



'Prevention is Better than Cure'
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NEWSLETTER

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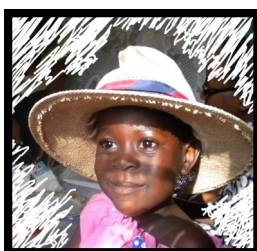
This our third newsletter - I have once again just returned from a three week trip to Uganda, so I'm able to give an accurate update on our projects out there and share a story. After eleven years of travel the adventures and learning experiences continue. Nobby Clarke - Chair of Trustees

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PLEASE SUPPORT
THIS EVENT ➡



Forthcoming Event.....

Can you commit to filling a table?

Spring Ball

The Allesley Hotel, Coventry

Saturday 1st May 2010
7pm - 1am

3 Course Dinner & Live Entertainment
Black Tie & Evening Wear

£30 per person (tables seat up to 12 people)

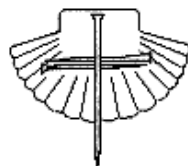
Please help us to change the lives of a poor
African Community.

If you can help in any way please get in touch with us.

Gilead Health Development Charity - Trustees;

John 'Nobby' Clarke - Chair
Bryan Williams- Treasurer
Rev Richard Cooke
Rev Steve Burch
Carol Clarke
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The Mityana Graduate

Suzan Namagembe was originally sponsored by my wife Carol in 1997. After meeting her on my first visit to Uganda in 1999, we pledged that whatever else we did, we would try to make a difference to this one girl and her family (2 sisters & 4 brothers - all sponsored by family and friends in Coventry). Suzan started her education at a poor rural Primary School, but took advantage of the help offered and graduated from university as a Secondary School History & Religious Education Teacher and has recently secured full-time employment.

Graduation Party – 24th January 2010

What a remarkable experience! We arrived in Mityana in plenty of time and went to our hotel (Enron) which is reasonably comfortable and used to western visitors, only to be told we have to wait for Suzan to finish having her hair done! Women the world over I guess?

We relaxed, got changed, me into my suit, which is not too bad but still warm to wear in 28-30C sunshine and then went to the site of the graduation party. When we arrived a Catholic Bishop was already in full swing and the Service had begun. I should say at this point that originally I had sent budget to enable a graduation party for Suzan and her brother Hassan, but it had since grown legs. Just prior to my visit Suzan informed me that her Uncle wanted to include his children as part of the graduation party and that she was worried that I might not approve. I told her that provided he added to the budget to cover the extras, it was fine, he would then benefit from Mr Nobby having provided the venue, Gazebos, entertainment etc, something he would never have afforded for his children. When I say his children, there were six extras, three children, two cousins and one that just joined in!

I was taken to the VIP section, naturally! Where I joined the honoured guests (which I also knew nothing about) to sit through the remainder of the Catholic Mass, which was nice? My fellow dignitaries included; The Mayor of Mityana, three Members of Parliament, the Chief Justice (Court of Appeal), the District Commissioner, the Dean of the School of Medicine (Makerere University – Uganda's Ox/Bridge), town councillors, several other clergy including a retired Anglican Bishop and many, many more. In fact there were 450-500 guests.

The upside to this guest list, was that the graduates were being exposed to the movers and shifters of the area, the down side was that every one of them made a speech, and I do mean **ALL** of them! The Service which started at 11.30am was over by 2pm and then one by one, the special guest were asked to speak. Being politicians coming to an election year, they were keen to point out how good they are and the Bishop had a go at them with regard to the standards of education and there not being enough jobs etc, etc. All of them gave their education history and some of them even mentioned the graduates we had come to celebrate! By 4.30pm it was time for lunch which was served alfresco buffet style and was very nice. 5pm sharp we were back to the speeches and I was queued to appear shortly. Shortly meant that by 6pm I was on (after two more speeches!), so I got up and entertained the crowd for a disappointing 15 minutes, during which a slight breeze started.



20 minutes in to the next speech and by no means the last speech, the breeze quickly whipped up into a howling gale, lifting the huge scaffold framed and covered gazebos off the ground. One of them flipped over and was last seen heading back to Kampala! We all clung to the frames to try and hold them down, well not all, as the man next to me, started to wail at the top of his voice, but it was nice of him to draw the lightning which now accompanied the monsoon rain! It was then that the qualified and time served safety professional in me came out and I let go of the big metal stick! Everybody scattered and headed for shelter, military personnel guarding the MP's brought the cars around and they went. We, along with around 300 who had stayed headed for indoors and a room designed for 150, so we all got to know each other quite well. The storm calmed after 30 minutes and we continued indoors with the remainder of the speeches, oh yes we're not done yet. Parents, God Parents and Uncles had their say and then at last it was time for each of the Graduates to have their say!!!

Suzan spoke for 20 minutes thanking me about a hundred times during the whole day. During her official speech, she placed her cap on my head and said how her degree belonged to me. I should mention that by now it was dark and anyone who was being referred to had a security spotlight pointed in their face in order to enhance the video which was being made of the whole event. I think it was this that brought tears to my eyes???

It was now 7.30pm and alleluia, we cut the cake! God, I love this Country!!!



There were lots of hugs and kisses and present giving as people started to leave, except for around 100 who stayed for the dance. The DJ cranked up the sound to ear-bleeding levels, with that deep vibration through the ground and we danced and danced. There was no alcohol, just raw emotion and there I was, in my suit soaked through sweat and rain, the happiest, proudest man in town.



I had witnessed the poor little village girl Carol and I had supported for twelve years and her family also supported by our family and friends, confidently stand up in front of her community, ready to take on the world.

I ask God to bless her future as he has blessed us with the privilege of being a part of her story.

I wish you all could have been there!

Nobby Clarke

Sponsor Children.....

We now have 54 Sponsor Children.....

37 - Primary School

1 - Specialist School for the Deaf

10 - Secondary Education

4 - In Higher Education

2 - Graduated from University.



**Olivier Age 6
with her Grandfather**

We have recently been fortunate to find some new sponsors and it was a real pleasure to go back to an old man we visited two years ago and who is the sole carer for his little Granddaughter (pictured together above) and tell him that we will take care of her future. I am told he has a broad smile on his face as he walks her into school.

The cost of sponsoring a child in Uganda through Gilead is £20 pcm. Most will be full time boarders at school and will write to you a couple of times a year and send you a card at Christmas and you will be able to write direct to them whenever you choose.

Luwero Project Update....



As at February 2010 we have managed to complete the foundations and build the walls up to the roof level, so we still need to put on the roof. We also need to provide a toilet block adjacent to the building before it can be put fully into use. It is difficult to project the costs accurately due to the ever fluctuating exchange rates between £/\$ and Ugandan Shilling.

The Next Stages and Projected Costs..... (approx £35,000 spent to date)

Description	Estimated Cost £'s
Complete walls and Concrete Columns & Supports	3,500
Construct Toilet Block inc Septic Tank	8,000
Provide and fit Roof	25,000
Fixtures and Fittings (connect electricity etc)	10,000
Total:	46,500



Thanks for your support!

Nobby Clarke - Chair of Trustees