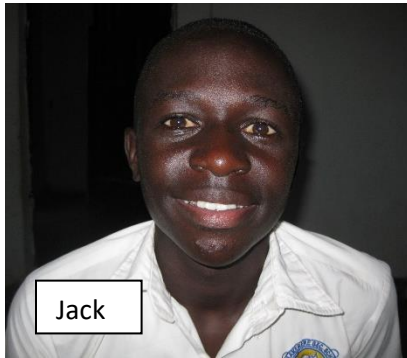
Here are a selection of some of the stories from lock-down – stories about keeping busy and helping where possible:

**Praise Annet** “In this period I have learnt some things like cooking different types of foods and I help my mother sell water from home”



Sam

**Sam** “I know how to make furniture and mechanics that I have been learning from my old friends and have been able to help support my family with food and bills.”



Jack

**Jack** “Here it is raining and I am trying to carry out some agricultural activities in the garden. Am growing onions and cabbage. Uncle Barry gave me some money and I

bought rabbits and am taking care of them because here in Uganda people like their meat – it is so delicious.”



Praise Annet



Praise

**Praise** “I have learnt to cook different foods and have been growing some food. Then after I go back to my books because I want to bring you good results.”

**Anisha** “In this lockdown I have learnt how to cook rice, matooke, cassava, irish (*potatoes*), spaghetti and everything. My mom has opened a restaurant called “Jehovah reigns restaurant and takeaway”. In the last lockdown God helped us start a house and it was raised up to the level toward finishing but since that time she has never managed to get money and it was destroyed by the strong rain”.



Anisha

# Emmanuel – What a Lovely Guy!



Emmanuel in 2021

The destructive nature of some of the comments and stories that are posted on the likes of Facebook have been hitting the news headlines recently. The negative impact upon the mental well-being of young people in particular has been highlighted. Well, it's not all negative and destructive but it takes a special kind of person to post the kind of material that lifts and encourages its readers. One such special person is Emmanuel who graduated from one of Uganda's best universities and is now a teacher. He is intelligent and hard-working but those are not the qualities that really sets him apart. Have a read of these posts and you'll see what we mean!



Emmanuel (right) in 2008

*"Once upon a memory someone wiped away my tears held me close and loved me, Thank you (AGLMUK SPONSOR FAMILY) for opening your arms, home and heart and then you showed me Love. I sincerely owe you my Life."*

*"My Goal is not to be Better than anyone else, but rather to be better than who I used to be."*

*"I'm Speechless about this. It is [#18th May 2021](#), a Year in which I have risen to another level in Life. I thank the Almighty God, Parents, [AGLM UK](#), Friends, Teachers, Guardians, and every Personnel who have mentored me in accomplishment of this academic journey".*

*Living in the favourable and unfavourable situation is called "PART OF LIFE", but smiling in all those situations is called "ART OF LIFE".*

.....and I hope that you will be encouraged that your support for AGLMUK has made it possible for this young man to realise at least part of his obvious huge potential.



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**Trustees:**

**Jessie Bergstrom - chair**

**Andy Bull – secretary**

**Chris Bull – treasurer**

**Gill Tattersall**

## A Massive Thank-You to Becky



After chairing her sixteenth Annual General Meeting of the AGLMUK, Becky Webb decided that her schedule had become just too packed to sensibly continue as a trustee. Something had to give and, combined with a move of house that left her with a much longer journey to meetings, it was entirely understandable that her role as trustee was at an end.

Becky was one of the three original trustees and without her AGLMUK could not have been registered with the Charity Commission. In those early years it was Becky that was the one with the most experience of working in East Africa and her knowledge and judgment was a key component of our successfully navigating that period.

The remaining trustees are extremely grateful to Becky for her years of service to AGLMUK. She is pictured here with Joshua Magezi on one of his visits to mid Wales – some years ago. They are accompanied by Becky's daughters, Lydia and Martha (now both at High School) who we also have to thank, along with husband, Cliff.

## London Marathon and Knighton Garden Party



Methodist church raised £760 at a garden party and so a huge thank-you goes to everyone involved.

Jonas Tattersall recently completed the London Marathon raising over £3,000 for AGLMUK. He was, almost literally, following in his Dad's footsteps as he (Toby) has run the London Marathon for AGLMUK in the past. Jonas really enjoyed the experience apparently. Sue Bywater from Knighton



## Still No Visiting but Isn't Zoom Wonderful?

Many of us will have discovered the wonders of Zoom, Microsoft Teams and Facebook Messenger and the way that they all allow us to communicate with each other – and even see each other's faces. Lock-down bumped us into using this technology as never before. Whilst so many things are so very different in Uganda, and some basic services are practically non-existent, the internet works pretty much the same on the streets of Wakiso as it does in Crossgates. The trustees weren't particularly quick to catch up with the possibility but we now have had a meeting with Joseline, Barry and Harriet over Zoom. The trustees were in their homes as were Joseline and Harriet, whilst Barry was (stationary) in his car. It was a great success and we have plans to repeat the exercise fairly regularly. We are wondering whether we could even do something, either recorded or live, for a wider audience – i.e. AGLMUK supporters. We'll keep you posted.

We don't yet know when we might visit in person again but it won't be 2022.