

Dear friends

This is 'Possibilities' first newsletter. We've decided that to write and give you an update is a useful way of getting information to you. We are also hoping it may give you a useful tool for interesting others in our work and helping you to raise awareness.

What a busy few months we've had since our last visit to Uganda. It's been a time of paying bills, raising funds and planning future events.

As many of you will know in February 2008 Rob went with Jessica, Justin and Jon to Kiwi (Kinawataka Women's Initiatives) in Kampala. It was a very successful trip with many things being accomplished. Much of the house was decorated. Both inside and out.

We were able to purchase and fit some guttering and a huge 4000 Litre water butt thereby giving Benedicta and the children the luxury of collecting rainwater and storing it. Benedicta exclaimed that at long last '*she* has free water'.

People often share a mattress in Uganda. This is for two reasons, economics and warmth.

Even so, the ratio of children to beds at KIWI seemed outrageously imbalanced to us. 12 girls in 3 beds and 2 boys sharing a bed in the old Chicken shed, seemed to us something that we should address if at all possible. In February we bought 3 more beds and 4 mattresses. That means that at last count - with the new children that have arrived since then - there are now 15 girls sharing 6 beds in a room 7ft x 7ft and the two boys who sleep in the old chicken shed (which actually is worse than it sounds) now have a bed each. Initially there was no light in this room, it was just a black hole (rather like a coal bunker) that had been left vacant by the chickens. We decided to employ a builder and some labourers thereby putting money and employment into the local economy and had them build a platform for the water butt make general repairs to the building and also to knock through the wall and install a window to allow light into the boys' room.

Since February the City Council have finally agreed that Benedicta could purchase the lease for the land where the house is situated. This was a long standing request (several years) that was suddenly accepted. The problem was that the asking price was set with only 30 days for payment or be evicted. We decided to purchase the lease and secure the plot therefore ensuring that these children will always have a home. Well for 49 years at least.

When in Uganda, in February we met a very generous lady who has become a friend of Possibilities and with her help we were able to put Lydia and Juliet through school for 1 term. It was their first time at school. They were delighted. We have since been able to secure two further terms for them which means that they will get at least 1 year in school. We also visited 2 other orphanages, taking toys and clothes for the children. We gave a laptop computer to one and bought some food for the other. Their cupboard was completely bare when we arrived and they were to go hungry that day at least.

We are at present trying to get help for Jackline (6). She is a new child at KIWI. Both her parents have died of aids in the last year. Jackline was diagnosed herself with aids 2 months ago. 'Mildmay', the UK charitable hospital, has a site in Kampala and we are trying to get her some treatment to make her life a little more bearable. This will be an ongoing situation - `we will keep you informed of developments.

Fund-raising

Fund-raising has been going well. We have acquired many generous friends who have offered help or got themselves sponsors and done something mad, or time consuming, or attention grabbing, or costly to them, or..... Thank you to all of them. without their generosity we wouldn't be on our way to this year's target.

Events

We are always on the lookout for event ideas and are thankful that the past year has enabled us to organise, or be involved with - odd change appeal (Spend a Penny), 3 mile run, sponsored silence,

Talent Show, Auction of Promises, Car washing - to name a few.

Finally in this newsletter let me give you details of some upcoming fund-raising events.

Autumn Fayre

October 4th 2008

Needham Market Community Centre

12.30 – 15.30

Murder Mystery Evening

January 31st 2009

St. Peters Hall

Stowmarket

Love Concert (a Valentines day mix of music for lovers)

February 14th 2009

Stowmarket Parish Church

Stowmarket