



Spring 2019

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1115766

AFRICA GREATER LIFE MISSION UK

A Time for Reflection

For the first time ever, we held a gathering of those that were at university or other post-school education or training. It had been their practice, ever since they left primary school, to meet with Chris at Bulabakulu and look back over their previous year and discuss the year ahead. We are now talking about young adults, mostly in their twenties, who are gaining confidence and maturity. They were invited to the guest house that we use in Wakiso to eat dinner with us. They got the chance to get together with a bunch of people that they grew up with and meet the 2019 team from the UK. Of course, they enjoyed eating too! The event was a great success and is highly likely to be repeated. There were 17 young people who came

along and it was wonderful to see the way their lives had been changed by the support of AGLMUK and all their sponsors. They are facing the future with hope and skills. The special guest for the evening was their former head-teacher, Joseline, for whom they all showed great respect.



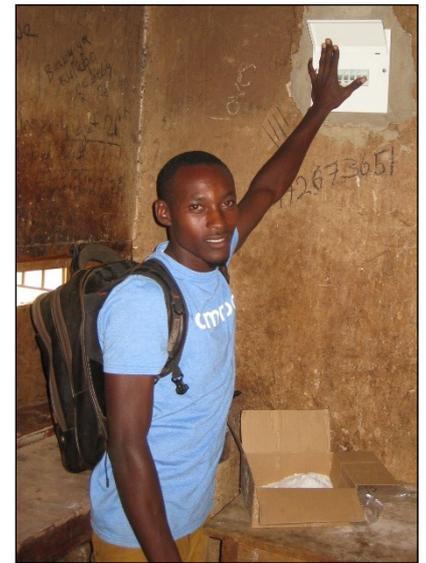
.....and Thanks-giving

As AGLMUK moves into a new phase that seeks to ensure that what has been started also gets to be satisfactorily finished, it is important that we look at what has been achieved. We have told you some of these stories before but the trustees' "man-of-the-match" for last year was Kirinya Christopher. He came to Bulabakulu as a very young boy and went all the way through Wakiso Children's School of Hope. He was supported through secondary school and achieved good results at A level. He then had to wait to go to university whilst sufficient funds could be found. He has now completed a diploma in civil engineering and has been employed as a project manager. We also sought his advice on the safety of one of the pillars of the boys dorm. Kirinya has done well in his studies and job hunting but he has also been keeping busy in other ways. He has taken on an opportunity to sell charcoal and has purchased a pop-corn machine. He employs people to run these small businesses when he is not around. His experience in construction tells him that concrete mixers are in very short supply in northern Uganda and so he aims to use the profits from his other businesses to buy and hire such a mixer. When he's got enough money together he wants to build a house for his Mum. It is really lovely to see him keeping in touch and looking after some of the younger students who don't have families to go to.



A job completed by another star turn

The money to build the school dining hall, come church, come concert hall, was supplied by a supporter of the Ugandan Child Development Fund. It was quite an early building following the completion of the school but the designers had the foresight to include ducting and back-boxes that would render the installation of electricity circuits so much easier. Mains electricity arrived at Bulabakulu during 2018 and came with a “special offer” of free connection costs - but not free electricity of course! It was decided to take advantage of this time-limited offer and connect up to the grid. The dining hall was the obvious choice - as was the electrician asked to do the work. It was our very own John. He had trained and been apprenticed as an electrician and did a great job of the hall. The cost of the installation was met by a group from Sarah’s church in North Berwick.



Funding Vocational Training and Further Education

Whilst the numbers at university and in vocational training have never been higher, there are currently 22 young people waiting to receive help. There has been a bit of a bulge leaving secondary school in 2018 and further/vocational training is expensive. It is usually necessary to save up the income from sponsorship in order to fund training. Eight of the 22 no longer have a UK sponsor and so there is no income at all. If anyone has been inspired by what John and Kirinya have shown to be possible, and are prepared to help others get trained, then please get in touch with us.



There is another way of helping young people get on their feet - and it needn’t cost anything. If you have, or know of someone else who has, a laptop or smart-phone that they have upgraded and don’t need any more, we can take it for one of the youngsters who often need them for their course or business venture. They need to be working, unlocked and clear of personal data and files. If there are passwords that are required to open/operate the devices we obviously need to be given them! Let us know if you can help in this way.

What About the Girls?

Having read the stories above you might well be thinking that we had ignored the girls of Bulabakulu! If you’d attended the gathering at our guest house you would also be asking “where are the girls?”. There was only one of the 17 that was female and that was Pamerah (pictured above with the laptop that she picked up that night). It was Pamerah that organised the boys to attend but she didn’t ignore the girls. Half of the students at High School are girls and Jesca (pictured far right) was one of the best performing A’ level students this year’s cohort. 2 young women - Rebecca (pictured near right) and Gorret have successfully qualified as Early-years teachers and have both found work.



Mosquito Nets and Anti-Mosquito Paint



Malaria is still, by far, the biggest health issue for Bulabakulu - and Uganda as a whole. It is spread by the humble mosquito that takes a suck of blood from an infected person and then goes on to take a bite out of another, passing on the malarial parasites as it does so. Most of this feeding activity is at night and so keeping mozzies away from sleeping people is an important, though not fool-proof, way of reducing the spread of the disease. Enclosing beds in very fine mesh nets provides this protection and AGLMUK has provided hundreds, if not thousands of nets over the years. When the nets are in dormitories, usually on bunk beds, they are not going to last forever and even the most careful of children will be likely to need replacements occasionally. New nets were purchased for the dormitories again this year and the team from the UK, with the assistance from some of the older children, put a net in place for each bed. With very high ceilings in the boys' dorm. this wasn't always easy but Toby's ingenuity and ball-of-string throwing skills got the job done!



A new paint product was launched on to the Ugandan market this year and we managed to buy some of the first tins available. The claim is that it will kill any mosquitoes that land on it - for around two years.

It was decided to buy enough paint for one dormitory and monitor the cases of malaria over the next year. If it works we'll obviously paint the other dorms. next year.



Sanitary Pads - No "easy" solutions

Disposable sanitary pads are expensive and often rags or even leaves are used which make life difficult for all the women. It has been tried before but we are trying again and have provided each girl with a set of washable pads, detergent, and a small bucket. They should last a year. Depending on the success of this we may be looking to repeat this next year. This and other washing issues made the team (with helpers) set to and clean out the washrooms.



The 2020 Trip



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1115766

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Trustees

Chair: Becky Webb
Secretary: Andy Bull
Treasurer: Chris Bull
Jessie Bergstrom

Trustees will be visiting Bulabakulu in February or March of 2020. With the changes that are taking place in the way AGLMUK partners with AGLM and Wakiso Children's School of Hope, the trustees have decided to review their policy relating to trips. There are a number of issues that need to be discussed and resolved before we are clear on our chosen way forward but if you might be interested in visiting Uganda with us please get in touch. We will let you know once our new policy has been agreed upon and, if appropriate, we will send you the key documents for you to carefully consider. The deadline for expressions of interest is July 31st.

What a cake!



As it says on the cake, which was made for us by a Ugandan friend - **THANK YOU** to anyone and everyone that has contributed in any way during 2018/9.



Go to
www.everyclick.com

You can find ways of supporting and donating to AGLMUK - some that don't cost you a penny.



AGLMUK has a facebook page! We produce 2 newsletters a year but hope to be able to post more frequent updates on Facebook. We think if you just search for AGLM UK on facebook you should find it.



Team of 2019 L to R (Toby inset), Andy, Louise, Chris, Jessie, Paul, Tim, Sarah and Gill

Open Evening and Talks

There will be AGLMUK open evening at Holy Trinity, Llandrindod at 7pm on Saturday 25th May but if you live in the UK and would like one of us to come and give a talk to a group near you please do get in touch.

New Management Committee at WCSH

When AGLMUK was founded, and up until around 2015, Joshua Magezi was the main point of contact in Uganda. For the last few years Precious, Joshua's wife, has been the director of Wakiso Children's School of Hope (WCSH) and Joshua has been more in the background.

In November/December 2018 Precious recruited a team of volunteers from within the membership of the church that she pastors in Kampala, to form a Management Committee for the school.

AGLMUK trustees were introduced to the Committee during our recent visit and useful, and encouraging, discussions took place. The Committee has a range of skills and backgrounds and should be able to bring them to bear in taking forward the primary school.

There was a commitment to continued dialogue between our visits to Uganda.



Chris & Andy with the Management Committee.