



Jacob's Well Appeal

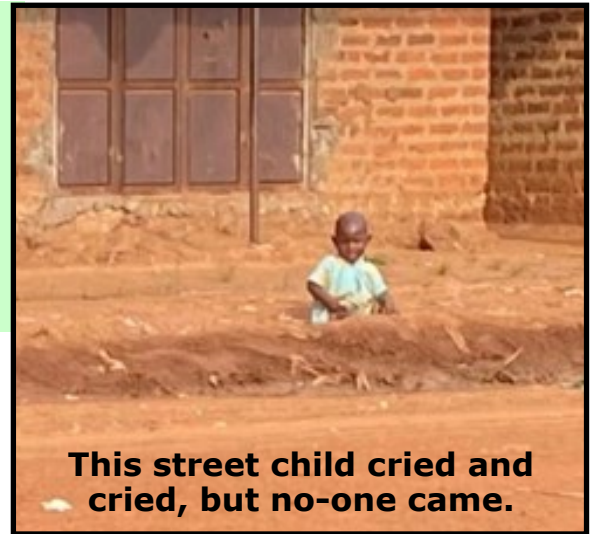
Summer 2024 Newsletter

Housing Orphans in Uganda

Dr Chris, one of our trustees, recently visited Namayingo at the North-East corner of Lake Victoria in Uganda to visit "Abundant Favour Christian Ministries International". This organisation works with 700 orphans. The founder, Agnes Auma was abandoned by her own parents when she was only two years old. Agnes grew up living on the streets, not wearing any clothes until she was five years old. Despite her bad start in life, she succeeded in education, obtaining a university diploma. Today she is married to Pastor Robert with whom she has four children. In addition, they have adopted 35 orphans who live with them in their rented five roomed home.

One of the great problems in Uganda is alcohol addiction. A very strong gin called Waragi is distilled from molasses in almost every home; often being triple distilled to reach 96% proof. This is transported locally by children who are given a small bottle of the gin to sip on their journey, causing them to become addicted at an early age. This, along with drugs and widespread gambling frequently leads to extreme poverty.

Additionally, there is widespread polygamy. It is common for men to partner with several women and father many children; sometimes when they have lost all their money gambling, they use their women as bets. Infectious diseases, such as diarrhoea, malaria, syphilis and other sexually transmitted diseases are a common cause of death. Children suffer and die from common childhood illnesses because of lack of simple remedies, and those with complicated disease are neglected and abandoned due to lack of money, being seen as a burden on the family. This is particularly the case if they are HIV/AIDS positive.



This street child cried and cried, but no-one came.

In this context, Abundant Favour provides support for over 700 children who are orphaned, abused, abandoned, neglected and handicapped, especially those suffering from HIV/AIDS and other diseases and also those who are being used for the worst forms of child labour. The ministry has built 5 schools and churches in different zones of the community to provide education, care and support for these children, most of whom currently just live feral on the streets, caring for each other, sleeping outside 5 to a single mat with no family. The immediate vision of Abundant Favour Ministries is to build a dormitory to house 122 male and female teenagers in separate wings, thus providing a home as well as reducing the risk of childhood pregnancies and early marriages. Land for this has already been purchased (**continued inside**).

Agnes with some of her extended family



Warehouse Sales; 17th August and 23rd November. 9am-1pm @ Jacob's Well Yard, Beverley, HU17 0JX
Charity Sales: 27th July, 21st September, 19th October. 9am-3pm @ Toll Gavel Church Drive, Beverley.

Orphans in Uganda (continued) Jacob's Well Appeal has agreed to finance the building of these dormitories. We would like to raise more money to build a kitchen (£3550), toilets (£2650) and to drill a borehole (£7600). Currently the water comes from a local pond. If you would like to donate to this project please use the reference Uganda.

During this visit the issue of addiction was addressed with over 500 people attending sessions on a recovery program based on the widely used "Twelve Steps Program". This program is relevant for alcohol, drugs and gambling addictions. Attendees included addicts, spouses, teachers and pastors as well as a large number of children and young people. Supporting literature was provided and nine recovery groups were established.

Ghana

We continue to run our seedbank, plant fruit trees and we have done further sanitary pad projects to help keep girls in school. The director of education for the Wa district has written to us to say how useful this project is. Before the project was introduced girls would miss 5 days per month on average once their periods started, resulting in them often dropping out of school altogether. The retention rate in the Wa district has now risen to 85%, up from 25% for girls starting menstruation, showing that our project is really impacting school attendance. Thank you to everyone who has supported this project. We have helped over 3,500 girls so far and are planning another project for 150 more girls. The initial pilot project for this was paid for by Rotary Club of Skegness - Thank you!



Toilet facilities Before and After

We also would like to thank everyone who donated money towards the construction of the Eggu Junior High School toilet block. At the opening event, sixteen-year-old Mary Danaah told us; "we no longer go to the bush and urinate and relieve ourselves while the dry branches of trees pinch our bottom whilst we are afraid that snakes will bite us." Proper hygiene and privacy were two other benefits that girls talked about.



Musical Instruments for Africa

For a few years we have been sending Musical Instruments to schools in Africa. They are very much appreciated by children who would otherwise not have a chance to play any instruments. Last year we sent a large number of brass instruments which are being well used and much appreciated. Now the local school's music service have given over 100 stringed instruments, many of which require a little bit of repair work. Some of the violins are missing one string, a bow, bridge or have a broken case. Some require broken wood glueing or a case catch mending. Parts could easily be moved from one instrument to another to make some complete instruments. If you would be willing to volunteer some time to help us make as many of these instruments useful as possible, please let us know.



A Visit to Zambia

Zambia is a land locked country at the crossroads of central, eastern and southern Africa where we have previously sent a container of medical aid. This May, Drs. Alistair and Margaret travelled there to see the situation of the local people which has recently become truly desperate. Unpredictable rainfall due to the El Niño climate phenomenon has led to over 50% of their crops being ruined.



One of our partners, Pastor Sonile, runs a school of 205 children that was started by her father in a poor rural area just outside Lusaka, the capital city. This school provides 2 meals a day, breakfast and lunch, for the children, all of whom come from very poor homes. They also provide complete care for 20 orphans. We paid for the school to plant maize at Christmas, but due to no rains their crop was a complete disaster.

They need help in order to be able to feed the children until the next harvest which is not until March 2025! One longer term solution is to provide a borehole, which will enable them to grow crops throughout the year, even in the dry

season. Jacob's Well Appeal is in the process of drilling a borehole which will go a long way to providing food security in the medium-long term. However the children still need feeding, so we are also sending money to help purchase food now. The school also desperately need funds to help them rebuild housing for the orphans. The boys home recently collapsed and the boys are now living in the chicken coop!

Whilst in Zambia Alistair and Margaret met the team who run Stomacare Zambia. They are the only stoma care provision in Zambia, run entirely by volunteers. One of whom, Ben Lungu, who previously had a stoma himself visits every patient he hears of to give them free stoma bags whilst their stock remains! Without this charity, the cost of a colostomy bag in Zambia is \$15 each. The average monthly wage is \$45. Even if you can afford the bags they are difficult to find. Even in the hospitals that we visited the staff were using a surgical glove instead of a bag, as they had no bags to give to their patients. Without these bags people who have a stoma are housebound. As well as trying to buy bags, these individuals are also trying to pay for hospital care. We met a 30 year old gentleman with bowel cancer who was trying to find the money for his chemotherapy and was so very grateful not to have to buy bags. On our return to the UK, we have sent a whole 40ft container full of Stoma products!



Madagascar

In March 2023, the first centre for young people with disabilities on the Island of Nosey Be, off the coast of Madagascar, was opened. The Centre provides free transport, education, food and therapy for more than 40 students, whilst also furnishing employment opportunities for parents and siblings. Since opening, the Sunrise Centre has been based in a rented facility which had to be vacated in July 2024.

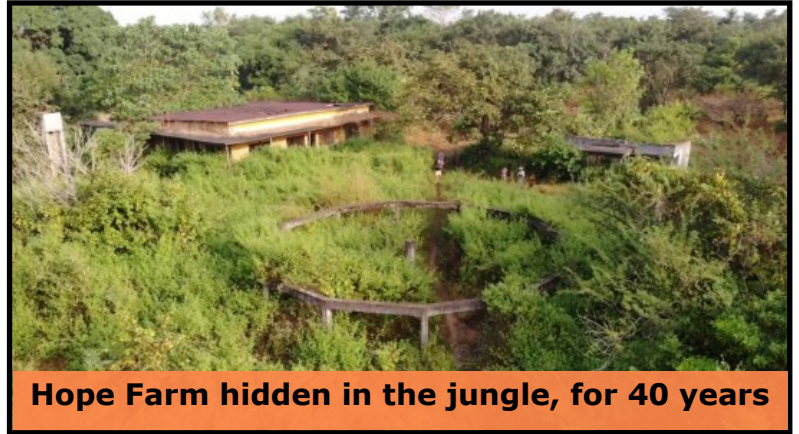
Jacobs Well Appeal is now supporting the building of a new and permanent centre for disabled children on the island. The land has now been purchased and building plans are being drawn up which will follow traditional Malagasy design but offer the durability to withstand the cyclone season.

Spark2Action Sierra Leone

For over 40 years, Hope Farm lay hidden in the jungle, its ownership unknown. Now, Spark2Action has secured a 99-year lease on this historic property, aiming to transform it into a drug rehabilitation center for the youth of Sierra Leone. With the help of Jacobs Well Appeal, the restoration is progressing rapidly.

The country faces a national emergency due to a drug epidemic known as KUSH, a locally produced substance which is a derivative of cannabis mixed with other chemicals. Kush is highly addictive but also affordable even for the poorest people who can buy it for a few cents. Kush addiction is devastating communities, especially the young people, with hundreds falling prey to the addiction but then quickly becoming unable to function in their normal lives and unable to escape their addiction. Each morning, the tragic toll is visible as lives are lost to this substance.

At Hope Farm, we aim to offer a path to recovery and a renewed, fulfilling life in God's embrace. Youth from our 12-step recovery program in Freetown are now continuing their recovery by helping with the construction process.



In October, Hope farm will host David Lloyd Cross, a professional recovery therapist, who is coming to help set up and train staff who will delivering therapy and establishing 12-step recovery groups across Sierra Leone. This program offers a new path to recovery based on Christian principles, without alienating local Muslims. We believe Hope Farm will become a place of restoration and new beginnings for many young people who have fallen into addiction. To see more about the issue of Kush addiction, [click here](#).



DONATIONS: - Via Internet Banking

Account Name: Jacobs Well Appeal
Account Number: 67235135
Sort Code: 08-92-99

Do you have email? If you would prefer to receive the newsletter by email, save costs and the environment, please send your email address to office@jacobswellappeal.org with your name and postal address, so we can update our database. Thank you!

MEDICATION

Sadly we are no longer able to send patients' medication abroad. If you send us your medication, even if it has never been opened, we will have to pay to have it destroyed. Please return it to your local pharmacy.



A HUGE thank you to all our amazing volunteers and to all those who support us by donating money, medical supplies, items to sell, knitting blankets and making shoe boxes. **If the monies raised exceed the amount needed for the projects mentioned in this newsletter, we will use the extra money to fund similar projects.**