



AUSTRALIA BRINGING HOPE INC.

Heart and Hope for those in Need
www.abhinc.org.au

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Issue 8

Australia Bringing Hope Inc. (ABH) is a development and relief organisation set up to work in developing countries and we are currently working in Uganda.

Our aim is to work along side local people assisting them in areas of health, welfare, housing and income generating projects so that they are able to become self sufficient.

We partner with a Ugandan organisation, Bringing Hope to the Family and are involved with supporting their orphanage, medical clinic and vocational school.

Our CEO is based in Uganda and has set up a honey extracting plant and a workshop, training and providing employment in areas of mechanical repairs, engineering and carpentry.

An update from ABH Uganda... (November 30)

Hi guys, we are taking a few days break in Kampala. It is our second wedding anniversary and we both need to get away and spend some time together. Irene has been busy doing her "course works" for her masters in Development Training and in fact I need to be quick and let her have the computer! We are staying at our place in Kampala. We now have mains water, well it's at our back door at least, so we still have to carry it in by jerry can. Yesterday I went out to get water and nothing happened! So we had to get a young lad to carry it from a distant tank so we could drink and bath. As normal the power has been off every other day. Yesterday it went off at 7am and came back on at 9pm. It was our turn to have power! Other days it is just off all day and night.

Last night we met up with Wayne and Bev Stevens (who work in Kitgum in Northern Uganda) who are today heading home (to South Australia) for a well earned rest. They will return late February to continue the construction of their 30' x 55' workshop. Wayne is still recovering from an accident last year and still only has full use of one arm, this he says is also worn out because of over use! It was great to catch up and share our similar struggles, challenges and successes.

Last weekend was a tragic time on our village roads. Four young people who worked for the local

government were killed when their car hit a semi trailer head on! One was our mechanic's cousin, another was the District Development Officer, who I spoke to the previous week. I helped carry the family back home as a government car carried the body. We are also involved in helping with three weddings on 29, 30 and 31 December. It is great to be able to help out community members, but on our small income it does stretch us a bit! Fuel prices are now double what they were in 2009 and the inflation rate is 30%. We have seen a 30% rise in steel prices in the last few weeks and welding rods have gone from 35,000 ugx (Ugandan Schillings) to 74,500 ugx in a few weeks.

Our Welders have been offered an opportunity to work with a Belgium company to build a ferry. This is a very large project and approved by Lloyds of London. There will only be ten Ugandans working on the project and we have been offered five positions. We are also building a four ton trailer for a local tea company. This is exciting as we need to get involved in building things that no one else does. We are already getting a lot of interest in our wood stoves and hope to improve our product range as we grow. We are also training a team to do concrete work. We are currently doing a 30' x 30' slab for Global Support Mission (American organisation) and I must say the guys are almost up to Aussie standards!

I have been very busy upgrading equipment, our kitchen, our power supply and also many of our systems. There are always plenty of challenges to overcome. Unfortunately we have had to close our carpentry section. We have supported our four carpenters to set up their own business across the road. ABH has given them a number of tools, iron sheets to build their workshop and also paid six months rent for the new shop. We trust that their training and employment with ABH will assist these men in this new project.

Bee keeping is expanding very fast. We now have 24 apiaries, most are only a hand full of hives but we are expanding fast. We have well over 150 people involved and our numbers are expanding. The season is looking good for December, January and February. We hope the rain will stop soon. We have been getting 6 to 8 inches of rain each month since returning from Australia in July. A big challenge with the bee keeping project is the cost to travel to each of the sites so help in this area would be great!! The people that we are assisting become commercial bee keepers are living in very poor conditions, they live in mud huts with thatched roofs.

Well I must let Irene use the computer! Have a great Christmas everyone. Hope harvest is going well for the farmers!

Blessings from Phill and Irene and all the ABH gang here in Uganda.

Volunteer Visit to Uganda...

Since our last newsletter in October we have had a new board member join us — Jill Walker. Jill has recently moved to Blyth from Peterborough. Jill is very excited to share that she will be travelling to Uganda on February 8 2012 and we be returning on March 14.

We would also like to introduce you to Barbara Butler. Barbara has completed her first year of medicine this year at Adelaide Uni. She heard Phill speak about his travels to Uganda in 2006 and since that time has felt that she would like to visit Uganda. Barbara is from a farm near to Marian Bay on the Yorke Peninsula and is "terrified but excited" about leaving for Uganda on 28 December for an eight week stay.



Barbara Butler and Jill Walker

Update on ABH's welders...

Three of ABH's welders, Patrick, Andrew and Enock, travelled by bus to Kampala to begin the job with a Belgium company and the Ugandan government. They are the only trainees on the job. This is Enock's first time in the city and the others are also very much "village boys" who think that they are in another world. This is an incredible opportunity for ABH's trainees.

December 1 — World AIDS day...

Here are some Ugandan statistics:

Over 1.2 million children have been orphaned by AIDS in Uganda.

Only 15% of the population have been tested.

64, 000 people died in Uganda last year from AIDS related illnesses.

There are over 150,000 children who are HIV positive.

There were 124,000 new infections of HIV last year.

540,000 need antiretroviral drugs but only 290,000 have access to them.

Most of ABH Uganda's employees and trainees have been affected by AIDS. Many people have lost their parents at an early age and have been raised by relatives that are often unable to or don't want to look after them. It's not surprising that many young people don't plan for their future as most people don't live very long. The average age for a Ugandan is 42 years. They see things come and go, they are often let down and just see poverty. Phill recently emailed about a women who is the third wife of a much older man who is HIV positive. Irene warned this women about AIDS and her response was "would I be the first to get AIDS?" Such a dismissive response and what would seem a lack of concern is really very tragic.

Christmas Time ...

As we are fast approaching Christmas it can often be a time where we reflect on the blessings in our lives and think of others who are a lot less fortunate.

Here is Australia Christmas can often be very materialistic. Christmas can be an opportunity for us to **show love and provide hope** to those impacted by poverty.

A donation to ABH at Christmas time could go towards a Christmas lunch for the ABH team in Uganda. A simple meal like pizza, that it often a regular occurrence for us in the Western world, is a **once in a life time experience** for the guys in Uganda.

A recent email from Pastor Fred in Jinja, Uganda told us of a women called Kafuko Manjeri. It is with permission that we share her story. Her husband died six years ago leaving Manjeri to care for five children on her own. She has now been diagnosed with breast cancer and has had to sell their only possessions, their cow, goat and hen to be able to access medical treatment. She has been advised that she requires an operation that will cost \$1000 US. To go to hospital in Uganda is very different to Australia. The hospital provides medical care only. Families are required to nurse and look after the patient 's needs, such as food, bathing, toileting etc. They are required to provide towels and bedding. Many are simply unable to access medical care.

Please **consider a donation** to ABH to enable us to continue our vital work in Uganda.

We thank you for **your support** this year and wish you a joyful and peaceful Christmas and New Year!

Australia Bringing Hope Inc.

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