



Greetings from Besaniya Children's Home in Uganda

November 2005

I want to begin this month's news letter by thanking all of you who have been praying for health and safety as well as many other issues. I also want to thank everyone for the communications I have received over the last month. Today has been a typically Irish day it was raining when I got up and it continued until lunch. It cleared for a short time, just long enough to make me think it was going to be a lovely afternoon, but surprise surprise the grey heavy looking clouds and the rain returned.



It has only really dawned on me over the last couple of days that Uganda has been my home now for 6 whole months. It really is quite hard to comprehend, time here seems to pass very quickly on a day to day basis but looking back the beginning of this month seems to have been in the distant past not 4 weeks!

This past month has had its ups and downs, but unlike the previous months two of my friends returned to their home countries. Laura Collins to Ireland and Sigrid Heier to Norway. Please remember these two as they are returning home after 5 and 12 months respectively and it isn't easy to return to "normality" and adapt to all the changes at home and in your own life. I would like to say it was a great pleasure to get to know you and share your friendship, I will see you both again in time.

On the up side, this month saw the end of a 5 month process that we have been praying for and one which took an uncountable number of trips from Mukono to Kampala. My work visa has been approved and I actually have it! This means that I am able to work freely for the Church of Uganda for the next 2 years as of September this year and I am officially a Ugandan citizen for that time. Thank you everyone who has been praying for the success of this application.

October has been quite a standard month if you can apply such a term to life in Uganda. However the last few weeks have provided a few break throughs with regards to some of the boys. A number of the boys are quiet and do not take part in workshop activities. However one of my workshop regulars Adrian had broken his fork so he came to fix it. Once word got out that new handles could be made with my assistance in the workshop I soon had a flood of boys with the same problem. Other opportunities to interact with the boys have been noticed and exploited. While at a visit to our forest farm I was given a Paw Paw by one of the workers. Having never attacked this large fruit before I enlisted the help of 3 boys of 11 and 12 years. With expert skill they split, peeled and removed all the seeds and then shared them out amongst some of the others as well.

This month we travelled to and worked at the forest farm on a number of occasions, each time we returned in full health without any injuries. We went to clear undergrowth and chop trees for firewood, which is used to cook the food at Besaniya. I took my camera along to let you all get a feel for the place and the work.



I don't much care for photos of myself but I thought some proof of hard labour would please some of you!

4 week old maize on left

Update Continued:

This month I also experienced what the East Africans call an "Introduction". Introductions are a lot like an engagement party. However they all tend to be the same as each other. I will try and explain what happens at one of these introductions. The Brides family and friends all sit on one side of the function area and the Groom's family and friends enter later in a line sitting on the other side of the function area. Then one of the Bride's sisters or Aunt assumes the position of Bride and searches for the Groom who is brought to the middle. He then has to identify the real Bride and it takes place much like a game. But one which always has the same outcome and you know what is going to happen. Once the Groom has found his Bride to be the "Dowry" is exchanged. The "Dowry" is a payment for the Bride's family as the Groom is going to take her away to be his wife. The Dowry is often a complex process that takes much negotiation before the introductions and in turn the marriage can take place.

The Introduction that I was invited to was not that of Africans but Louise Kane from N.I. and Jason who works at the local Ugandan Christian University and is from America. The introduction was for the benefit of those who will not be able to attend the wedding, which will take place in the States in the new-year. I would like to take this opportunity to wish both of them all the best for the future.



Jason & Louise right.

Louise's 'brothers' in Kanzoos.

Louise's 'sisters' right

Simon McFarland

soda252@yahoo.co.uk

What lies ahead this month:

- ⇒ Denise Kane leaves Cherub on 7th
- ⇒ Joyce Kayayga taking over Denise's role
- ⇒ The visit of my Stanley my dad on 25th
- ⇒ Ongoing renovations and maintenance
- ⇒ Completion of CHERUB projects

Please pray for:

- ⇒ The staff and children
- ⇒ Health & safety in workshop activities
- ⇒ Safety at the forest farm
- ⇒ Boy's exams this month
- ⇒ Continuing energy, enthusiasm and inspiration
- ⇒ **What lies ahead this month**

Cheers Big Ears

On behalf of Africare, Besaniya, CHERUB and myself I would like to thank those people who have donated money and resources this month to the work here in Uganda and those who have offered to provide services and donations for future projects. I hope to provide more information on some of these as they happen in the future.

Please remember to check your email for the invitation to view the photos online of this month's activities. Where you will find CHERUB projects and more of the Introduction and the forest farm.

11 Brookeborough Avenue
Carrickfergus
Co. Antrim
BT38 7LG
Tel: 028 9336 2197
Fax: 028 9336 9494
E mail: africare@aol.com
Web: www.besaniya.com

