

SPRING

2014



## GREAT TO SEE YOU, EMMA

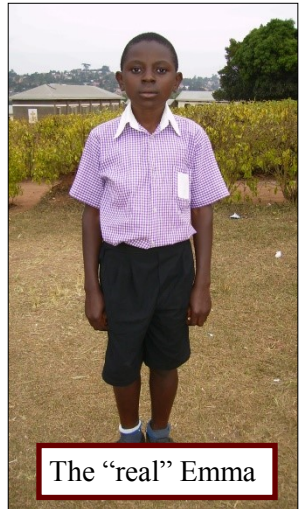
In the equivalent newsletter last year we told you about Emma - short for Emmanuel. He came to Bulabakulu after a life on the streets of Kampala. He came in as a result of the regular feeding programme run by the church. Emma expressed a strong desire to go to school and make a new start. Joshua took him to Bulabakulu and he started at Wakiso Children's School of Hope just over a year ago. We mistakenly showed you a photograph of another Emma (left) who we had thought was the ex-street kid. It turns out that the Emma we couldn't fail to meet does not have such a wretched

story. We did pose this question last year:-

"Will he be at Bulabakulu when we visit next year? ..... there are no guarantees in the precarious business of being a streetwise kid in Uganda." We might have got the wrong boy but the question was still valid.

Some of the team saw where Emma had come from when they joined Joshua as he and his volunteers fed street kids in the centre of Kampala. It was a sobering experience and highlighted further the miracle of Emma's rescue.

We are very pleased to report that both Emmas are still at the village and still at school. Emma's story is one of HOPE!



## BOYS' DORMITORY IS OCCUPIED

We've been working on it a long time and it is a much bigger project than we'd first anticipated - but the boys' dorm is near enough to completion to allow the first occupants to move in. There is still some significant finishing off to do but the main part of the building is not far from completion either. Most of the remaining jobs are on the exterior and are important works to protect the building from damage by the heavy rain that often falls in that part of the world. We also need to paint internally and externally - both for decoration and protection. Thanks go to many people and organisations that contributed to this project - with particular thanks on this occasion to Attleborough High and Attleborough Infants

Schools that provided money for the bunk beds and mattresses that were purchased whilst we were in Uganda.

We have a quotation to install a solar lighting system and we have some money from

the Wales Africa Community Links programme. Once we have the rest of the required funds, we can get on and give the instructions to the installer.



REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1115766

AFRICA GREATER  
LIFE MISSION UK

# Healthcare at Bulabakulu - AGLMUK's Impact



To give you some sort of idea of the impact that AGLMUK, and Jessie Bergstrom in particular, have on the health of the residents of Bulabakulu, we will give you a summary of activity undertaken directly, or instigated whilst we are there (for a little over two weeks). Over two hundred children and young people



were given a check-over with all results carefully recorded and filed (on paper and electronically). Over 20 were sent to the dentist, 4 visited the optician, 4 received treatment for ear infections, 3 had minor operations and 3 were referred for review by a doctor.

The pharmacy was visited and the

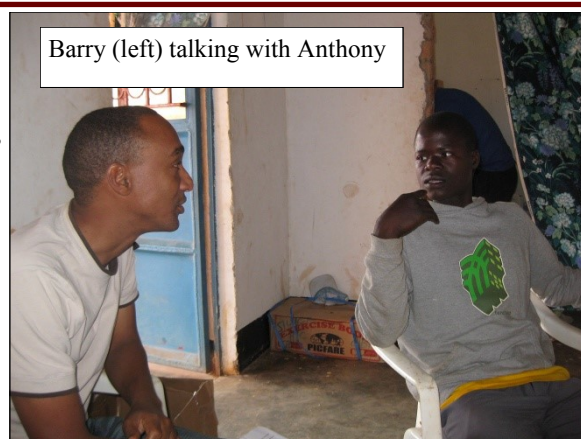
regular order of supplies that are delivered quarterly was discussed. Harriet (the nurse) and Jessie visited Banda Clinic (4 km away) where discussions took place about making best use for the whole community of the solar vaccine fridge at Bulabakulu. Throughout this activity Jessie works with, mentors and encourages Harriet and they both look to encourage several of the girls who have ambitions to become nurses, themselves.



## BARRY - Project Coordinator

Barry Atugonza is a brother to Joshua and Reagan and is employed part-time by AGLMUK as a Project Coordinator. He took on the role last year on a trial basis and we were very pleased when he told us that he was happy to continue. He has an almost impossibly wide job description but is doing a good job in working mostly with the young people in high school or post-education. One of his key tasks is to mentor and

assist those that have reached the limits of their academic achievements, to plot a way forward to independence. Barry is also working with Joshua and Reagan in looking at ways in which the resources available at Bulabakulu can be used to generate income to help the "project" to become self-sufficient.



## Establishing a Vocational Training Fund

As the project matures, and the number of young people reaching a stage whereby they need to be looking to live independent of the village grows, it is important that more attention is given to vocational training and opportunities for entrepreneurial activity. Barry is there to help with this process but he does need funds. AGLM is looking to try to establish some vocational training activity at Bulabakulu that would also service the

local community (and thus provide fee income). We have largely concentrated on the needs of each individual to date - with courses usually procured from an external provider. This is always going to be important but we feel that there is much that could be done by looking much more at our own opportunities. There seems to be a particular issue with girls that have dropped out of school - they appear to be much more

difficult to motivate than the boys and are often unwilling to help around the village. Unlike the situation in the UK, the girls are generally doing less well than boys at school and this exacerbates the problem.

If you are interested in contributing to a vocational training fund, with either a one-off payment or regular donations, we would love to hear from you.



## INSIGHT INTO THE BACKGROUND OF CHILDREN



The AGLMUK visitors this year travelled to some of the homes and villages from which children had come to Bulabakulu - in some cases many years ago. One visit involved travelling west, whilst the other involved a six hour journey (each way) in a generally easterly direction. These villages are incredibly remote with no tarmac roads and life is very hard indeed. In almost all cases the children that came to Bulabakulu were just one or two from a large family -with their siblings remaining uneducated. We met and were humbled by the hospitality of the relatives of some of the children that we have known for years. We were given gifts of live chickens which returned with us under the back seat of our car!

## MOVING INTO MAINTAINENCE PHASE

With the completion of the boys' dorm. over the next year or so, we will be likely to switching attention away from building lots of new buildings and making sure that what is already in existence is maintained and protected as best as we can. This will involve some work to protect the buildings from erosion and repairing things as they break. The men in this year's party spent quite a lot of time fixing furniture in the primary school and building some new desks. There was quite a bit of help available from the boys and it was encouraging to find a couple of them that really seemed to take to carpentry. There are so few opportunities for the likes of Junior (blue shirt) to interact constructively with adult males, that this is very positive for the boys - as well as the school! Francis (right) is helping to install the third see-saw built by Andy over the last 6 years or so.



## THE RISING COSTS OF HIGH SCHOOL

When we first set the rates for high school sponsorship they were calculated on the basis of day school fees at the nearest establishments. We have come to realise that this set "our" students at a serious disadvantage and we no longer use anything other than boarding. This clearly increases

costs but so do all of the "hidden extras" that we are coming to grips with. The hand-outs cost extra, as do field trips, seminars and a whole bunch of other essentials that really ought to be included in the termly fees. These are in addition to the regular set of "requirements" which vary from reams of paper to washing bowls and toilet rolls.

The true cost of a child at high school is now averaging £40 per month and thus new students to the programme will usually have two sponsors. Whilst we do not expect existing sponsors to change anything, it was considered important that the true costs are communicated widely.



## AFRICA GREATER LIFE MISSION UK

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### Trustees

*Chair: Becky Webb*

*Secretary: Andy Bull*

*Treasurer: Chris Bull*

*Jessie Bergstrom*

## THANKS

There are so many people, schools, churches and other organisations that are due thanks and we hope that each one has received an individual response. We try very hard always to do so. This is an extra thanks to everyone that has contributed in any way.

## CHECK US OUT

AGLMUK has to submit an annual report to the Charity Commission every year and you can look up details of our responses by going to [www.charitycommission.gov.uk](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk) and searching for AGLMUK by name or number. We are keen that you know where your money is going!

## THE TEAM OF 2014

There were eight of us in the 2014 AGLMUK visit to Bulabakulu this year. It was a unusual team in the sense that every one of the members had been before and most had visited in 2013. Chris now has a very defined role that centres on the high school students (current, recent and prospective). She spends a lot of time individually talking to the 50-60 students involved but also, as trust treasurer spends a lot of time working on the finances and visiting the bank! Elisabeth spent much of her time in

the little room next door to "Chris's cave" where she would deal with the back-to-school requirements. Jessie and Janice were usually fully occupied in the clinic whilst the men were usually to be found on some practical task or other.

If you are interested in coming please don't be put off by the fact that this year was made up of "old-hands". We are keen that new people are introduced to Bulabakulu, Uganda and Africa and our selection criteria

## Joseline's Wedding

As we reported in the autumn edition of the newsletter, Joseline, our much loved headteacher at the primary school, was married. All 250 inhabitants of Bulabakulu were invited! We don't have any digital photographs of the big day but do offer a photograph of our visit to the home of Joseline and Jude (her husband) which is but a km or so from the village and within sight of it.



## The Team for 2015

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 2015 to register their interest with Chris and Andy by the end of August 2014. Please talk to us if you are interested. We have briefing notes that might help you.

## Bernie Project and Field of Dreams

There are two other organisations (both based in the USA) that are active at Bulabakulu at the moment and with whom we are in contact. The Bernie Project is run by a young woman called April who is living part-time in Uganda. Her major focus is food and is committed to supplying 8 months worth in 2014. The Field of Dreams charity has improved the football pitch and is providing coaching and opportunities for competition in both football & netball. A number of the boys recently represented Field of Dreams Uganda in a tournament in Tanzania— a fantastic experience for them.



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very much take this into account.

