

HELPING VILLAGES IN RURAL UGANDA



Students....



Women.....



and small businesses all being helped by you through AVS

Thanks also to Tim Harman, who not only generously prints our newsletter free of charge but has also donated a photocopier and duplicator as well as many spares. He also arranged the collection and delivery of our embroidery machine from Nottingham to Ipswich where it is awaiting transport. Good news is that the photocopier has now reached Entebbe and is being collected. It should be on its way to Muyembe as we speak! This kind of support deserves a gratitude beyond words.

KEFA MUKOOTA HOSTEL

The second phase of our girls' hostel has begun!

It's been hard work as, beginning with the consequences of the Kenyan problems which pushed the price of fuel and commodities through the roof, prices have continued to rise and budgets have constantly had to be reviewed.

However, the foundations of the main room of the hostel are completed and the builder is now ferrying the building materials to start the work on the walls.

The building will be completed up to its roof beams before Christmas.

The hostel is the main focus of our current fundraising and we have received some tremendous support especially from the Gateway School in Great Missenden who have been committed to supporting the building of the hostel as the main focus of their parents fundraising



Not the most exciting of pictures but a great achievement! The foundations for the main block are completed.

this year. We have some money in the budget to begin to raise the roof as soon as the walls are complete so things are moving on! Before we can open the hostel we need to build some latrines, put a local fence in place and employ a good matron and watchman. Girls parents are already requesting

places so the sooner we can complete the building the better!

If you would like to find out more about the background and the future plans for this project please look at our website.

EMBROIDERY BADGE MACHINE

'Your Embroidery Services Ltd' of Nottingham, through the great generosity of **Roy Burton the Managing Director** has most generously donated this wonderful machine which will enable our 'Teetee' women's knitting group to develop their as yet, small

A WONDERFUL GIFT!



business. They will now be able to acquire business from some of the most prestigious schools and will have the best opportunity possible to become a profitable concern. This will benefit their families and AVS for many years to come.

MUYEMBE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY (A REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR)

AVS is supporting the development of Muyembe High School library by co-financing the building with the Director and Managers of the school. We are also helping to supplement the number and range of books and have been working with the trainee librarian on cataloguing and categorising these books.

The building which houses the library is only part finished and the second part is to be a laboratory and computer room. We are planning to complete this building as we develop the library. Lab Aid are going to help us with Laboratory equipment

Muyembe High School library is currently the envy of many secondary schools in the area and a place of pride to our students. They now have a place where they can sit quietly and do private

studies when they are not in class. I must say that the presence of the library, relatively well equipped and being soundly managed has revolutionised the academic environment of the school. It



The office of the librarian

is quiet with no loitering students around the compound during official working hours. Hopefully this will impact positively on their academic performance. Once again, thank you so much AVS (UK) for the part you are playing in the development of our library. Our pupils are

happy and extremely grateful. The teachers have no words to express their indebtedness to you for making their work more rewarding. We say thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

We pray that the Almighty God rewards you abundantly for 'doing more than the world can freely give'

We look forward to your continued support in our endeavours to make a positive change in the lives of the children of Uganda whom you have so graciously touched. With much love from all of us this end.

Samuel Mweru Wasiky
Director MHS



Paul contemplates a 'lost hope'

AVS are helping a local beehive project which is working well and successfully harvesting honey. They desperately need some 'proper' protective equipment Do you know anyone who can help?



THE BIG HOPE

Well, our students hopes were dashed by the British High Commission who at the 25th hour rejected Paul and Dorah's application for a visa to the UK to attend the world wide student conference in Liverpool. The reason given for the rejection of the application was that there was not enough evidence

that they would return. I have written to the High Commission asking for clarification but have not, as yet not received a reply. No reply could assuage the disappointment nor the expense incurred and thank you to all those who contributed towards the cost of this venture. The students

were fairly philosophical about the disappointment and one at least said that he felt that by getting to know Kampala he had travelled halfway to London!

A WHEELCHAIR FOR GRACE

Nabugosila Grace has been crippled since birth. She has no use in her legs and very, very little in her arms. She wrote to AVS in February requesting that we should look for a wheelchair for her. She has spent her life lying on a grass mat and she told us that she had to be carried to the latrine in a wheelbarrow and has never been outside her home compound. She said that a wheelchair would ease the

burden of those around her and might even enable her to be pushed as far as the local church. We were donated a wheelchair that we carried out with us on this latest trip and were able to give it to Grace and her family.



Grace receives her wheelchair as family look on.

the happiness of her neighbours and friends. Life still won't be easy for any of them but it will be a little less hard. If Grace can be pushed to church (less than a mile away) then she will be happy.

I cannot describe her joy and

FROM THE WOMEN'S DESK A MESSAGE FROM MUKOYA AGNES

Dear friends, partners and those who love us.

Greetings and love to all of you.

I would like to sincerely appreciate the financial support which you have generously contributed to help our people. Every pound that you have offered has made a difference in Muyembe. Thank you for the seeds, we are hoping for a good harvest this year. On a special note I would like to thank you for supporting the women who are the most vulnerable in our community alongside the orphans and other needy children.

Women in our community are very disadvantaged. First of all many of them do not know how to read and write and therefore it is obvious that they are not salary earners. They are purely housewives who do the 'donkey work' at home. For example cooking, fetching water, digging, washing, looking after animals, looking after children and their husbands among other core duties. They are paid for by a dowry and so are often regarded as the property of their husband



Mukoya Agnes our representative for women.

and their family. The women have no income of their own and have to depend on their husband who in many cases harass and mistreat them.....

*HELP US TO
SAVE THE
LIVES OF THE
MOTHERS AND
THE BABIES*



*HELP US TO
WARM THE
BABIES*

*HELP US TO
SEND MAMA
BAGS TO
UGANDA*

*CONTRIBUTIONS
IN KIND OR
SPECIFIC
DONATIONS
ARE WELCOME*

OUR WOMEN'S GROUPS.... AGNES CONTINUES

...As AVS...(women's desk) we have tried to mobilise women to form groups so that we can more easily support them and help them to improve their lives. With the money you have sent us we are succeeding in this effort. The women's groups are extremely happy with this support as they are being

empowered financially. The projects such maize, beans, rice, ground nuts, rearing of goats, cows and pigs, all generate money for the groups and the women share the profits and use it to buy salt, sugar, soap, paraffin, pay school fees, buy school books and uniforms for their children. This support has had a lot of

impact on the lives of the women, their families and the community at large who are able to buy the food from the women. We really appreciate your effort and I kindly request that wherever you are, please have a feeling for these needy women and put a coin in the 'women's basket' to support these projects of women in our area.

THE MAMA BAG....

The majority of women continues Agnes, (about 80%) deliver their babies from home under traditional care. Many of the women, or their babies die. The conditions under which they give birth are very unhygienic and if there are any complications the traditional birth attendants are often not able to cope. I would love to introduce a MAMA BAG! The Mama Bag would contain clothes for the baby, the

mother's delivery kit, sanitary pads, cotton wool, powder, nappies, pins, shawl, baby sweater, hat and such like.

The bag would be specifically donated to expectant mothers or mothers with very young babies who have visited the health centre for checks and given birth at the health Centre where possible. This effort would motivate mothers to attend



This young mum lost her last baby in a difficult delivery at the home you can see.

the Health Centre where the necessary equipment is available.

*See more details on
the website*

*Give a gift of a Mama
bag to a lady in
Uganda*

AFRICAN VILLAGE SUPPORT
Registered charity 1106860
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Great Missenden HP16 9AA
Email: info@africanvillagesupport.org
www.africanvillagesupport.org



A classroom block at Muyembe Boys Primary School is being renovated through the efforts of Pat Callaghan and her family and friends from Liverpool. Pat has spent time in Muyembe teaching at some of the local schools and since then has raised funds to improve the worst of the classrooms in two of these schools.



A great football tournament for the youth of the area, both girls and boys, was held from the Social Centre and organised by Siraj, the centre manager. The much coveted trophy was a generous donation and the tournament provided weeks and weeks of entertainment for the local people at a time when food was scarce and work in the fields was hard. Since we refurbished the centre about five years ago it has increasingly played an important role in the life of the area, with TV, indoor games, music and computers all available.



Juliet, Norah and Torpista wearing new outfits donated by Papillon Boutique from Great Missenden.



Trish Lewis helps to sort and categorise books at Muyembe High Library during her visit to Uganda in July.

Books and stationery from Marden Church arrived and was sorted and distributed.



Jonathan Hall Jones spent six weeks in Muyembe and became completely absorbed in the life of the village. He chose as his initiation into manhood to catch, slaughter and cook a hen instead of the local alternative of imbalu or circumcision!



'Sheila, Dorio and Dave,' goats given as gifts arrive at a local women's group where they are warmly welcomed!

TWO FAMILIES VISIT MUYEMBE

This summer my family had the wonderful opportunity of spending three weeks in Uganda. Marie had organised for us to spend a week in the village in Muyembe and two weeks travelling in the west. Although each part of the holiday was amazing I think it was our time in the village that touched us most. It was lovely to meet the people whom we had heard Marie speak about so often. They are such warm, friendly people who made us feel so very welcome. They invited us into their homes and treated us like VIP's.



We were often given gifts ranging from baskets of fruit to a turkey. It is quite humbling to be given such generous gifts by people who have so very little. We

visited a number of women's groups and were astounded at how hard they work, not only do they look after their families and work hard in their gardens but they also find the time to work together to support one another to try to achieve a better life for themselves.

They are very proud of what they are achieving with the help of AVS and the overriding message from them is how grateful they are to all the people in the UK who sponsor and support them. It was an eye opening experience for all of us, especially my three children

Pat Callaghan visited Uganda again, this time with her daughter Maria, son in law David and their two young children. David and Maria are doctors so, even though on holiday,

they were able to help some local people. They visited some of the projects that Pat has supported with help from family and friends and took a cow and some goats to a couple of our

women's groups I am hoping that we shall see some of their photographs and personal experiences on our web site in the near future.