

Forthcoming trip to AICM Uganda – September 2010

After our visits to AICM Uganda over the last three years, we were always welcomed back in the UK by people who were genuinely interested in the work that is going on and the needs of the people out there. Many asked how they could make a practical contribution; others expressed a wish to go out there, but didn't know where to start or were a bit apprehensive about going on their own. So we were prompted to take a group of people with us when we go out this year. Now the tickets are booked, hotel reservations made and everyone is counting the days until we go. The group consists of:

Polly Davis (Folkestone), whom you read about earlier.

Mike and Sandra Janman (Folkestone) - Mike has led the music group and has been heavily involved in youth work within St George's. He is very practical and looking for ways to make a difference to the work of AICM. Sandra is a trained social worker with under-privileged communities and leads the youth mission at St George's.

Mike Huddart (Folkestone) - Mike is the Catering Manager at Pent Valley Technology College and teaches Food Safety Level Two for the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health. He always looks for ways to help people in general, and now specifically wants to help AICM in Uganda.

Rev. Margi Walker (Stelling Minnis) - Margi is the parish priest in Stelling Minnis and first went to Uganda for a year as a VSO in 1962 and also joined the group of Friends that visited AICM last year. The area and the people made a lasting impression on her and now she wants to help the Batwa; a task she has already started with much fundraising.

Anne Bailey (Chepstow) - Anne lives in South Wales and has worked for the Charities Aid Foundation for the last 6 years. She wants to see the work that AICM is involved in and will hopefully be able to come back and continue to support them by raising awareness and much needed funds.

Our focus this year is to provide the children that attend the two Batwa schools with uniforms. Most have only one set of clothes – usually worn until it is in tatters. Providing them with uniform will not only give them the dignity that comes with wearing something new and smart, but for many it will be a much needed replacement of the only outfit they possess. AICM Uganda undertakes to provide each child with a uniform for a year (including a much-needed jumper – it gets cold 4,000 metres above sea-level) for only £5 per child. If you would like to support the work out there by making a donation, please contact Lawrance or Monica on 01303 863599.

Treasurer: Canon John Tapper, Mill Cottage, Mill Lane, Sissinghurst, Kent, TN17 2HX.

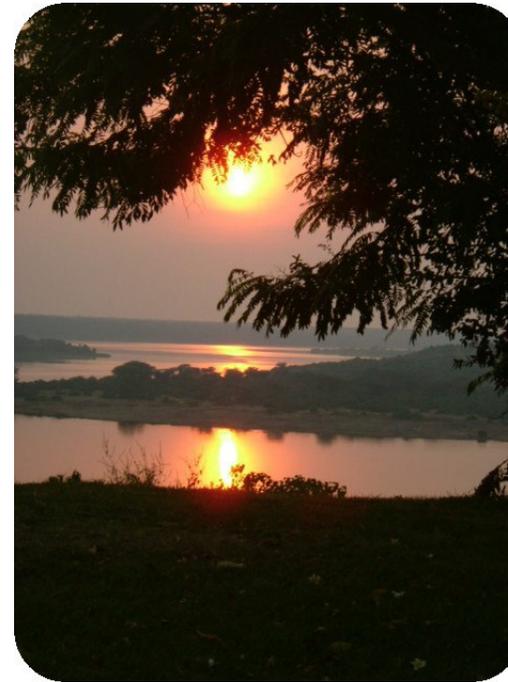
Membership & Newsletter: Mike & Gill Henderson, 01480 466101

Sponsorship: Monica Titterton, 01303 863599.

General enquiries: enquiries@aicm.org.uk

Friends of AICM Newsletter

September 2010



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News from Kabale

The Friends of AICM receive regular updates from Timothy and the staff in Kabale. Recently, a ceremony took place at Ndeego village, in Ikumba sub-county attended by over 500 women from Ikumba community groups. Here, AICM handed over 32 goats and also 7 sprayer pumps. These had been purchased as gifts under the FAICM alternative gift scheme. Various officials attended and Timothy urged the women to use their gifts for the benefit of the entire community. There was also good news concerning the Batwa. CARE International



in Uganda has put aside around £20,000 to purchase land for at least twenty households in Bufundi and Butanda sub-counties. This is a considerable step forward. AICM has now to fundraise for construction of basic housing units for these households.

The two schools at Rwamahano and

Murubindi, which the Batwa attend, are thriving with 158 pupils enrolled. Three young Batwa men are currently sponsored at secondary school by Friends in the UK and are doing well, serving as role models for other Batwa youngsters. One final piece of Batwa news is the decision by sub-county authorities in Kanungu and Kabale districts to make a place for Batwa representation on local councils, effective in 2011 when general elections are to be held.

Some of you who generously sponsor students at secondary school, or at the VTC, will possibly have received a school report recently. Forty three students are currently being sponsored. Monitoring of the programme is much improved thanks to Monica Titterton in the UK and Juliet Tushemereirwe in Kabale, and Monica will be visiting most of these students in October when she is to visit Kabale. We have to remember the difficulties some of these students face which may affect their progress. Please remember you are free to correspond with letters of encouragement via Monica.

News from the VTC is mixed. The new term began in May, and ended in August, with 488 students registered. In addition, the VTC was chosen by the government to take on 140 trainee students on a government sponsored non-formal skills training programme. Eighty-five final year business students sat UNEB exams at the end of June and the college has also been inspected by a team from the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE). The inspection was helpful and highlighted a series of issues for the VTC to address over three months, after which they will make a decision with regard to accreditation. There are inevitably financial implications to some of the issues that need to be addressed. One major problem for the



Your AICM Trustees – 7

At our recent Trustees' meeting, the Friends of AICM were delighted to accept two new trustees. They are Mike and Helen Peachey from Witney in Oxfordshire. They are both members of a supporting church in the nearby village of South Leigh, and part of an enthusiastic group who visited the AICM team in Kabale last July 2009. We are delighted to welcome them aboard, and will allow them to introduce themselves:



Mike is a Chartered Civil Engineer with his own civil and structural engineering consultancy in Witney, specialising in roads, drainage and structural design, primarily for social housing, care homes and key worker accommodation. His own specialist field is drainage but he has all round knowledge of the building process.

Helen trained as a teacher and worked for several years in secondary and junior schools. More recently, she has become a panel tutor for England Squash and her teaching skills are now directed towards squash and racketball. Mike has lived in Witney for over 50 years, but Helen is a relative newcomer to the town since getting married 33 years ago.

They have recently returned from a visit to Kiwoko Hospital in Uganda (about 2 hours north of Kampala) with a group from St Patrick's Church in Coleraine, N. Ireland. The trip was organised through Fields of Life, a Dublin based charity, and CMS Ireland, with the main aims of assisting local builders in constructing a new ante-natal unit and also helping in two primary schools. Mike, although part of the building party, was asked to review the drainage and water supply for the hospital and advise generally on improvements to the site. He worked closely with the hospital estate manager and left knowing that the manager understood and was competent to complete the work.

Helen was a key member of the schools party. The two schools visited had been started, and have made tremendous progress, through the vision and energy of Ugandan brother and sister, Pastor George and Lorna. The team had great pleasure in bringing some exciting new resources to the schools and demonstrating them for the teachers. These included musical instruments, sports equipment, craft and stationery resources.

The visit was a valuable experience for them and provided a good insight into how other organisations operated, which they can put to use within the AICM.



George with Trevor

A Visitor from Uganda

George Kwarigaba, AICM's accountant in Kabale, arrived in April for a working visit, but he naturally took the opportunity to sightsee and meet and talk to as many people as possible. Here is Liz Tapper's overall account with Monica Titterton's additional piece on the Folkestone area. *We invited George when we were in Kabale, primarily for John to help him with the AICM accounts, and after numerous visa problems, John eventually picked him up on*

22nd April. George thought Heathrow was beautiful, but on the M25 he couldn't understand where all the people were going! He only had one day to recover from jet lag before the Trustees Meeting at Cambridge. It was very useful to have him there to give us first hand information about AICM and its problems, particularly the difficulty in finding a principal for the VTC. After the meeting, Colin and Sue Townsend took him to meet many of the Oxford Friends. He also enjoyed time with his sister-in-law and a friend in London, then travelled to Folkestone and the Tittertons. There, he visited St George's in Cheriton, St Mary's in Stelling Minnis and St Peter and St Paul's in Upper Hardres. He also visited three local Primary schools where presentations were made and the children were able to ask questions. Upon visiting Dover Castle and Canterbury Cathedral, he was enthralled by their age and majesty. On his return to Sissinghurst he was tired and looking forward to getting home, but we kept him busy speaking to various groups in between poring over computers with John. He encouraged many people during his visit and I think gained much insight from meeting the Friends and seeing England. Both he and his wife have been very loyal to AICM and we hope that funds can be found to enable him to do an accounting course which he needs and wants to do.

Liz and Monica



Trustees' Meeting

VTC at present is the lack of a principal. AICM are finding it difficult to recruit a suitable candidate mainly for financial reasons, as they are unable to offer an adequate salary that will attract the right calibre of candidate. We, in the Friends, are much exercised by this and are praying that God will somehow raise up someone who can meet this need and the finances to pay for it.

It is worth noting at this point that it is regular monthly giving to the Friends of AICM that pays salaries to AICM staff, and it is a huge shortfall in this giving that means

we cannot at present guarantee adequate salaries. Please pray with us that we will be able to raise our regular monthly giving by more than double to £2000 per month.

Generally we give God thanks for watching over AICM, and for the great things He is doing through such a small, faithful and hardworking group of people. Please join with us in praying for them. Do please tell friends, family and church fellowships about them, as in order to progress this work, a great deal more support is needed. Don't forget our web site at www.aicm.org.uk



If you would like to make a one-off donation to the regular funds, or better still, a monthly donation, please contact the Treasurer, Canon John Tapper, whose address is on page 8, with your name, address, email and/or telephone number, and a gift aid declaration if appropriate.

A Fundraising Folkestone Mum

Polly Davis, wife of Rupert who went to AICM last year with Lawrance and Monica Titterton, raised almost £4,000 by organising a Craft, Coffee and Cupcakes garden party. She spent months making the quilts, aprons, cushion covers, jewellery and Monster Teddies that were on sale at the party.

After his trip, Rupert became very interested in the work that goes on to support the Batwa – a pygmy tribe that has been banned from their natural home in the equatorial forests in a bid to protect the gorillas.



Although the Batwa have never been a threat to the natural wildlife in the forests, they were banished when the governments in the area decided that all people would need special permits to enter the forests. The Batwa were not compensated in any way for their loss and subsequently became squatters in the surrounding areas, often only surviving by serving as cheap labour on the agricultural plots of the local people. Polly became determined to help too, and she will join a group that is going with Lawrance and Monica in September to visit AICM. She will specifically investigate the possibility of training the women in more varied forms of craft, with a view to export these to the UK to raise more funds. Currently AICM buys the baskets and jewellery directly from the women so that they have an immediate income, then the craft is sold in the UK and all the profits go back to these communities of women to encourage them to become self-sufficient.



Last year, funds were raised to buy mosquito nets and, after supplying nets to all the Batwa communities, enough money was left to buy another piece of land for cultivation, as well as furniture for a Batwa school. The focus this year is on providing school uniforms – very

often a Batwa child's only set of clothes. If anyone would like to make a contribution towards uniforms, please contact Lawrance or Monica on 01303 863599 or AICM@crombec.wanadoo.co.uk.

Please pray for AICM in Kabale

- That a Principal be found for the Vocational Training College.
- That George may be enabled to do an Accountancy course.
- For Enoch and Phoebe as they approach retirement.
- Give thanks for the funds for the Batwa from Care International.

and for the Friends of AICM

- For those going to Kabale in September
- For increased general funds to meet our monthly commitments to AICM.
- For guidance in our Review

Local Groups

Hi All

The Kent Group, with lots of new Cranbrook supporters, had a Garden Party here recently. We were very lucky with the weather - it was horrible before and after but warm and sunny in the afternoon. Everyone enjoyed the croquet, tea and Evensong to finish, which included personal impressions of AICM from Lynn Crittenden. The good news is that we made £417 for AICM. Three cheers for local groups! *Liz*



A New Global Giving Project Appeal

Some of you will remember that in April 2009 we posted a project on [Global Giving UK](#). Thanks to very generous donations from many of our regular supporters and also their families, friends and colleagues, we raised

over £1600 in support of primary schooling for the Batwa pygmy communities. This, together with other fund raising efforts has meant that we have been able to provide furniture for the two Batwa schools, provide regular morning breakfasts for hungry school children, and help towards the teachers' salaries. The children and teachers have benefited enormously. Timothy and his staff, especially the extension workers for these two communities, are so grateful.

The total raised was sufficient to gain us a permanent place on the Global Giving site, which means many more folk get to learn about the work of AICM, so recently we have posted a new appeal. It is headed "[Vocational Training for the Marginalised in Uganda](#)", and we are hoping to raise £10,000 for the VTC to use as a bursary fund to enable it to aid the many needy students who cannot afford to attend courses. Of the current 500 plus students enrolled at the college, nearly half default on fees, or cannot provide materials needed for their courses, and eventually many have to drop out. Sadly this loss is also a crucial factor in the college financial difficulties. So please ask as many of your friends, families and colleagues as possible to visit this site. A gift could be life changing for some of the young folk from the AICM communities. The site can be accessed by typing in the heading, but the link is <http://www.globalgiving.co.uk/pr/6100/proj6059p.html>

