

Your AICM Trustees – 5

Anne Fletcher

I first met Enoch in 1984, when the Rector of my parish in Brampton responded to a request from Wycliffe Hall for holiday hospitality for overseas students. Enoch, a post-graduate, came to Brampton for Easter week. We were on a roller coaster with Enoch living his Christianity 24/7. After the services on Easter morning, he stood at the church door with a broad grin on his face and with enthusiasm, proclaimed, “Christ is risen” to each person. This gave me a new realisation of Christian commitment. The next meeting with Enoch was 89/90 (with very little news of him in the interim six years) when he returned for a two-year course at Reading University. Phoebe joined him for a course of her own during the last six months, and this was my first meeting with her when they came to stay with me at Brampton. I paid a three-week visit to Kabale in 1991 accompanied by Matthew Clements, who was gathering information in order to register the “Friends of AICM” as an official UK charity. The country then was devastated and unsettled after the ravages created by Idi Amin. For a few years in the 90s, I acted as secretary to the “Friends”. In 1999, I paid another three-week visit to Uganda and then in 2003, joined with nearly thirty Friends in Kabale for the Silver Jubilee celebrations of AICM as a Ugandan charity with much singing, dancing, feasting, parading and receiving great Ugandan hospitality.

Reluctantly, as age creeps up on me, I am now retiring as a Trustee, but am delighted to realise that there are younger “Friends” coming forward with the right skills and commitment to help AICM forward. I have received many personal blessings from being involved with AICM and have made many friends in Uganda and in many English and Scottish parishes.

Anne Fletcher

If you would like to make a donation to the work of the Friends of AICM, please send it to: The Treasurer, Friends of AICM, Canon John Tapper, Mill Cottage, Mill Lane, Sissinghurst, Kent, TN17 2HX.

If it applies, we would appreciate you signing and dating a statement declaring that you are a UK tax payer and under the Gift Aid Scheme would like AICM to claim back tax on all donations until further notice.



Supporting African International Christian Ministry in south-west Uganda Website - www.aicm.org.uk

Friends of AICM Newsletter

July 2007



Lake Bunyonyi - Uganda

ALTERNATIVE GIVING

We would like to thank all of you who have made use of our alternative giving scheme and given gift cards to friends and relatives. AICM in Kabale have now received the first sum of money gathered from this scheme and on 25th March organised a celebratory function at Ndeego trading centre in Ikumba sub county



in order to present some of the gifts which our giving has purchased. Those gifts presented were 18 bags of Irish potato seeds, 36 piglets, 2 knapsacks sprayers and a number of school uniforms to pupils at Ihunga school. As you can see from the photographs, they were joyfully received. Timothy, our director, writes “We thank the Friends for this generous giving that has greatly boosted the morale amongst AICM members and beneficiaries in the rural communities; many lives are being touched and hopes restored. Thanks to God.”



Please do remember this scheme when you have occasion to give a gift. It is such a great way for us, who have so much, to give to those who have so little. Most of you have recently received a leaflet, together with our new publicity sheet and our orphan’s sponsorship leaflet, so you know whom to contact for cards. We will be

producing a revised leaflet for the autumn.



Janet

The views on our way there were quite beautiful and all the roads were much better than on previous visits. Janet and Warren took full advantage of the situation, taking some stunning photographs, whilst enthusing about the work and results of AICM.

Tom and I hope they remain interested and carry on where we leave off, since this is probably our last trip.....I think!

Brenda Broderick



AGM

The Trustees are spending the weekend of 27/28 October at Stanton House in the Oxfordshire village of Stanton St John, a few miles northeast of Oxford itself and intend to hold the AGM there on the Saturday at 11.30am. All Friends are most welcome to attend, but it would be appreciated if all those interested could inform Sue Matthew on 01865 557959.

AICM and the Brodericks

Once again we have visited Kabale, this time with our daughter Janet Price and her son Warren. At the VTC, which they found very impressive, we handed over money collected by the Benefice in Folkestone, so Timothy and George Kwarigaba, the accountant, immediately made a trip to Kampala to buy some much needed equipment for various departments including an electric saw (Carpentry), grinder (Plumbing), laminator (Secretarial), cooker (Cookery – a first; now they can actually cook what they prepare!) and some specialist tools (Electrical). Tom demonstrated how to use all of the equipment with everyone showing much interest and enthusiasm. Bricklaying and Carpentry are now good covered



Warren

furniture or equipment there. She holds anti-natal clinics and delivers babies as well as treating normal illnesses and injuries, but has no electricity or water and has to boil water at her nearby home when she needs it sterile. We all made the trip up the mountains to Rwamahano, but only Janet and Warren walked right to the very top where most of the people were. Tom and I could hear them singing and when the children came home from school, all in uniform, Janet asked them all to come down the hill to us. They happily poured down the slope and sang and danced for us, seemingly all well fed and clothed.

areas with plenty of space, while Sewing had several treadle sewing machines and there were many computers in the Secretarial Department.

There is now a Registered General Nurse on duty at the VTC who told us she was kept quite busy with all the students. I intend to send her two of my uniforms which I'm sure will please her.

We were taken to Kyobugome where the resident nurse who is also a qualified midwife showed us round, but there was little

The Titterton Family in Uganda

When Enoch came to St. George's, in Folkestone, in April 2006, we did not know anything about Uganda except that it was somewhere in central Africa. Janique was thinking about the gap year she was planning to take after finishing her A-levels and the rest of us were not really thinking about Africa at all, except about family in South Africa. After Enoch's sermon, however, we all turned to each other and said – almost simultaneously – "That's where I want to go!" We arranged to meet with Enoch and Tom and Brenda Broderick to plan the visit.



Janique, Phoebe, Enoch & Jamon

Janique planned to spend four months with AICM, so we decided that it would be sensible to meet her there after she arrived from a visit with family in South Africa. Lawrance was unable to go, so Jamon and I met her at Entebbe airport having arrived earlier after travelling for 24 hours via Dubai and Addis Ababa.

Timothy, the AICM Director, met us and with the able assistance of

Frank the taxi driver managed to get us to our Namirembe guesthouse in Kampala after an hour's drive of nightmare proportions. This turned out to be very comfortable so were quite ready the next morning to venture back into Kampala for some shopping and then to get the bus to Kabale. Timothy and Frank managed to get all three of us with our luggage onto a bus and into three seats together, although it was 2½ hours and a bus change before we actually started our journey.

Initially the views of city life were great, but once on the open road, their very narrow aspect and the bus driver's minimum 70 mph kept us rather transfixed on the forward view despite spectacular ones to the side. Four hours later, we reached Mbarara and after a brief stop, travelled another eight hours before arriving at Kabale. We were exhausted and very grateful and surprised that we had survived the journey, but immediately had to start another one to the AICM base with Michael, a local taxi driver. That trip

was pleasantly slow and we arrived just before 8pm at the house and were taken to the guest cottage and invited to the welcoming dinner at 8.30. Briefly exploring the cottage, we were grateful to find that we had running water, a flushing toilet, two kettles and a gas bottle with cooker plate, all quite a luxury in rural parts of Africa.

We didn't know whether we would be able to cope with the welcoming dinner after a whole day's travelling and the emotional state we were in, and it was quite overwhelming with so many people to meet, all of whom had obviously gone to great trouble to make us feel at home. We excused ourselves as early as we could and retired for some much needed sleep.

On Tuesday morning, we had some time to recover, unpack and get to know our surroundings with Enoch and Phoebe due to arrive from the Democratic Republic of Congo late that afternoon and another big dinner planned for their return. We did it justice this time and started to remember some names! Everyone we met was so friendly and helpful – I have never come across more genuinely hospitable people anywhere in the world. Nothing was too much trouble and every single person went out of his or her way to show us how glad they were that we had come.

On Wednesday we arranged to meet Timothy at the Vocational Training College where the AICM also have their offices. We were not able to see many lessons in progress as we had arrived in the middle of the exam session, but we were quite impressed by all the work that was going on and the obvious dedication of all the teachers. We had a very quiet tour of the

premises and tried not to disturb the students. The carpentry department is starting to explore bamboo as a medium and we saw some good examples of chairs and sofas. Students and teachers were working hard to install a newly made metalwork table and in the tailoring class we watched a practical exam in progress.



Girl's dormitory



Batwa Hut

Tappers' Trek

John and Liz Tapper are planning to walk from their home in Sissinghurst, Kent to Padstow, Cornwall, starting on Monday 23rd July and hopefully arriving on Friday 24th August. The distance is 331 miles and they will be camping on the way (unless anyone offers accommodation!)

The walk is in aid of AICM and if anyone would like to join the walk for any distance or period, contact them on 01580 713836 or email them on johnliztapper@tesco.net for the detailed itinerary. Sponsorship for the walk will of course be gratefully received and can be sent to their address, which is on the rear page of the newsletter.

EVERYCLICK

There is a new search engine available called “**Everyclick**” which gives good results for all but the most stubborn searches and which also donates 50% of its advertising revenue to charity. All you have to do is to register with it and name the charity of your choice and then every time you use it, that charity is allocated a proportion of the revenue. It costs nothing to register and can be done in a few moments and then with a few hundred people using it, funds could add up very quickly.

To register,

- 1) Go to www.everyclick.com/uk
- 2) Type “AICM” in the search box and select the exclamation mark to its right
- 3) Click on “select this charity” alongside the green tick under AICM (there appears to be a selection to choose from!)
- 4) You will be asked for your email address and to choose a password
- 5) Click on the house shaped icon to make **everyclick** your home page
- 6) Click on the heart shaped icon to add it to your favourites

Please consider this – it can make us money.

Easter Monday saw the whole AICM team in the office to say farewell to us. We had a lovely lunch – samosas, bananas and cupcakes – and we were presented with certificates and gifts. Once again we were touched by just how much our visit meant to them, although we were the ones who had been looked after, entertained and who had been blessed by the opportunity to spend time there.

Early on Tuesday morning, Phoebe and Timothy took us to the post office to catch the “post coach”, a slower but safer alternative to the other coach companies, which proved true only taking half an hour



longer to reach

Kampala. On Wednesday, Timothy accompanied us to Jinja to visit the Bujagali falls and the Source of the Nile. The views were again stunning and we were surrounded by scores of birds.



Lunch was on the banks of the Victoria Nile, with Lake Victoria in the distance and consisted of freshly caught Tilapia – the best fish I have ever had! Janique’s flight left Entebbe early next morning whereas Jamon and I left on a different one. Ours was not without problems, but eventually on Saturday evening, we were finally reunited as a family back in our own home.

Although it was not the most comfortable holiday and we were challenged in many ways, this was an experience I would not trade for anything. We have gained a lot of understanding of life in Uganda, of the hardships and courage of the people there and of their faith and acceptance of their fate. They are determined to improve their conditions and are working endlessly and tirelessly to achieve this. They are not quietly waiting for handouts, but are actively using every opportunity and every bit of assistance to help themselves and each other. I feel blessed and inspired by their courage and faith and by the love they have for their neighbours. I can’t wait to go again– but next time I’m taking Lawrence with me!!!



Monica Titterton

On Thursday I had a chance to talk with Enoch about his work in the DRC. Although he is very inspired and enthusiastic, it is obvious that the conditions there are dire. We thought people in the Kabale district had it hard because most of them have to walk long distances to fetch water and the electricity supply is very unreliable. In the DRC things are much worse, with many people not having adequate housing or food. Enoch told us how



Batwa

four secondary schools share **one** typewriter, which they have installed at a central point so that the children only have to travel 15-20 miles to get a turn to use it! Although he was given a laptop on his last visit to the UK and has managed to buy a generator to provide electricity, he still needs a specialised modem and power regulator in order to be able to use the laptop. In the meantime he or Phoebe

sometimes stands in a queue for almost 5 hours to be able to access their emails at the local internet café. He gave me a long list of things they are desperate for in the DRC, which I am hoping to pass on to Operation Sunshine as soon as they are up and running again. We discussed the practicalities of Janique staying on for longer and agreed that it was not a good idea at this stage.

I talked with Timothy about the £130 that Westbrook House Prep School in Folkestone had donated and which we wanted to spend on the Batwa children. After a long discussion with Doreen, the AICM’s community development officer, we had a list of some of their needs and decided to go shopping on the Friday morning when we bought exercise books, pencils, colouring pencils, sharpeners, rubbers, wall charts and 96 items of clothing and also put in an order for about 40 textbooks which the shops didn’t have in stock at the time.



Afterwards, Michael took Janique, Jamon and me to the Overland Holiday camp on the shores of Bunyonyi Lake – just 8 miles outside Kabale. It was so beautiful that we spent Friday night and most of Saturday there. In the

evening you can sit on the quiet shore with prolific birdlife all around and watch the sun set behind the volcanic mountains in the distance, whilst the little dugouts go to and fro on the lake taking people back home after work. We returned to our guesthouse that night and were ready the following morning to experience our first Sunday service in Uganda. We visited All Saints Anglican Church with Timothy and Phoebe who was staying another four weeks although Enoch had returned to the DRC that morning. It was a sight to see all the people walking to church in their droves – for the second service of the day – all dressed in their beautiful suits and dresses. People really dress for church there – some of those dresses would have been perfect for a Summer Ball. The singing and clapping during the service was as enthusiastic as we expected and we received a warm welcome from the vicar and congregation.

On Monday morning we set off for Rwamahano Batwa resettlement centre with the car loaded with the supplies we had bought. It was only thirty miles away but included a treacherous stretch around Lake Bunyonyi, albeit



Ihunga women

with stunning views! After just over 2½ hours, we arrived at the bottom of quite a steep hill and climbed about 50 metres up and then walked another 400-500 metres to get to the settlement. It seemed deserted, but shortly, more of the Batwa arrived from where they had been working for the day

and we all assembled outside the school. We handed out 3 exercise books, two pencils and clothes to each child and the teacher and chairman of the group put the rest of the supplies in the school storeroom. The children immediately tried on their new clothes and we had the traditional speeches and dancing. Then Jamon handed over a football and pump to the head boy and girl. This was without doubt the highlight of our visit and the children (including Jamon) immediately started chasing the ball around. We were convinced it was going to disappear down the side of the mountain, but it was skilfully retrieved every time and all had great fun.

In spite of a lovely day at Rwamahano it was painfully clear that the Batwa people still need a lot of assistance, both in terms of money and practical skills. A lot of them still live in small shelters made of branches and leaves,

although some have started building better houses. They are trying to cultivate their crops, but are still dependent on whatever payment they can get from the surrounding local people for their day-to-day existence. The school only caters for children from 6-8 years of age (roughly) and even these children only go to school if they are not needed elsewhere to tend livestock, fields or little brothers and sisters.

After a quiet Tuesday we went to Ihunga on Wednesday to visit the school that was built by the AICM to cater for the orphans of the area and also to visit the women's groups. Once again we were visiting in exam time and we didn't want to disturb the pupils by going around the classes. We were able to take photographs of some of the orphans that are sponsored by Friends of the AICM and once again Jamon stole the show by handing over another football. We then went back down the mountain to spend the rest of the day with the women's groups that had gathered together at a village on the edge of the Bwindi forest.



After some lovely singing and dancing presented by representatives of the various groups, Loyce (deputy director of AICM) told them of the various items (seedlings, piglets, knapsack sprayers, uniforms and school fees) that would arrive within two weeks after generous 'alternative giving' contributions that were received by Friends of AICM over Christmas. The women were very excited and grateful and it was touching to see just how much these gifts meant to them. It was obvious that they work incredibly hard to make their projects succeed and that they are very committed to each one. At the end of the proceedings, I was presented with a spear in a moving ceremony where each of the leaders touches the spear as a kind of blessing to the recipient. It was a very humbling, but strengthening experience.

On Good Friday we visited St. Peter's Cathedral situated on a hill on the outskirts of Kabale. This building was started in the late 1940s and is still not quite complete, but is a lovely church with beautiful stained glass windows nevertheless. It was filled with pupils from the surrounding secondary schools and their singing was inspiring.