

New Hope Special Needs Programme Newsletter: August 2011.

Dear Friends,

Greetings once again from a rather rainy and relatively cold Uganda! Here we have just finished the 2nd term of our school year and are enjoying the first of a three week holiday. During this time, we are trying to make sure that all of the staff who work both at Hassan`s House and in the classroom, have at least a few days off to rest and regain some energy. We will also be doing some spring cleaning, planning, home visits and community work.

NEWS FROM HASSAN`S HOUSE:

All is well at Hassan`s although it has been busy these last few weeks as Kakulu has been staying with us full time whilst his Grandmother (who he usually stays with Fri-Sun) has been caring for her son at the hospital in Gulu.

Hassan himself (the landlord!) has just been blessed with a very nice new wheelchair which we received from an organisation called `Joni and Friends.` Unfortunately, he will probably have to have surgery in the coming months as the pressure in his brain is increasing and is causing him to vomit and have very tight and painful muscles.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Carol in her new chair; Kakande harvesting maize; Kakulu out on a walk with his friend Ivan; Hassan being fed in his new wheelchair.

A few weeks ago, Carol`s Mother came to visit her with her 2 month old baby. She was obviously pleased to see how big and healthy Carol had grown and seemed to enjoy spending time with her. She agreed that she would come back regularly to visit her daughter but did confess that her new `husband` did not know anything about her.....Sadly, the following day her baby son died and from what she has since told a member of our staff, she is convinced that it was due to her visit to Carol and so she will not be coming back! Apparently her `husband` went to consult a witch doctor after his son died and was told that when his wife went to visit Carol, a demon jumped from her into the boy and killed him! As you can imagine, we are all rather discouraged and upset by this and we are praying about the right way forward in terms of helping the Mum to see the truth and hopefully persuading her that she should play a part in Carol`s life in the future!

Kakande continues to bring great joy and amusement to all and is very excited to almost have earned enough money (by collecting water and digging,) to buy himself a new radio. He loves helping to care for the younger children whom he lives and `studies` with and can be amazingly tender hearted. He

has recently been enjoying going for visits to Auntie Jane`s father out in the village and helping various people harvest their G-Nuts.

Thank you for your prayers regarding Auntie Lydia (Hassan`s main carer.) Sadly she has decided to leave us and find a job that doesn`t require such physical work (Hassan is getting heavy to lift!) as she has long-term health issues. She has already been back twice to visit Hassan though so we are not missing her too much!

CLASS NEWS:

Our class were really blessed this term to have many visitors coming and helping out including Hannah Hudson and Gill Buckridge from England, Catrina Morton from Canada and Anissa Haywood from Wisconsin. We`ve also enjoyed having Fiona with us for the 2nd of her 3 Investment Year placements. It is always helpful to have extra pairs of hands so that we are able to go out and about or just so that the children can have some 1:1 attention and help with activities such as baking and crafts. Anissa who is a teacher of the deaf was able to help us with one of the children registered on our community outreach programme. Whilst she was here, we invited Najib to come to class with his mother each day to learn some sign language. Although Najib was very shy at first which made the teaching a little tricky, Anissa was able to teach the mother quite a few signs to use with him as well as helping her to understand a little more of what the world is like for her son. Since then, Najib has been joining our class on Mondays and having signing lessons with Uncle Eric on Fridays. We are currently exploring the possibilities of sending him to a school for the deaf in Kampala.



Auntie Anissa teaching signs to Najib (hiding in his Mum`s lap,) his brother and his Mum.



Our class at the enterprise farm, helping with the maize harvest.

We are very pleased to report that Nalubega will be coming back to us next term after spending some time with relatives in Bombo. Also, we can give thanks that dear Allen has gained weight again and we have been able to offer her Mum a job 2 days per week which will help her provide for her many children. Please pray with us as we try and find a way for Allen to be able to attend class for all 4 days rather than just the 2 she does at present.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH NEWS:

In the two community sessions since we last wrote, we had planned to show a video entitled `A Life Without Limbs` which is basically the testimony of a guy called Nick Vujicic who was born with no arms or legs. Although it obviously had to be translated, I know that it really spoke to many of the

parents/carers in our first group and helped them to see that their child`s disability was not a mistake or a curse from God but that He had allowed it to happen for a purpose and that there was hope! Unfortunately, we were not able to show it to the 2nd group as the power was off and no generator was available. However, Uncle Eric was able to share a similar message and hear what the parents had to say in return. We will show this group the film at a later date.

In the most recent session, we also received some visitors (including a specialist nurse) from Katalamwa Rehabilitation Centre in Kampala. Unfortunately they arrived just before our session was due to end but they were able to have consultations with most of the children and prescribe medication to those who needed. They have promised to return next month and we are discussing with them how we can work together in the future.

We are glad to report that Carol has at last got her special chair and that Uncle Eric was able to build a wheeled walking frame for Matovu Stephen. Although we sent Eric with a camera so I`d be able to share pictures with you, unfortunately Matovu is naked in all of them so I thought I had better not!

At the beginning of next month, many of our children from the community will be receiving wheelchairs as `The Father`s Heart Mobility Ministry` which is run by Francis and Adrienne Mugwanya will be doing distributions in our area.

PRAYER and PRAISE:

- **Please pray for all the parents / care givers (but especially Carol`s Mum and Nalubega`s Dad,) that they will really be able to see their child`s disability from God`s perspective and that they will no longer turn to or be deceived by the witch doctors.**
- **We praise God for the special equipment that we have been able to provide our children with or that they will soon be receiving....**
- **Please pray that God continues to provide funds for materials, equipment and transport and that he helps us to work out the logistics of getting 14 + children and parents to the wheelchair distribution and then back with their wheelchairs!**
- **We praise God for all the people who he has sent to work permanently and temporarily with us.**
- **Please pray that he will keep sending more people and that we would have enough money to employ another teacher/community worker in the near future.**
- **We praise God for all of you; your prayers and support are so important to us!**

Blessings to you all from all the children and staff on the Special Needs Programme.