



Autumn
2020

REGISTERED
CHARITY
NUMBER 1115766

AFRICA GREATER LIFE MISSION UK

Response to Pandemic

Covid-19 is certainly having its impact in Uganda, particularly urban, densely-packed Kampala. Bulabakulu is close to Wakiso Town which itself is now pretty much part of greater Kampala. As far as we know no-one associated with AGLM has caught the virus but every one of them has been impacted by strict lock-down measures. The ability to earn has been curtailed for most and there have been no furlough schemes or the like to replace lost income. AGLMUK's first

Cynllun Grantiau Cymru ac Affrica Llywodraeth Cymru



Welsh Government's Wales and Africa Grant Scheme

response came courtesy of a grant from the Welsh Government's WalesAfrica programme (administered by the Welsh Council for Voluntary Action). We were able to send £2,250 to enable Barry, Joseline and Harriet to distribute food and soap to 366 people in 68 families. For more information see the special report on the web site.



Having seen the effective way in which our wonderful team managed to get vital help out to families in dire need, AGLMUK sent further funding for similar food and soap parcels for delivery to families in need. A fund has also been provided for Joseline and Barry to administer that provides one-off hardship grants to young men and women that used to be part of our programme but now considered to be independent.

With the pandemic clearly not going away any time soon we should be planning on a pre-Christmas food delivery too. It won't be a "turkey dinner" but whatever is managed will be very gratefully received. If you think that you can help us make this food parcel a bit less basic then please get in touch.

Closure of Schools and Churches

At about the same time as the UK went into lock-down, Uganda followed a similar pattern but, unlike the UK schools have remained closed ever since. It is only on October 15th that educational establishments will re-open for students in exam years only (P7, S4, S6 and final year college and university). On-line learning is being encouraged but hardly anyone has a laptop! It is also interesting that churches are allowed to re-open for up to 70 people at a time but Sunday school is still closed. The impact upon this large generation of children is massive as most of them are set to lose a year's education.

Godfrey Leads by Example

Rather than sit around waiting for his university course to recommence, Godfrey has decided to use skills that he has accumulated along the way to keep busy and earn his keep. With a bit of help from AGLMUK Godfrey has set up a small business fixing motor bikes (or boda-bodas as they are called in Uganda). Well done Godfrey, your initiative is applauded.





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Trustees

Chair: Becky Webb
Secretary: Andy Bull
Treasurer: Chris Bull
Jessie Bergstrom
Gill Tattersall

Carbon Off-setting Opportunities

We all know that air travel is very damaging when it comes to climate change. We have always balanced this against the positives that we feel come out of our 8,000 mile round trips to Entebbe Airport but we now have an opportunity to genuinely throw a bit more into the balance. We have managed to identify real opportunities for tree planting in Uganda and when we've planted this land, there is ample opportunity of installing solar panels to displace CO₂ emissions. If you are interested in contributing then please get in touch.

The Next Visit by Trustees

As we reported this time last year, the trustees had already decided not to visit Uganda in 2021—this was because of possible civil unrest associated with the up-coming Presidential elections (which are still going ahead). As it turns out, this decision simply removed the need to decide not to go in the light of the covid-19 pandemic! Entebbe Airport has only just re-opened.

The trustees will discuss the options for a trip in 2022 and will make sure that any opportunities there may be are highlighted in the next newsletter—which will be due in March 2021.

Helping with House Repairs?

AGLMUK has always spent some money on new buildings and building maintenance—but until the 2020 trip, always within the “village”/school campus of Bulabakulu. Whilst we were in Uganda we decided to spend the money that had been allocated for maintenance on some improvements/repairs to a couple of local houses occupied by families very much within the AGLM programme. This was reported in the Spring newsletter. Barry has recently visited the home of one of the supported children and has drawn our attention to the fact that it is in a very poor state of repair. The trustees are considering moving the funds that used to be used for “maintenance” of the Wakiso School of Hope buildings to urgent repairs of houses in the “AGLM family”. Let us know what you think and if it is something that you feel led to support.



Alternative Presents for Your UK Loved Ones

Alternative presents are available all year round - but especially at Christmas. These are gifts for caring friends and relatives because they only receive the news that they are doing something good. There is a new 2020 leaflet describing the list of presents and their cost but if you want to suggest something else, and we confirm that it would be appropriate then these things can be accommodated. 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 you to give to the recipient.



Thank You



Christmas Gifts to Your Supported Students

Those of you that sponsor a child or young person will often provide us with a “pocket money” gift to hand over when we make our annual visit. As there is no such opportunity this year we wondered whether sponsors would like to send a Christmas cash gift instead. This would get transferred to the Wakiso bank, withdrawn by Barry and handed over by Barry or Joseline (or if necessary transferred by the “mobile money” facility in Uganda. **Could you please send such gifts by December 1st please?** If we find an opportunity for you to be able to send cards/letters we'll let you all know. (For this - we really need to find someone that is going to Uganda).