



*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*

*Philippians 4 v 5-7.*

## **Kate`s Uganda Newsletter: September 2011**

Dear All,

I am writing this in Entebbe at the end of my **long weekend break away**. I`ve just collected my great friends the Dendy`s from the airport and am now looking after their new baby Thomas whilst they sleep. I spent Friday to Monday staying with the Brown family at their new home in Kampala; they have recently relocated from Kasana to set up a base in the city for the New Hope Investment Year Programme. They already have five IY students living with them whilst they are completing various work placements around Kampala.

So I am hoping that my mini-break away will give me sufficient energy to fight off the cold / cough I`ve had for the last few weeks and to take me through until **I board the plane myself on November 14<sup>th</sup>**. Although we have only been back at school for a couple of weeks I am pretty tired as we did not have much of a break in the holidays due to Hassan reacting badly to a spinal tap and Kakulu`s Grandmother going ‘missing.’ We were also busy organising the wheelchair distribution which took place in the first week of term.....but you will hear all about that in the next Special Needs Programme Newsletter.

As I prepare to leave Kasana for 2 ½ months (I will return here on Jan 29<sup>th</sup>) I have very mixed feelings. Although I am desperate to see family (especially my new nephew who was born on thursday) and friends back in England, I am also very sad to be leaving my family / friends here.

**Please pray with me that I will not worry needlessly about the children who I am responsible for here;** especially dear Hassan. I must trust each of them into the hands of their Father God who is a much better parent than I can ever hope to be! Before I leave there is much to organise to ensure that things at Hassan`s House and the Special Needs Programme run smoothly whilst I am away.



**LEFT: The Brown Family and some of the IYs at their new base in Kampala.**

**RIGHT: The happy couple Gertrude & Christopher at their Introduction.**



I am very thankful that **we have been able to appoint a lady called Gertrude to work part time in the class whilst I am away.** She has a degree in Community Rehabilitation and more importantly, a

real desire to serve God by reaching out to those with disabilities. She recently married a member of staff from our accounts department and although I wasn't able to attend the wedding, **I was pleased to be able to take part in the traditional 'Introduction' ceremony** which took place several weeks before at Gertrude's family home. I thought you would enjoy seeing a photo of me attempting to carry a basket of gifts for the bride-to-be on my head. It was a very fun occasion although I did feel rather like the 'odd one out'; not just because I was the only muzungu (white person) but also because I had not put on a Gomez (the traditional dress for the Baganda people which has pointy shoulders and a rather humungus belt!) After watching my friends put theirs on when we invaded a random family's mud hut on the way (we needed to change somewhere!), I was rather glad that I hadn't; Despite it being a rather hot day, they proceeded to put on numerous layers to pad out their hips and bottoms beneath their shiny Gomez! Here in Uganda people want to GAIN weight and pad out their rears.....so if I come home larger than I left, do not be surprised; I'm just being culturally appropriate!

Two other 'events' which I've enjoyed in the last month have been **our annual New Hope Thanksgiving day** and **Hassan's 9<sup>th</sup> birthday**. For thanksgiving this year, we celebrated the festival of tabernacles and each department or family group constructed a tabernacle/booth and put inside or around it, objects / photos or words which expressed what they were thankful to God for in the past year. In the Special Needs Department, Uncle Eric constructed an umbrella-like booth from branches & banana leaves on which we displayed photos, children's art work and a list of thanksgiving. During the church service which was a very joyful and noisy event, we spent time looking at the different booths and rejoicing with one another about what God had done in the past year!



**Our Special Needs booth at thanksgiving.**



**Honour, Shalom and Benell who helped make the birthday cake!**



**Hassan and Honour at their birthday party.**

Hassan's party was also a very noisy occasion as around 30 children came to celebrate with him and his friend Honour who shares the same birthday but is 5 years younger. The fun started the day before as we began baking (and tasting) cakes! Each birthday that we are able to celebrate with Hassan is really something to be thankful for as from what the brain scans have shown and Doctor's have reported, we know that it is only God that is sustaining him! May we have many more birthday parties for this precious boy.....

Well, I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible SOON. I'm so excited about having a family Christmas and am really hoping we get some snow! **Thank you so much for your ongoing prayers and support.**

May God continue to bless you abundantly and draw you closer to himself.

Much love to you all, Kate xx