

SPRING

2016



REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1115766

AFRICA GREATER
LIFE MISSION UK

Working in Partnership

This newsletter will follow a slightly different format to those previously produced—as well as having a new colour scheme!

We want to emphasise that AGLMUK is a UK based charity that is very much working in partnership with AGLM - a Ugandan charity born out of a vision developed in Uganda and run by Ugandans. We have been running our

partnership over recent years in quite a business-like manner with a memorandum of understanding agreed every year. This sets out what AGLM can expect of AGLMUK and vice versa. The rest of this newsletter will inform you of the commitments that were made last year in respect of the provision of funding in 2015. This is, of course, only possible because of your support!



A group photo from our recent trip. L to R, Praise, Shammah, Blessed, Precious, Chris, Andy, Sarah, Nissi, Adrian, Tom, Joshua, Derek, Janice, Arnold and Barry. Missing are Colin, Joseline and Jude.

Food

Thanks to the generous support of many of you we have been able to commit to providing monthly donations throughout the whole of 2016. We only supply a very basic diet of poshu (made from maize flour) and beans. Whilst we are conscious that this is a very restricted diet, the recipients are very grateful that they have guaranteed meals every day. This is often a big improvement over their former situations. We are now saving for 2017!

Medicines and Clinic Costs

The clinic medicine shelves were restocked on our recent visit to Bulabakulu - and money will be transferred every quarter to ensure that there will always be a supply of the basic medicines. There is an arrangement with a local clinic that means that they just have to check with Barry, the Project Coordinator before treating one of the Bulabakulu residents. AGLMUK are informed of the cost and the bill is paid. For first time in our eleven year history of

visiting the village, our party experienced the services at St Joseph's Clinic, Wakiso - not just once but 3 times! We were very grateful indeed for the attention given to Tom and Sarah and the fact that they returned home safely.



Primary Education

Primary education was where it all started for AGLMUK but we have certainly moved on a long way since 2005 when we were helping to build the school.

Wakiso Children's School of Hope is now partially self-sustaining by taking in students from outside of the Bulabakulu village. Whilst these children usually do not pay the full fee, they do provide some income.

Some of the village children are now sponsored by a lovely group of people from Bradford. They were recruited by a group of young people from Sunbridge Road Mission that visited last year.

AGLMUK still provides part of the salaries for the teachers and this happens via a monthly transfer of funds.



Our visiting party in January/February assisted the deputy headteacher and a team of young Bulabakulu residents to re-paint the school. Thanks to those of you that contributed towards the paint.



It might seem obvious now, but back in 2005 we never gave a thought to the fact that primary school children will usually want to become high school students and some of them will go onto higher education and even end up as qualified teachers. Well, little Joshua (left) has become grown-up with wife and child. Joshua now teaches in the school he once attended. He is so incredibly grateful to his long-time sponsors that have committed to supporting him through to degree level by part-time study. Well-done Joshua!



Secondary Education

It is one of the toughest jobs of the annual visit of trustees to agree with AGLM representatives which of the students that have completed primary school education should be supported through secondary education. The decision depends on the number of sponsors available as well as primary examination results and family backgrounds. Thank you to all the sponsors!

Here are some of the previous and current batch of 50 secondary students.



University Student/s



AGLMUK commits to supporting one student at any one time in university. Harryson is the current supported under-graduate and he will finish his course in July. His marks have been really good and so we are hopeful of a very good outcome.

It has been decided that Christopher will be next and we have to say that it was not a particularly difficult decision to make. Like Harryson before him, Christopher has used his time since completing his A'levels, to the advantage of the community at Bulabakulu. He has shown aptitude for hard work and community spirit. He is also academically strong—which is, of course, an essential criteria.

Harryson has used some of the skills learnt at university to design our new logo.

Vocational Training



Meet some of the current set of 9 young people undertaking vocational training.

Martha is in her last year of nursing training, Samson and David are both budding car mechanics, Isaac has almost finished his plumbing course and Rebecca is undertaking in-service nursery teacher training. (described left to right).

The courses that they are following are all expensive and so each of them has at least two sponsors each. If anyone is interested in sponsoring young people over the period of a vocational course (often 1 or 2 years) then please get in touch.

Building and Maintenance



AGLMUK provides the Project Coordinator with funds for emergency maintenance but we also assess the situation on our visit and get some of the highest priority tasks completed. Kevin is here working on the construction of a short wall that will protect the foundations of a dormitory from the heavy rains. Kevin is one of Bulabakulu residents and worked as a labourer for an external builder. He was glad to be paid the going rate for a whole day's work as a labourer - equivalent to £2. The cost of living in Uganda is lower than Wales but not so low as to make £2 stretch a very long way!

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

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.

Joseline's Baby

Many of you will remember the very sad news that Joseline, the much loved head-teacher at the village school, lost her first baby girl within only one day of her being born. The delivery was too long and arduous for the baby and almost fatal for Joseline too.

We are absolutely delighted to announce that Agape Sanyu (Joy) was born on the 24th February and mother and baby are doing well. It was a planned caesarian delivery this time. It cost Jude and Joseline quite a bit in hospital fees but it was, of course, well worth it.



Joseline and her husband Jude are pastoring a local church. They have started a building and will continue as funds allow. It had about a third of a roof when we visited - but it was in use, and we loved being there with them.



The 2016 Trip

We referred (page 1) to the fact that we had three visits to the clinic in Wakiso with team members this year. This has tended to dominate conversation since we returned. It is, however, very important to say that in many ways, this was a very useful trip. We had good discussions with our Ugandan partners and feel that progress was made in several areas.

It was somewhat frustrating that the government decided to postpone the start of school by three weeks (because of potential civil unrest in the run-up to the presidential elections). This meant that we didn't see many of the primary school children. It did, however, give us the opportunity assist with the painting of the school whilst it was unoccupied.

Chris managed to talk with all of the high school students as they came to see her!

Future Teams

The incidents of serious illness and theft of passports on the last two teams have prompted the trustees to review the taking of other people on trips to Uganda.

If anyone is interested in accompanying us in January/February 2017 then please make contact with any of the trustees. Once we have completed our review and made a firm decision we will let people know what has been decided.



Llandrindod Charity Shop

AGLMUK has again booked the charity shop in Middleton Street, Llandrindod for a week from 24 July. This should be a good fundraiser for the charity - but only if we have lots of good stuff to sell, and volunteers to help us do it. If you think that you can help with either then please get in touch with one of the trustees.

We are particularly keen to hear from people that have experience of selling bric-a-brac and such like because we realise that this is an area of serious skill-shortage in AGLMUK!

TALKS

We will be organising an open evening in Llandrindod in the not too distant future but 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.