

SPRING

2017



REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1115766

AFRICA GREATER
LIFE MISSION UK

New Challenges - & a slight change of direction

It was with a slight sense of unease that the trustees of AGLMUK set off for Uganda in early March. We knew that significant changes had taken place at Wakiso Children's School of Hope and we had read on-line Ugandan newspaper stories about private schools being shut down because they were failing to hit new government regulations being over-seen by a new Minister of Education. Whilst these regulations are still providing issues for "our" school, the threat of closure appears to have been averted in the short-term at least. The leadership at Bulabakulu has been forced to address the issue of the nature of the "village" with the sensible conclusion being that it must complete its transformation from refuge for widows and orphans to boarding school

campus within a reasonably short period. This will precipitate some possibly uncomfortable decisions about re-locating some current residents that have no real connection with the school.

AGLMUK supports the move to the concept of a boarding school (with some free and subsidised places) as this looks towards self-sufficiency.



New school administrator Deus, with headteacher Joseline, Michael and Chris.

New Karamajong Students

In a move that challenges the logical and sensible decision towards self-sufficiency and the increase in the proportion of fee-paying students at Wakiso Children's School of Hope, 30 Karamajong children were rescued from a life of begging on the streets of Kampala and brought to Bulabakulu. (Karamoja is an arid province of N. Uganda where the people are traditional pastoralists). Logic and sense gave way to compassion and faith on this occasion! Experience (of others) also suggested that keeping street children in school is an awful lot easier said than done - but six months on, the kids are still at Bulabakulu - largely thanks to character, passion and skill of a young man called Ambrose who keeps them busy with sport, music and dance.



Ambrose



AGLMUK team & the former Street Children

The former street children arrived at Bulabakulu with little more than the clothes on their backs. On our arrival that was still pretty much the case. It was an obvious priority for our team to do something about this and so, through a combination of the donated clothes that we took with us and purchased shoes, tin trunks and other bare essentials the lives of the 30 youngsters suddenly got a bit better. Ambrose got some new musical instruments and rugby balls to help with his work. Nowhere was it more obvious that action was required than on the health front. Veronica was a particularly glaring case. She had been hit by a vehicle whilst begging and had never had any opportunity of taking weight off her damaged ankle when trying to move around. The first job was to get crutches and these were provided free of charge by our friends at the school where nurse Jessie had talked to students two years ago and we had brought medical books donated by medical practitioners in the Llandrindod area. The next job was an x-ray in the local clinic, after which caste went on the affected ankle. Twenty four hours later and the pain of the last six months had largely gone and a big smile returned!



Jessie, Veronica, Gill, and Harriett

Transformation of the Clinic

The clinic at the village had a bit of a re-vamp whilst we were there. The walls got painted, curtains were provided for the windows and new beds purchased. A folding screen was also purpose made at the local welders work-shop - to our own design.



Martha Graduates from Nursing School - with Credit



Martha is a young lady that has been supported by AGLMUK through high school and nursing college. She has just received her results and to say that we are proud of her is a massive understatement. Of the 83 students in her class 35 failed and just one student achieved a Distinction. One level down from Distinction is Credit - so a real achievement for "our" girl.

She now has to go before the Nurse's Council on the 31st March for an Interview. Assuming she passes that she will get a certificate and a licence. Once she gets a licence she wishes to apply for a government post. If successful she can be sent anywhere in the country. At the moment she is working at a Clinic in Nakulabye - Bakuli; Mon - Sat where she does a bit of everything. She earns 200,000 UGX a month (around £50 - same as the nurse in the village is paid) and sends some home to her mum. Her graduation will be in September. She was looking really well and happy!

Ice-cream Business Flourishes

A few years ago a good friend of AGLMUK, Joe Doherty (Wafer Ltd) from N.Ireland helped set up an ice-cream business on the edge of Kampala with Reagan (Barry's brother) as the key man controlling everything. The idea was to provide employment for young people moving on from Bulabakulu - and this is precisely what has happened. Some of them work for Reagan but others have bought a franchise and have their own patch. Well done Joe and Reagan!



Kashagule David with his ice-cream cart in Wakiso. Andy had just stopped him and bought one!

The Team of 2017



The team had lunch at Joseline and Jude's new house one day.

Back row. Chris, Michael, Elisabeth, Colin, Janice, Andy

Front Row. Gill, Jude, Joseline and Agape, Sarah and Jessie



On this occasion it is Janice and Sarah but Michael, Elisabeth and Colin also spent a lot of time undertaking activities with the children.

The team of 2017 included three trustees, two other couples that had visited Bulabakulu many times each and two people visiting for the first time. Everybody found their niche very quickly and easily and lots of jobs were completed with great efficiency. Colin and Michael were often found repairing school furniture, Elisabeth ran a "shop" where clothes were handed out, Jessie, Gill and Janice were usually in the clinic, whilst Sarah was somewhere collecting or returning children. Andy seemed to spend most of his time in the hardware store, timber yard or welders! Chris spent most of her time talking with the young people sponsored by AGLMUK supporters.

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Go to
www.everyclick.com

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.

Toby and the London Marathon

AGLMUK applied for, and was granted a small charities' place on the London Marathon. Several of our supporters expressed an interest in running and we are grateful to everyone that did. How we wish we'd had places for everyone.



Toby Tattersall of Llandrindod Wells was asked to fill the place and he has been training hard for the big day on Sunday 23rd April. There are sponsor forms in various places around town - including the Doctor's Surgery, Lakeside Pharmacy and Holy Trinity Church but another way to donate is by going to Toby's page on Virgin Money Giving.

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/TobyTattersall>

Toby has not yet been to Bulabakulu but his wife, Gill was on the team that has just returned.

The 2018 Trip

There will be a trip to Bulabakulu in February or March of 2018 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.

Exit Strategy

For a variety of reasons, including the perceived need to push the leaders at Bulabakulu to make a concerted effort for self-sufficiency, AGLMUK has given notice to its Ugandan partner, AGLM, that it will be winding down to a withdrawal on the 31st December 2022. The trustees see it to be particularly important to make sure that what has been commenced can be completed and that there is time for a planned exit on our part - with our partners having time to plan for an alternative strategy. This does not mean that there is no need for fund-raising over the next six years or that children already being sponsored will be abandoned.



Llandrindod Charity Shop

AGLMUK has again booked the charity shop in Middleton Street, Llandrindod for a week at the end of October. 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.

Open Evening and 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.

Remember Ruth?

Ruth is the little girl that was suffering from Burkitt's Lymphoma when we visited in 2011. Here she is 6 years on. She has a new set of challenges as she matures but Jessie is making sure that these are handled appropriately.

