



**“He determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him though he is not far from each one of us.”**

**Acts 17v 26&27.**

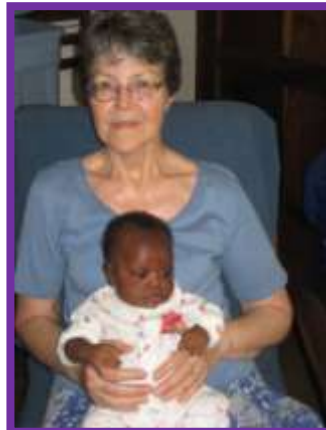
## **Kate`s Uganda Newsletter: May 2011.**

Dear All,

Firstly, I should apologise for failing to send my newsletter out in April which is when I intended to.....Unfortunately, with many visitors, poorly children and the end of term, I didn't really get time to sit down and write. I am sending this out alongside our first Special Needs Programme newsletter (which I did manage to write in April so unfortunately it is a bit out of date but another will follow in June!), so I shall try and keep this one short and share more of what/how I have been doing personally although to be honest it is really rather tricky to separate the two!

### **Visits from Friends...**

Over the past few months I have been really encouraged by receiving some very helpful visitors. First came Anne and John Hudson from my church in Basingstoke (S.B.C.C.) who helped a lot in my class and with the babies from Hope family. They also took me away for the weekend to Murchison Falls National Park for my first Ugandan safari. We had a wonderful time, especially on the boat trip down the river Nile where we saw Elephants, Hippos, Crocs and a huge variety of amazing birds.



Then came John and Liz Barrett from Harvest church, Alton (who I stay with when I am back in the UK.) Mr John was kept busy with an endless list of DIY jobs all over the site including over at Hassan's where he completed Kakande's room which meant that baby Carol was able to move in with her carer when the Dendys left to go on 'home assignment'. Liz played Granny to several babies, helped in my class and did a superb job re-covering Hassan's wheelchair. Whilst the Barrett's were still here, the team from Tees Valley (and Basingstoke!) arrived; they mainly came to help finish the new Hope Family (baby house) building. However, many of the ladies (including Helen & Keziah Harding from S.B.C.C. took turns helping with the Special Needs children as well as painting Kakande's room. Sadly, on Good Friday after an 8 hour journey (usually only takes 3!!!) to Entebbe due to floods and

school traffic, it was time to wave goodbye. Afterwards, thanks to some very generous people in S.B.C.C. rather than returning home to Kasana to feel sorry for myself, I was able to go away to Jinja with two good friends for a very much needed break!

### Challenges and Sadness...

Sometimes here at Kasana Children`s Centre, it is hard to get a quiet moment to myself. In a way, those of us living here are at work 24-7; full time parents to many needy children (including some staff who are very child-like at times!) Even when I have come home, there are constant knocks at the door or phone calls asking for help with various situations.....I often feel stretched way beyond my capabilities whether it is dealing with medical needs (when the clinic is closed,) or giving marriage advice to staff members (including what to do when your husband is beating you?!), all I can do is pray and ask God to give me the wisdom I need and sometimes, the courage to say 'sorry, I can't help here!'

One situation in which I felt completely out of my depth happened in March when, after several days in Kiwoko hospital, Hassan`s Father passed away (after a long battle against AIDS.) He was being attended by Hassan`s step sister Jessica (17) and brother Twaha (12.) They had been sent with him with no money whatsoever and the first I knew of it was when I received a phone call from their neighbour to say that she had sent them. I took Hassan to visit them but sadly, Hassan`s father was not in a good way and barely recognised his son. He did begin to improve slightly over the next few days and was even out of his bed walking with support so it came as a surprise when the hospital rang on the Friday saying that he has died in the early hours and could I please come pay the hospital bill and collect the body!!!! That phone call was followed by one from the neighbour asking if they could start digging the grave in his back garden as they wanted to have the burial at 2pm. Hassan`s father was a Muslim which means that he was not going to be buried in a coffin but simply wrapped in cloths. Muslims here also believe that the body must be buried on the same day as the person dies; hence the rush! In my rather overwhelmed & distressed state (I didn`t much like the idea of driving our van to Luwero with Hassan`s father rolling around in the boot!), I trundled over to Uncle Geoff`s house for some help. Thankfully, he arranged for someone else to transport the body and Hassan and I travelled later with several other staff and children to attend the burial. Although it was obviously a very sad occasion, it was great for Hassan and I to see/meet for the first time some of his relatives and neighbours who had not seen him since he was a baby. Many people were amazed at how big and healthy he had grown.



**LEFT: Hassan with his step sister and brother at Kiwoko hospital.**

**RIGHT: Hassan wearing his new Spurs kit – now the SMARTEST boy in Uganda!**



As well as the death of Hassan`s father, since I last wrote we have also lost one of our secondary students and one of our primary teachers. Both of these deaths were completely unexpected and

left the whole community in shock. Even now, there has been no official 'cause of death' found for Uncle Julius who was found dead in his room a few weeks ago. Many rumours were circulating locally about both of these people having been 'bewitched' or even murdered and there was also a lot of fear about who would be next.....However, we were all encouraged to remember that it is God who is in control of both life and death and ultimately death is not the end! We know that we will see both of these dear people again when our time comes to go and be with our heavenly Father.

### **Friends and Another Move....**

When I face such challenging situations I am always thankful that God has blessed me with some wonderful friends here to stand alongside me and pray for me, as well as making sure that I don't 'over do it!' I am blessed to have people here who I can talk to about pretty much everything and really be myself with. However, last month the people who I am closest to here (the Dendys and the Browns) went home on leave and in a couple of weeks, Nancy who is another close friend is also departing. At the beginning of the year I was quite worried about what would happen when they all 'deserted' me.....however, I needn't have worried. God has once again shown his faithfulness and in the last couple of months I have really got to know other people much better both in this community and up the road at Kiwoko hospital.

This week, I am once again moving house; across the garden into a house which is almost next door to Hassan! It is a 3 bedroom house and I shall be sharing it with a lady called Jenny who is a nurse and has come to work here in our clinic. On Sunday we had a hot and hectic day in Kampala purchasing things for our new home including a fridge and a sofa. My bed is currently being made by a local carpenter but once that is complete, I shall make the move! Jenny will be joining me in July when she returns from a trip home.

### **Please Pray for Peace...**

I am sure many of you will have seen in the news, reports about the trouble there has been recently in Kampala. Thankfully, I have not witnessed any of it first hand as we are a good 80km from the city. The British High Commission send out regular text messages warning of any potential trouble and our management team also keep us up to date with what is going on. So, apart from having to cancel some trips into town we have not really been affected. However, we would very much value your prayers for peace in this nation as many people have suffered as a result of the protests which the opposition parties are making. As well as lives being lost and people being injured in the chaos, many businesses are losing out and as usual, it is the poor who are suffering the most.

Rather than ending this letter with my usual list of points for a prayer and praise, I will just ask that you pray for whatever you feel led to pray for having read through my latest news. Please know that I am so thankful for the part you play in the way God is using me here at Kasana.....and if any of you would like to come and visit in the future, please let me know; we would be delighted to have you and I know that you would enjoy and be blessed by your time here.

With much love from Kate x x x