

# ABH Annual Report

2020

Hi everyone, thank you all once again for your prayers and support. It has been a long time since our last meeting, this last stay in Uganda lasted a full twelve months. This enabled me to get a better look at how bee keeping works in Uganda and better manage ABH in general. The AGM could not be held as I needed to get the Ugandan receipts to Sonia Winter so she could finish our audit. I did not wish to trust the postal system as to lose them could be a major problem, this also meant that we were late to submit our activity statement with the A.C.N.C. but an extension was granted with no problems and the report was submitted.

So we are looking at having our **AGM on Saturday the 1st of August**, it would be held at Tom and Di Ferguson's, 45 Strickland Street Clare. Please let me know if you are able to attend or if that date is a problem, we could look at alternatives. Perhaps also we could think about finding new members to join our team?

This coronavirus issue became a much bigger challenge than first expected. It is fortunate that I was able to return safely to Australia and find work again to help my personal financial position. However now with my wife Irene and I being apart until flights become available makes the whole situation difficult and I am unable to make many short to medium term plans. Just before leaving Uganda, I shut down our workshop in Kaihura as the management and financial situation was declining. I also moved out of the three rooms we were renting for Saul and myself, this with hindsight turned out to be a good decision. Deus was put off at that time also, so while unfortunate has meant greatly reduced costs.

Many things were learned with bee keeping, this last year but nothing much has changed financially and trying to produce large amounts of honey still seems illusive. However it still remains a great way to increase income for people in remote villages, thus being an important part of ABH's development goals. However for us to continue in the same way would deliver much the same results. Sometimes it seems being out in the community or in the bush gives God opportunities to use us to help people in need. This at times can be our most important role. So just to recap what bee keeping is all about, first it is a way of development for local people. Secondly our participation enables us to teach techniques that work in the field, so we hope these new ideas will help develop the commercial side of the industry. This also enables us to do research and development which we are finally seeing results but need to improve the bottom line, this last year we linked up with an american project funded by National Geographics to monitor internal hive conditions digitally which are monitoring hives in four apiaries. This information is sent out for anyone to access. I do suspect that the Americans will receive all the credit and funding while we do all the work at our own expense. The lockdown has of course delayed our work but now it seems Saul has everything back on track. Thirdly, buying honey from the village provides a better market for locals while at the same time, the retail sale of this honey gives ABH a small income. The buying of timber, manufacturing and sales of bee hives gives people a high standard of life while also giving ABH increased funding

to run it's day to day operations. This also teaches skills and creates employment. Fourthly but not finally, my hope has been to run my own hives enabling Irene and I to continue our work, to date we must be averaging around \$250 per week while also paying our own travel costs. No income what so ever has been made by bee keeping personally and even my personal funds has been used to have our work continue. As I turn 61 years later this year an answer must be found soon.

ABH also helps some students and young children, in the past we have also worked with Pastor Fred and GIDCO ministries, and hope this work can continue as Pastor Fred says they are currently in dire straits, with food being a major issue. So....what to do next? We place our future in God's hands and ask His leading!

At this stage my plans are as follows: To allow Bringing Hope to The Family to sell our honey in Kaihura and the welders using our back workshop to sell hives for us but only to use the Kaihura workshop to manufacture bee hives. These would be transported to Kampala to be assembled, our workshop there is well established, workers are available and timber is also much cheaper than Kampala. so we would be looking at finding a shop to sell honey and hives in Kampala near our home. At the rear of this place would be a small workshop to assemble our hives. This would give two major advantages, first to enable me to be home most nights and secondly to place us closer to our biggest market. It also reduces transport costs as hives unassembled will only use about 20% of the space.

I would also use my super money to buy land for myself and Irene. This would be in the north and have our biggest apiary, which would become our main demonstration apiary. This would be for ABH's research and development trials. Our honey processing plant would also be established there. I would also hope to grow cereals and vegetables and also have tree trials. We would hope to see some profit from this and are open to any other ideas that may work. The hope would be that with a small allowance from ABH for us, the sale of honey and production from the land would improve our income to a sustainable level, let's hope and pray so!

So, what have we learned over 11 years of work in Uganda???? Well, Faith is doing great work in Kaihura but with our small budget, we are unable to help much, Pastor Fred is also a great way to channel funds to help young children. Kaihura is well established to manufacture bee hives but would only be in use when needed. A shop in the outskirts of Kampala with a small assembling workshop would allow Saul and myself to be at home more often and our sales would increase with over four million people, who generally have a much higher income being in our area. The ten acre farm 250 km north would be placed in a great place for agriculture while also being in the best region we have found for honey production. With the honey plant being relocated there, our travel needed to visit our apiaries and process our honey would be zero to 120 kms rather than 1,000 kms. We will need to travel to Kaihura for about one week every six weeks, a distance of 500 kms a round trip and we would need to travel to the north for about a week every four weeks. That means we would travel around 1,200 kms per six weeks instead of around 2,500 km and be away from home about two weeks every six. If we don't need to manufacture any hives, we would not travel to Kaihura that month at all. This will be a great help if times get tough.

## Prayer Points

1. For funding to relocate the honey plant to the north.
2. For funding and availability of a shop near home.
3. For my Visa / Residency to be approved.
4. For flights to become available back to Uganda.
5. For land in the right place to become available.
5. For funding for improvements on this land so it can be used to showcase best bee keeping practices and become a base for our work.

**Thank you all once again for your support, without you we would cease to exist. May our Lord bless you and keep you and His face shine upon you,**

Phillip. J. Grigg. C.E.O.

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