



October 2005 Newsletter

Dear friend,

We hope you have had a wonderful summer and that this letter finds you well. It is great to be back in England and writing to you all - we have so much to tell. For us it has been a very busy summer and God has overwhelmed us with His goodness. Once again we thank you for your partnership and prayers and hope that you are encouraged as we share our stories with you.

Arnold and Josie and their children travelled to Uganda in August to oversee the final preparations before opening the children's centre, and for a summer of team training. They were accompanied by several volunteers from the UK and Belgium. Thank you to the Janssens family, Grace, Sophie, Katie, Stephen, Steve Robertson for all your help, to Ros and Tyler (who went out to shoot footage for a promotion video about the Kampala Children's Centre), and to Steve Watters and Ruth Coleman who are still there.



NDE new minibus and Patrick our faithful and very skilful driver

Whilst in Uganda we purchased a minibus. It has proved invaluable and become a part of the NDE family. We have found the inscription on the front of the bus '4runner' to be prophetic....In so many ways God has been stretching us and showing us that He wants us to be 'forerunners' in how we build and run the Kampala Children's Centre in Uganda.



Photos of a bedroom and the bathroom in Kingsway House

The NDE team in Uganda is growing rapidly and Arnold gave many lively training sessions....even able to keep us all awake after tea and chapatti breaks with his stories, humorous impressions and nuggets of wisdom. Please continue to pray for the team as they settle into their roles and work together.

In the past nine months, over 50 people who joined the team to work or as volunteers to contribute skills have become Christians. While Arnold was in Uganda he had the privilege of baptising some of them with a local pastor in Lake Victoria. Please pray for these new Christians to continue growing strong in their faith.

During September we moved 18 children into the two houses that have been completed at the children's centre - some from the slums in Kampala and some from the camps in the north. And praise God - all but one of them tested HIV negative. The houses are beautiful - everyone who sees them is amazed - and amazed that we would build such nice houses for orphans. Orphans are not given much value in Uganda and many people have been challenged by the statement of worth that the houses make.



From here...



...to here!

Houses in northern Uganda where the children were adopted from Kingsway and Peace houses into which our 18 adopted children have moved.

Traveling to Northern Uganda was even more harrowing this time than in January. One camp of 11 thousand displaced people that we had visited in January still had nothing - no food, clothes, medicines or water. Many of the children were very sick; all were skinny with bloated stomachs and reddening hair due to malnutrition. There are so many children in such need - making a decision to take only nine is heartbreaking. When we arrived, the women met us singing and waving branches with such joy

On the way back one of the children was a 6 year old boy named Emmanuel. He watched the world go by in wide-eyed wonder - especially once we reached Kampala. As he slept with his head on my lap, a runny nose, a soaring temperature, an eye infection, I felt that his name was to me a prophetic word from God. Even in the midst of all the trauma and need that we had seen, Emmanuel....God was with us!



Arnold, Harriet and Steve with 7 of the children adopted from war torn Northern Uganda into the Children's Centre

And after a week of being in their new homes, the children were getting better, enjoying being well fed, and blossoming in being loved. And the carers in the homes are exhausted!!!!

Thank you to everyone who has sponsored the children who have moved in to the Children's Centre. We will be sending information to you all on how you can sponsor a child in the near future. Your partnership in this way helps us to give a hopeless child a future. Thank you for standing with us.

Building continues. House number 3 is nearly finished structurally and house number 4 has begun. God is faithful and we are so grateful.



House number 4 construction in progress.....

Several teams will be travelling to Uganda next year to help with construction, carpentry landscaping and other skilled jobs and to help with the children. Please contact us if you would like to join one of these teams – we would love to have you with us.

For the next few months the team here in the UK will be working hard to coordinate and consolidate all that was started whilst in Uganda. We focus ahead to fundraising to begin building the school and health centre at the Children's Centre early next year. Arnold also has a busy schedule travelling and preaching around UK and Europe.

God bless you for your faithful prayers, friendship and support.

Much love

Helen Da Costa
For the NDE Team