



Australia Bringing Hope Inc.

June 2009

Issue 2

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Australia Bringing Hope Inc. (ABH)

is a development and relief organisation set up to work in developing countries and is currently working in Uganda. The aim of ABH is to work alongside local people helping them in areas of health, welfare, housing and income generating projects.

Good News

The container has finally made it to the Beekeeping Site in Kaihura, Uganda. Phill reports that everything is in good order. The hospital beds, computers, photo copiers, medical equipment, clothes and sewing machines have all been given to Bringing Hope to the Family (BHF) and are in use. The vehicles are registered and are in use.

The beekeeping site has been prepared so now the workshop and honey plant can be installed. Hopefully this project when it is up and running will increase agricultural productivity and increase participation in income generating activities. The people face many challenges among which food security and limited knowledge and skills to take advantage of economic opportunities are critical if the communities are to eradicate poverty. In more detail, problems include HIV/AIDS, land ownership, domestic violence, family dispute, lack of capital and labour issues. The successes of this income generating project will have a far reaching effect, impacting the lives of many people.

From Phill

Phillip Grigg (CEO) has been in Uganda since late January 2009. Here are some snippets from his emails:

GIDCCO Ministries:

"Saturday I caught up with Pastor Fred who I have been in contact with for a year or two. He cares for around 500 orphans and 200 widows. He took me to his very modest home where I met his family and also about a dozen orphans that live with them. The children sang for me and I was told about their stories. A lot have AIDS and were living on the streets, some start prostitution as young as 13. Pastor Fred has built a small school that has 100 young students. The school is just a shed with open spaces for doors and windows, dirt floors and no chairs etc, the three teaches work as volunteers. There is nothing else, just a small toilet block and what us Aussies would call bush. They have to walk 4km to get water which is shared with the local cattle, Pastor Fred said he would not drink it even if it was boiled!"

**Australia
Bringing Hope
Inc partners
with Bringing
Hope to the
Family (BHF).**

BHF is a small Ugandan based organisation in Kaihura. They run a medical clinic, testing and treating over 1000 people each year for HIV AIDS. They support around 2,800 orphans and operate a vocational school training around 200 people. Since September 2000 they have had enormous impact in this community. Two organisations from the US, Global Support Mission and Embrace Uganda, also partner with BHF.

From Phil Cont.

Bringing Hope to the Family (BHF):

“One of the major challenges at BHF (Kaihura) is that the non-government organisation that is providing drugs for the 800 AIDS patients is withdrawing funding. This will leave about 200 children without help, which is Faith's main worry. The other concern is all the young children living at the other Home Again are living in a building that does not have doors and windows. Lots of small children are getting sick with malaria etc.”

“MY MAIN CONCERN.. is for baby Paige who was thought to have died last night, they raced her to hospital in the early hours, she is in a critical state but still with us, the building where she stays has no windows or doors. This needs to be urgently fixed! More funds are needed though, several children keep getting sick! Just spoke to Chris, he said that Paige has improved slightly, she is still in Forte Portal, and her condition is serious still.”

“The medical centre is very busy, some busy days it looks like well over a hundred people attend.”

Bee Keeping Project:

“The site is now levelled and rubble, I hope to get a roller tomorrow to pack the ground, the footings have been poured for the honey plant, steel posts / trusses welded ready to go, a service pit, toilet and water tank dug. We hope to erect the shed this week and start bricking up the underground tanks and service pit. The main progress and encouragement comes from all the support for the project from Bringing Hope to the Family, the locals, church as well as the neighbouring beekeeping association and also a government minister.

While talking to a few beekeepers yesterday it was clear to me that beekeeping in Australia is far different from here. I found it interesting listening to things like... In Sudan where they are starting to work, one area is doing well because they have land mines! So what this means is that people can't go in and clear the trees because they will get blown up! But the bees just fly in and work the area, no problems, I guess it would take a very big bee to land on a land mine and set it off!!! Also they tell me that elephants are very scared of bees! They told me if any elephant charges you, run to a bee hive and give it a kick!”

Update:

Paige's health has improved and she has returned to the Home Again orphanage in Kaihura. Donated funds have meant that the original Home Again building now has doors and windows fitted.

HOPE

Hope
 Bringing Hope
 Bringing Hope to the Family
 Is what we're about ...

Love, joy, peace
 Abound...

Bringing Hope
 Sees the big picture
 Yet so importantly cares so lovingly
 For each individual

Bringing Hope knows
 How life 'happens'
 Flows
 And to go with it
 Instead of trying to 'control' it
 Like many in western countries
 Try to do
 They have the illusion
 Of being able to control
 Of having power...

Bringing Hope knows
 How things flow
 From one area of life
 To another
 Give food to a child
 And you can give them health
 Give a child health
 And you can give them education
 Give a child education
 And they can provide housing and an
 income for their family...

But,
 Above all,
 It is love
 Which Bringing Hope to the Family
REALLY knows how to give
 And the orphans
 In particular
 Are told
 Experience
 And know
 That they are loved

"WE LOVE YOU!"
 "WE CARE FOR YOU!"

As Bringing Hope to the Family aims to provide for spiritual, physical, social, emotional, mental needs

Bringing Hope to the Family knows
 That wellness
 Is not merely
 An absence of disease or illness
 But a way of describing
 "Life"

Living with vitality
 And the many determinants
 Including social issues
 Such as housing and transport
 That contribute to "being well"

May Bringing Hope to the Family continue to provide
 For Ugandan people's wellbeing...

"WE LOVE YOU!"

"YOU ARE LOVED!"

© Belinda Webb 6/4/09

Katherine's Report

Belinda and I went as Australian Bringing Hope Inc (ABH) board members to Uganda at the end of March this year for two weeks. It was a short trip as I have two young children and I wasn't sure how they and I would cope at being away from each other. The purpose of our visit was to experience life in Uganda and to see firsthand the projects that ABH is supporting, so that we are able to continue to raise the profile in Australia of how people in this part of the world are living.

We met up with ABH's CEO, Phill Grigg, who is currently based in Kaihura. Phill did a great job as our tour guide. We spent a few days in the capital city, Kampala, before travelling by bus to the village of Kaihura. We spent the majority of our time here with Bringing Hope to the Family (BHF). We then spent about 24 hours being tourists at the Queen Elizabeth National Park - enjoying our one and only shower - before we headed to Jinja (the source of the River Nile) and visited a village called Mayuge (pronounced my oog gee).

We certainly experienced a very good snapshot of Uganda in a short time. We experienced the chaos of city life in Kampala. There is a population of 27.6 million people in Uganda in a country slightly bigger than Victoria so there are literally people everywhere. It seemed like everyone had a purpose though, whether they were going somewhere or selling things in the street. The most confronting part of Kampala was the children. There were very young children who sat all day in the sun begging in the street. They held their hands up and didn't move. The sadness that I experienced when seeing these children who were just toddlers is indescribable. I felt an ache inside me that I have never felt before.

In Kaihura, where BHF is based, we were able to see the projects that ABH is supporting. It was such a blessing and privilege to experience this with my own eyes. There are amazing staff who work for next to nothing in BHF's medical clinic, orphanage and vocational school. BHF supports around 2800 orphans enabling them to have access to education and medical assistance, a luxury that we take for granted, that they otherwise wouldn't experience. I spent the majority of my time in Kaihura in the Home Again orphanage, assisting the orphanage "mother", Eva, with looking after the children. I was able to hear some of the children's stories. Such tragic stories about children being abandoned, children watching their parents die, and children themselves experiencing disease, hunger and isolation. So many times I felt so overwhelmed by the desperate need, but then also so amazed at how incredibly positive these people are. Despite their negative circumstances, they radiate so much beauty, joy and hope, and have so much that we in the western world can learn from. The Ugandan people accepted us like we were family and were so thankful that we had come and yet in so many ways they blessed us more than we could ever have imagined.

Would you like to hear more about Katherine and Belinda's trip to Uganda?

Maybe see some pictures?

Contact us, we would love to talk about our experiences with you.

Chairman's Report June 2009

Australia Bringing Hope Board is a dedicated team that works towards achieving its aims of bringing relief and development to developing countries such as Uganda. Personally pleasing is the growing support for ABH and its aims. Equally rewarding is seeing the passion for the orphans and rural people of Kaihura in the Kyenjojo District by Board members – Belinda Webb and Katherine White whom took the opportunity to personally visit and stay for two weeks this year. It is so inspiring and encouraging having a first hand experience of where relief is being administered.

One of the aims of ABH was to have its Chief Executive Officer –Phillip Grigg based in Uganda to better assess local needs for development and relief, and to monitor all ABH projects. Without doubt it's a joy to report that our CEO is now based in Kaihura with all his necessary equipment for establishing a bee-keeping project to further enhance and improve local Ugandan bee-keepers. The aim of this specific project is to extend the hope of long term sustainable income generating industries – all of which seek to empower Ugandan rural people. The specific objectives of the bee-keeping project are multifaceted: namely to support increased honey productivity among bee-keeping farmers in Kyenjojo and support collective participation in apiary based activities. Secondly, to increase the participation of beneficiaries of Bringing Hope to the Family in viable income generating activities. To scale up knowledge and skill based training in business and entrepreneurship. Further to increase the functional skills of bee keepers and to build the local capacity in life improvement approaches. This project is our primary focus thus far and will require much support –both now and the immediate future.

All support given is gratefully received either financially or in kind – the key to success of this project (and all others) is unlimited compassion having no bounds.

Also noteworthy is to say that on April 21 2009 ABH was accepted by the Australian Government as an approved organisation under the Overseas Aid Gift Deduction Scheme and is awaiting final approval by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Once approved by the ATO then all donations will be tax deductible – until then donations can be made online through: ourcommunity.com.au. Despite the global financial crisis, Australia Bringing Hope remains optimistic that the people of Australia (and indeed all others) will foster genuine compassion, faith, hope and love for which I for one are eternally grateful.

Please see the website for more details: www.abhinc.org.au

Mark White, ABH Chairman

Opportunities to
get involved:

Please contact us
if you are
interested in being
part of a team
visiting Uganda.

