



AUSTRALIA BRINGING HOPE INC.

Heart and Hope for those in Need

www.abhinc.org.au

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Issue 9

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.

Hi there supporters of Australia Bringing Hope!

We apologise that once again it has been some time since our last newsletter. Much has happened throughout 2012 and we hope you enjoy reading all about it in this newsletter!

An Australia Bringing Hope Update — Phill Grigg (CEO)

To a lot of our supporters it must seem that ABH has been very quiet for a long time! I apologise for the time it has taken to get our newsletter out and for the fact that we are still to update our web site. In reality it has been a year of action for ABH. We have taken many steps to place ourselves well for the growth and challenges of the future.

There are many challenges that we have had to face, however, ABH has achieved great things in 2012.

ABH has assisted three of the Income Generation Project (IGP) team to move to Kampala to work with an international company building a large ferry.

The IGP team has been trained in business management, and both the CEO and the IGP General Manager have completed a training course.

The new section of the workshop in Kainura has been completed.

The CEO has joined the Ugandan Forest and Agriculture Company as an adviser.

Students from Bringing Hope to the Family's (BHF) Vocational School have been trained in welding, safety and mechanical repairs.

The first batch of honey has been extracted after 3 1/2 years.

Adolf's house has been completed.

A formal review of ABH Board and

Ugandan operations has begun. This has assisted us in learning more about the challenges that face development organisations.

Ferry Building Project, Kampala

2012 started off with three of our IGP team, Patrick, Andrew and Enoch being sent to Kampala to help build a large ferry across one of Uganda's lakes.

A customer (from the National Roads Authority) of the IGP, who was in charge of the ferry project asked if we could supply him with some welders. I didn't want to give him our best welders and thus reduce the quality of our work here so I spoke to the General Manager of the Belgium ship building company and he agreed to take on our guys as trainees. Most of the welders on the project came from Kenya as Uganda has very few good welders. I stuck my neck out by saying that while our guys were not up to ship building standards they were people he could trust. I loaned them money personally so that they were able to find a place to stay as they weren't going to get paid until the end of the month. Our three trainees hadn't ever been out of the village and were feeling very overwhelmed by the job ahead of them.

I'm pleased to report that the foreman said that Patrick was one of the best there and he was put in charge of a small team of men. Andrew and Enoch also performed very well and on my many visits to check on their welfare and the progress of the ferry the General Manager told me how

pleased he was with them.

The guys say to this day how grateful they are for getting the opportunity to train in such a world class project. Enoch is still welding for another large company, and Patrick and Andrew had come back to Kainura but are now working on another large project. They hope to return soon but they get paid four times more on these big projects than what they do in the village.

This is what ABH is all about, taking village boys with only about grade six education, training them and seeing them go out and achieve great things.

Team Leadership Training

It has been a challenge working with up to 18 people and sometimes 12 students in the workshop but we have been able to teach standards which are higher than most other local workshops. Throughout 2012 time was spent training the team in all areas of management and the General Manager and I spent ten days at an intensive training course in Fort Portal that was conducted by Development Association International.

Volunteer Visits

In January and February 2012 we were blessed with a visit from medical student, Barbara Butler and ABH Board Member, Jill Walker.

Barbara spent her time at Bringing Hope to the Family's Hope Again Medical Clinic and also with another Australian organisation, Come Uganda, checking out their many

projects and the great work they are doing at the Mulago Hospital in Kampala. Barbara is continuing her support by sponsoring a fifth year high school student, Paul. Paul has worked with ABH during his school holidays and he is simply brilliant. Sponsorship means that he is much more likely to have a chance to go to university.

Jill spent much time in Kaihura and as well as seeing what ABH is doing she spent time checking out BHF's projects while also finding time to see firsthand the bee keeping projects and the training of bee keepers in Mayuge in the east of Uganda.

Workshop Completed

The first section of the new workshop has been completed. This is in addition to an extension of the kitchen / storeroom. With 60 inches of rain per year it has been much needed. An old truck tarp is still being used until the other three sections are able to be completed at a cost of around \$5,000. Once the floor is concreted some of the equipment will be able to remain in the workshop rather than being moved each day.

Adolf's New Home

Thanks to the Blyth Primary School, Adolf, his wife and their three children have moved into their new four bedroom home. Adolf originally wanted to make a mud hut, from bamboo and mud, with an iron roof, but a house like this would last up to 15 years and would eventually fall down. Instead we have built a more permanent brick home. It is only small (around 25ft x 20ft) but can be built onto. Adolf and his family are so grateful for their home.

This is a project that ABH can do again. All of the funds received were spent on the house and I am able to oversee the project to completion.



Teaching and Training

It has been a pleasure to assist a local high school with some practical training in mechanics and also teaching some of the Vocational School students skills in mechanics

and welding. I have also spent some time at one of BHF's projects setting up their irrigation pump and teaching general operating skills.

During 2012 I have delivered several presentations to a forestry and agriculture company. The company is newly formed and is 100% Ugandan owned. I have been invited to become a director and also manager of the mechanical / technical operations. The company employs over 100 staff, has 1,400 acres and hopes to purchase another 1,000 acres soon. The challenges ahead of them are also great but it will be good to help out and I will also be able to guide them on how best to benefit the local communities surrounding the properties.

The Honey is Flowing!

It has been a long time coming but in August 2012 we extracted our first batch of honey! We have started a number of new bee projects with people who have no knowledge in bee keeping and no money. It takes time to catch bees, build hives and train people in the village. The local people often have trouble with waiting a long time for results for their work. They expect, like growing maize, you plant and in a few months, you reap! But slowly by slowly we are getting people trained and the bees are increasing in number and strength. With further funding I hope to start apiaries right across the country.

Change to ABH Chairperson

Our Chairman, Graham Jenkin, resigned from the ABH Board at our AGM in September, however he has continued to be a great support to the Board as a 'Resource Person.' Graham has donated much in time to ABH in the last few years and we are very grateful for his support. Much credit is due to Graham for ABH's direction and the efficient operations that are in place.

It is exciting to welcome Jill Walker as our new Chairperson. The month she spent in Uganda gives her a good picture of what needs to be done and having seen all of our projects first hand she knows that the funds that are donated to ABH are being used well. I am looking forward to her return visit sometime in the future.

A Change to ABH's Focus

Over the last four years I have put much effort and personal funding into our projects to ensure their success, hoping that by now the mechanical, engineering and carpentry sections of the IGPs would have become self sufficient. The carpenters were assisted to start their own business a number of months

ago, but the mechanical and engineering sections had continued throughout 2012. Disappointingly though the results haven't matched the time and resources that have gone into these projects. As a result of this, and because I came down with Malaria in November, a decision was made to close all projects down for five weeks over the Christmas period for ABH to consider its future direction.

It was decided in early January that ABH's main focus will return to bee keeping. There were six guys that were part of the mechanical and engineering projects and over the last few weeks they have been assisted with equipment and some finance to start their own business, Kaihura Welding and Mechanical Services.

The Way Forward in 2013

The New Year has been off to a busy start, setting up the team in their new business, reorganising the workshop and working hard to improve and expand bee keeping.

Over the past four years we have trained over 30 people, all are now working, some in large companies, some in government departments and others in their own business. I have trained well over 200 people in bee keeping and have over 14 groups or individuals still being trained with their own modern apiaries. The honey plant is in operation and we are set for a very productive future.



While ABH is concentrating on bee keeping as a way of assisting people to escape poverty, we are also able to ensure that any donations for specific purposes go to exactly what the donor desires.

We believe that we can change the lives of many people who are struggling to survive.

Would you consider supporting us with regular monthly donations? Even \$10 a month can make a big difference when a number of people take action.

Please contact us!

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