



'Setting the captives free...' Isa. 61

Gerry and Rose George

Charity no: 1084190

ADVANCE INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

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Building a community in Kiyindi, Uganda

It's Springtime... A time of hope & resurrection, & a time for fresh new beginnings. Song of Songs 2:10 speaks of rising up & 'seeing' that the winter is past & the rains are over & gone, flowers are appearing & the season of singing has come - It's a new season - time to start 'seeing' & expecting better things to come & stir up an attitude of fresh hope for the future. **As a charity, we sure need that - Life's not been easy.** Let me explain...

During the pandemic & up until 2021, we were blown away by people's wonderful generosity & support for this work in Uganda. We're so grateful! However, in the years since then, as economies have struggled, the charity's income has seriously dropped by well over half! Coupled with hardships, rise in the cost of living, & loss of income in Uganda, **we now don't have sufficient income to meet the need.**

The Ugandan government continues to ban people from fishing (their livelihood for generations) after selling the rights to foreign investors. In the lead-up to the recent elections, the lake was opened for the people after 16 months of restrictions, allowing them to fish freely. However, it was closed again afterward, allowing just one week per month with even more restrictions. They were told to fish during the daytime & those who do fish at night are not allowed to use any lights - not even a torch. Silverfish, which is their main source of income can only be caught at night & requires light to lure them. On top of that, the fishermen still need 4 licences - one for the boat, one the engine, one the net & one just to fish.



Sorting fish in better days

All this of course then has a **knock-on effect causing other businesses to fail.** Parents can't afford to keep their children in school & so we see some children hawking goods on the streets to raise money. Many of our students come from the islands with pretty 'unruly' characters & are sent to our schools to not only receive an education, but also in an effort to shape their futures. **Denying them an education takes away all this hope.**



Our teachers are amazing & totally dedicated to providing a high standard of education, but if we can't pay them their full salary, we'll lose them & standards will fall, resulting in more children missing out.

The **Medical Centre**, flourished following the renovations a few years ago & continues to serve the community to the best of its ability. Patients are restored to health, HIV patients receive counselling & treatment; & lots of babies are delivered. These are just a few of the services provided, but the centre still needs a scanner, a dental unit & improved facilities for blood testing. However, no money means no medication - & people die. The centre currently has 7 staff members, all of whom need to be paid & the staff accommodation still requires the long awaited repairs to make them liveable again.

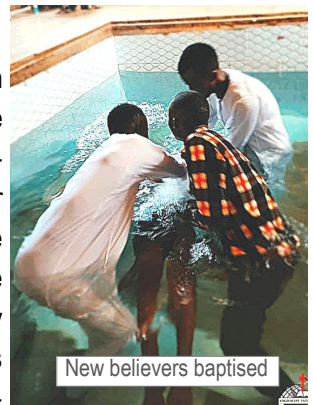


Street hawking



Crowded Children's church

On a brighter springtime note, **our wonderful church in Kiyindi continues to grow**, drawing many to the multiple services & meetings. The baptismal pool is in great demand (built by one of our former sponsored students after the government banned baptism in the lake). Despite some people moving away to find work, the building needs to be extended to accommodate more than 350 adults. They also hope to build (as they can) a venue for the children's church which currently is over 200 children; & they are also crying out for a keyboard for the ever popular Worship. New churches are being planted & other churches have also joined to come under Pastor Dan's oversight.



New believers baptised

The **3 large new tanks** we've managed to purchase, not only help with the water supply, but also help to protect the buildings from rain damage & reduce the cost of pumping water from underground sources. However, four more are still needed for other buildings.



The **main admin office** where **job skills in computer training** took place, now has **no working computers** because they were too old for current software, clearly a serious challenge for the whole project! The year-end accounts were delayed because of this shortage.

Back home: Gerry is still busy evangelising. He also runs various weekly Zoom meetings, including the popular Healing Zone, the Prophets' Parlour and Zoom preaching sessions to Nigeria & India. Rose is still involved with the 'Way of the Spirit' team in Horsham & district, holding monthly training sessions in the Kingdom Faith Church building, & she leads Bible courses at home. We both enjoy preaching, teaching or sharing about our work in Uganda whenever invited.

A couple of lovely heart-warming stories to share, to brighten up any gloomy day:

One morning while walking the dog, I was praying for Pastor Dan, & his wife Faith who'd been admitted to hospital with breathing difficulties caused by lung problems. Suddenly my phone rang &, after some fumbling at the other end, I was amazed to discover that it was Dan himself! I greeted him warmly & we talked about all that had happened. He said that I could speak to Faith myself, as he was just arriving to visit her... I chatted, encouraged & prayed for her, which was lovely. Then Dan thanked me for calling???... 'Pastor Dan, you called me!'... 'But my phone was in my pocket & I don't know how to make video calls' he exclaimed. What a wonderful loving God we serve! At just the right moment in pray, He miraculously connected us through a 'pocket' video call. He really knows how to encourage & confirm that He's with you & cares! Thank you Lord!



There was **fun & games at school** as the house groups compete on sports day. Three teams - Team 'Pam' (named after one of our trustees) came first, Team 'Rose' came second, & Team 'Gerry' came third. Well done team Pam! And as Gerry said: 'Better to come somewhere, than nowhere'



Prayer... Right now we would really value your prayers for the work... 1) For pastor Dan & his wife Faith as they have both been struggling with serious health issues. 2) 4 more water tanks. 3) Computers for the admin & job-skills training. 4) For creative ways for people to support & feed their families. 5) For provision & opportunities for the good education with hope for the future that the children deserve. 6) For the maintenance & running costs for our '**Back to Eden' Schools** to continue to be able to provide the excellent standard of education that it has been accredited for. 7) For the Teachers & other workers & that we are able to pay them their full salaries up to date. 8) Pray for our Headmaster/joint overseer Stephen as he recovers from a recent road accident. 9) That the **Medical Centre/ Pharmacy/Birthing Centre/plus**, can continue to meet the health needs of the people. 10) Structural repair & renovation of medical staff accommodation. 11) For **Kingdom Life Faith Church** & their popular Youth Church & outreach: **Berea Fellowship**. And not forgetting a building to accommodate the rapidly expanding children's church - All alive with the presence of God! 12) General running costs for the work as a whole. 13) Wisdom for us & the team to hear clearly from God for the way forward. 14) Anything else you think of - & of course pray for yourselves & the valuable part you play (or can play). Abundant love & blessings to you all...

Big challenges, but as the School motto says: 'With God on our side we shall win'

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