

Our Ugandan Visit August/September 2007

Uganda is such a beautiful place, but beneath the surface of tranquillity, lie many problems we, as Europeans, cannot fully imagine without first hand experience. This recent visit was my tenth in the past seven years and probably the most fulfilling in terms of the work we try to do.

To explain in detail our hopes and aspirations is impossible in this short update but we want people to know how much their interest and individual contributions have been appreciated by the people we meet and assist in our travels throughout Uganda.

Our main objective this time was to be present at the Consecration of our dear friend and Brother, Rev Cranmer who visited our village many years ago and was instrumental in creating the wonderful relationship we now have with Kisoro and its people. It was a magnificent occasion and we, as visitors, were feted as V.I.P.'s to a degree we will never forget. I became very adept at sudden "off the cuff" speeches to huge audiences!!!!

We were also able to participate in an International Youth Sports Conference and because I was the only person to know the local mountain and hill paths, I became the leader in Hill Climbing. A wonderful experience with much laughter over the fact that at nearly 70, I was able to keep up with and out walk most of the youngsters who ventured into the mountains with me.

However, our main purpose was, and always will be, to assist as best we can those invisible souls who get forgotten or left behind. Our journey this time has been both harrowing and so rewarding. The seeds we have sown over the years have begun to mature in ways we could never have hoped for: -

- Joyful, a quiet country girl shattered by her Father's premature death was, we were told, not worth bothering with, as she was not particularly clever. We disagreed. She is now a beautiful young lady with firm Christian beliefs and has graduated with a diploma in Social Studies, AND A FUTURE.
- Jane, dying of AIDS through no fault of her own, and with 5 young children is now receiving drugs to extend her life and we have provided food via a kind donor to keep the family going for the coming 12 months.
- Pius, 18 years old and struggling to provide for younger siblings due to his Mother being in prison on trumped up charges related to witchcraft, now has a bike and will be able to earn a living from it. Small things provided by all of you through ourselves.
- I think it can be summed up by a young man who approached me and said, "Uncle Brian, you will not recognise me, but 7 years ago you helped me to return to school by buying me the text books I could not afford. You saved my life as I am now on my way to University to study medicine and I can never thank you enough for what you did".

Small things can mean so much and I thank so much, those of you who give us encouragement every time we travel. If anybody wants to know more of our work, we are always happy to give talks.

We have come back once more with a project. It involves young girls who are HIV positive but are kept within their own society, which normally shuns them as unclean. We met a Kenyan lady of truly visionary abilities and we want to raise £800 to help buy land to sustain these lovely children in food. This project is based in Gulu, Northern Uganda. An area that has been torn apart by the brutal war that over 20 years has forced children to become killing machines and has now dumped them on the streets with nowhere to go. We have returned with a DVD about this war that is almost beyond belief. I am not very good at raising money so if anybody is interested to know more or is good at fund raising, I would love to hear from them.

We love Uganda and its people, many of whom suffer in silence but always with a smile of welcome. We hope to return again and again to help in any practical way we can. Our Ugandan Daughter, Miriam is now a fully qualified midwife and sends a big smile, a huge hug and all her love to all who remember her when she visited us some time ago

Thanks again to all of you who help us to help these lovely people. We can always be contacted on 01823 680471.

Brian and Sheila Pretty