



AUSTRALIA BRINGING HOPE INC.

February 2014

Issue 11

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.

Upcoming Events

We invite you to hear about the work of ABH at the following events:

22 February at 7.30am - Clare Uniting Church Men's Breakfast.

22 February at 6pm - Clayton's Party, 45 Strickland Street, Clare.

26 February at 8pm - ABH Supporters Meeting, 45 Strickland Street, Clare.

1 March at 6pm—Women's Night (Chick Flick), 45 Strickland Street, Clare.

The Heart of Australia Bringing Hope

There is no doubt that as Australians we experience challenges, however overall we live in a very blessed country with systems in place to assist us if we are injured, ill or disadvantaged. In countries like Uganda this is not the case. Conditions are improving, however many people suffer as they lack the basic care that we take for granted. People die or suffer simply because they don't have a few dollars to enable them to buy medicine or access medical care.

We believe that ABH is in a good position to help those in need in Uganda.

ABH has been working in Uganda for several years with a relatively small amount of funding, and despite that the need is

While Phill and Irene are in Australia we are going to take this opportunity to hold a meeting for those who support ABH. At this meeting we will provide a review of our past projects, and discuss our current projects and plans for the future. There will also

huge we have seen on many occasions where a little (in our terms) goes a long way to change the lives of many people in Uganda.

While part of ABH's role is to provide relief when needed, the main focus of our work is on sustainable projects. Our aim is to empower and equip people, especially those living in more remote areas, to enable them to become self sufficient.

As our CEO is based in Uganda, ABH is able to ensure that all donations are used in the best possible way. Having a locally based CEO means that our projects are monitored very closely and all funds are accounted for. We believe that this is of great benefit to our supporters

as they can be assured that their donations are making a difference to those in need in Uganda.

ABH doesn't run a school, a hospital or an orphanage but we work closely with other organisations that do so. Therefore if donors wish to support these specialised areas ABH is able to pass on donations to these organisations. This is also vital work as many of these organisations often need assistance with funding to continue to operate efficiently.

We believe that ABH plays an incredibly important role in working with those in need in Uganda. Please consider partnering with us so that the positive work can continue.

Meeting for Supporters of ABH

be an opportunity to provide us with feedback if you wish to do so. The meeting will be held at Tom and Di Ferguson's upstairs room (45 Strickland Street Clare) on 26 February. If you would like to get involved you are most welcome to join us.



Jill Schunke's Reflections of her time in Uganda

There are times in our lives when extraordinary opportunities are given to us to take up and run with; in my case, spending five weeks in Uganda with ABH. For me it was to experience first hand the work of ABH; to see their challenges and successes, to meet the people linked to the organisation and help where I was able. The experience gave an enormous insight to the needs of Ugandans, as well as workers on the ground and was enlightening to the Board, supporters and interested parties upon returning home.

My first impression of ABH at Kaihura in western district of Kyenjojo, was the immense amount of building construction on site and training of young men that had been accomplished over three years.

My first impressions of the nation were the beauty of the land, the welcoming hearts of people and the joyfulness of the children. By contrast one sees endless poverty of housing and sanitation, education for self-help, food and health care to mention a few. I travelled many a dirt road into rural Uganda, often accompanying the CEO in his bee keeping teaching and checking of hives. Road travel is far from safe and where the national road toll is one of the highest in the world, I gave thanks for getting to my destinations intact!

As a visitor from a developed nation like Australia one is faced with many challenges in standards of Ugandan everyday life and we are stretched beyond our comfort zone. Needless to say our mind-

set and hearts are changed forever, but our life is greatly enriched through the experience.

One's presence is often the gift to those you connect with; it says you care enough to have come. On the other hand one can bring gifts of skills as well as some financial assistance and helping in unexpected ways i.e. supplying work boots for a local welding in thongs, providing a truck load of wood for the local Home Again Orphanage so they could cook meals for a week (the children were collecting from the forest), giving instruction to the cook in operating a (ABH built) wood burning stove! I was at one point asked to be a cow herder's fifth wife, but he settled for having his photo taken and seeing himself on my camera.

My favorite tree in Uganda is the mango tree. Mango trees are everywhere and not only produce fruit but also are a place of shade, a class room; a gathering place. Under the mango tree is where you mix with people at a 'grass roots' level. It was here on more than one occasion that I came to know clearly the love given to me for the Ugandan nation and in particular those at a 'grass roots' level in rural communities.

May you be encouraged to take up and run with that desire in your heart to reach into the lives of those in an impoverished land. Your support would be invaluable.



An extract from Dr Ian Clarke's book 'How Deep is this Pothole'.

"Those who visit get their hands dirty: building something, working with local people and seeing the everyday struggles that people go through. There is so much that is lost in a sanitised western civilisation; one can not readily understand what villagers go through in the struggles of everyday living, such as fetching water, getting wood for a fire, or even getting through the traffic unless one has experienced it. There is something about the sights and smells of life or the resilience of the people that can never be understood from words or a picture."

Australia Bringing Hope Inc.

ABN 88 527 043 142

Licence No. CCP1261

PO Box 159

Blyth SA 5462

T: 0428 844 885 (Phill) or 0417 889 078 (Katherine)

E: austbringinghope@gmail.com

W: www.abhinc.org.au