



“Yes, LORD, walking in the way of your laws, we wait for you;

Your name and renown are the desire of our hearts.”

Isaiah 26 v 8.

Kate`s Uganda Newsletter: January 2011.

Dear All,

I hope you all had a good time celebrating Christmas and the New Year? Doesn`t it just seem like ages ago now? It certainly does to me!

Just before Christmas, I very bravely decided to take the David family children who had remained here to Entebbe for a day trip.....apart from the fact that we got totally lost in Kampala on the way, hitting awful traffic on the way back (and someone scraping up the side of our van & knocking our wing mirror off!)and Hassan vomiting in the back seat, we had a fun day. Unfortunately we didn`t have time to go to the zoo and beach but the children chose the latter and thoroughly enjoyed `swimming` in the lake and having chips, samosas and sodas on the beach!

The long Christmas weekend was a rather hectic period for me as I had given all of Hassan`s staff holiday (won`t be doing that again next year!) and then unexpectedly had to take in Kakulu who was suffering from hepatitis; his eyes, tongue, skin etc. had all turned yellow! He turned up one day on a boda (motorbike) with a message from his Grandmother saying he`d been sick for over a week and she didn`t know what to do! Thankfully after a few visits to the hospital and plenty of fluids and good food whilst staying with us, he is now back to good health and his normal colour.



Hassan paddling in Lake Victoria with his brothers and sisters from David family.



Kakulu and Brian playing at Hassan`s house on Christmas day.

Brian and his family also came back to us over christmas as his great uncle who lives nearby, chased them from the home after a family feud erupted. So by the time the new year arrived I was well and truly in need of a break away. Stu & Sarah Dendy, Marion and I all went to spend a few days in Entebbe where we were able to relax by the pool and enjoy some good books, nice food and most

exciting of all, hot showers! I stayed around a day or so longer than the others as I was meeting my friend Lydia from Alton who has come to teach in the primary school for 5 months.

Back to Brian; I am happy to report that we have now been able to give work to both his Mum and step father; Keren is washing clothes and cleaning for our special needs class whilst her 'husband' is now our gardener/water fetcher. I was able to rent them a small room (looks more like a shed to me!) in a building owned by our head of childcare, just across the road from the Kasana children's centre. They arrived with next to nothing (they were previously staying with his parents) so we have given them bedding, some basins, a lamp etc. but I still find it hard knowing they are living in such basic accommodation when relatively speaking, I am living in luxury!

Speaking of my accommodation.....there has also been a big change there too. A couple of weekends ago, Lydia and I moved out of Nancy's house into 'the teacher's house' over on the main site. I had asked to move back over so that I could be closer to Hassan again; both he and his staff need keeping an eye on!



Lydia and I outside our new home which has a few plumbing problems!



The special needs programme vehicle stuck on a tree stump.....don't ask who the driver was!

I am also able to give you good news about dear little Allen who I told you about in my last newsletter (aged 8, weighing just 5.5kg.) She has spent the last two months in hospital on the nutrition ward, also benefitting from daily physio on week days. The Doctor's were unable to diagnose any physical condition that was preventing Allen from eating and so the nurses very gradually introduced some high calorie solid food into her diet. In the daily nutrition sessions, Allen's Mother learnt what foods to feed her to help her gain weight and remain healthy. She now weighs 8kg, will eat 9 tsps of food per mealtime, and has learnt to sit up independently. Although she still has significant learning disabilities and some rather strange behaviours, she has also become more willing to interact with others and will explore and hold toys that are given to her. Since she was discharged from hospital a couple of weeks ago, she has begun to attend our special needs class twice a week and really seems to enjoy it. We do still have big concerns about her home situation and the Mother has told us that they have only posho (maize flour) and milk to feed her. Last Thursday, Stephen and I attempted to drive them home in our van but unfortunately, due to the fact that they live so far into the bush, we managed to get stuck on a tree trunk and were thinking we might have to spend the night there! However, Stephen very cleverly used an axe to chop us free just before Stu and Gabe arrived to rescue us. Life is never dull here 😊

So, the Special Needs Class started officially on Jan 31st with 6 students (Hassan, Kakulu, Brian, Nalubega, Isima, Ivan) and Kakande (a helper/ student!) Our classroom staff are myself, Stephen (last year's IY student) and Jane. Our cook is Auntie Jordanna and our nappy/clothes washer and cleaner is Mama Brian. Things have gone well so far and we seem to work well as a team. Unfortunately Jane was involved in a boda accident and Lydia lost her brother so both have needed time off which has made things even busier for the rest of us! We also suffered a flat tyre on our van and have been told to be more careful where we drive in future (rather difficult considering where the children live!) As I've already mentioned, Allen has now joined us for two days per week.

We had our first community outreach of the year on Feb 2nd and had 4 new children turn up; an 11 year old with a speech impairment and poor fine motor skills, a 10 year old boy with Downs Syndrome, a 3 year old with pretty severe cerebral palsy, and his 1 yr old sister who also has Down's Syndrome and is severely malnourished. The latter two children both belong to a friend of Mama Brian who came from a place 3-4 hrs away and who also has 6 other children (none of whom are in school.) They stayed with Mama Brian (in the tiny room!) so that baby Lydia could attend the nutrition and physio sessions at Kiwoko hospital last week. We were also able to get her heart checked (children with Down's Syndrome often have heart problems) and thankfully the Echo showed that although she does have a Cardiac lesion (not sure what that means!) it is not so serious and she doesn't need surgery. Stu & Sarah Dendy from our baby house also assisted with this baby and last Friday we sent her home with enough formula milk to last the month and some clothes for both the baby and her 3 year old son. We have also told her we will pay the Boda driver who brings her back next month so that we can check the baby's weight and progress. For those of you who are wondering why we chose to send them with formula milk rather than money for proper food; if we had sent them with money then the likelihood is that the Mother (understandably) would have spent it on food for her 7 other children and at the moment it is Lydia who desperately needs feeding up; she is 1 year and just 5kg. This family is another who survive on Posho and milk alone!



LEFT: Allen looking much more healthy and happy after 2 months on the nutrition ward.

RIGHT: Baby Lydia (in need of lots of food & nutrition) and her Mum.



As you can see, our programme is well and truly up and running and many children are being brought to us for help. There is so much need but at the moment our funds are very limited and we desperately need more sponsors/supporters. Along with this letter, I am going to attach a document showing the children in our class who each need 2 or more sponsors in order to cover transport, food, staffing and medical costs of the programme. We would also welcome people signing up to 'sponsor' the programme as a whole as well as one off donations. Please pray that God will provide for us in the coming months. I already have so many ideas of ways we could improve/extend our programme but must obviously wait for God's provision and direction.

Hassan and the rest of the members of David family are doing well and we have just heard that the elders of our church have agreed to build a little room for Kakande on the back of Hassan`s house so that he will have a permanent place to stay. It is amazing to see how God has used our family to really change Kakande`s heart. Now that he feels loved and secure and knows that he will always have food to eat and a place to sleep, he has started to share and in our class he has actually been a great help; feeding and playing with the younger children! I have just agreed to do family devotions on Tuesday nights and to counsel a 15 year old girl called Annet. Please pray that God will give me wisdom for both of these tasks!

Tomorrow, the presidential elections will take place here in Uganda. Thankfully, all seems relatively calm at present although over the past month or two we have all noticed the training up of an additional police force in Kiwoko; we often pass a large group of young men (and even a few women,) marching up and down with large sticks! Please do keep this country in your prayers this week. May there be peace and a just result to this process.



LEFT: Kayesu, Shalom and I at our New Years 'potluck' lunch.

RIGHT: Speaking at staff envisioning; introducing the special needs team.



I will (almost) finish by adding something about our annual staff envisioning which we had in mid January. Our theme this year was 'Your name and renown are the desire of our hearts.' (Isaiah 26 v 8.) It was great to be reminded of the ultimate reason we are all here serving with New Hope Uganda and indeed why we are all here on earth; to bring glory to our Father and make him known to those who do not yet know him. I gave a small talk and presentation about the Special Needs Programme and how it fits into the New Hope vision of 'bringing the fatherhood of God to the fatherless' as well as how it will reveal something of who God is. It was received very well and many staff have since blessed us with words of encouragement, offers of help and visits.

In the next couple of months, I am really looking forward to the visits of the Hudson`s (from SBCC,) the Barrett`s (from Harvest church, Alton) and then the annual team visit lead by Anne and Chris Cooley from Teeside. Helen Harding and her daughter Keziah from SBCC will be coming along with them and hopefully helping out a bit in our class.

Thank you to all of you who sent Christmas emails and cards (which are still arriving!!) And thank you for your continued support and prayers. I am already excited about seeing many of you in December when I hope to come to my other home for 2 months.

With much love and prayers that God will bless, encourage and guide you.

Kate x x x