

Garance La Mache Memorial fund

Aiming to fund a primary school class-room for the Batwa children of South West Uganda.

Garance La Mache was a talented twenty year old engineering student at St Hugh's College, Oxford, when she tragically died in May 2015 of cancer. Nearly two years previously, she had joined a student team from St Ebbe's Church, Oxford, visiting needy communities in South West Uganda. The visit was hosted by AICM, and it made a profound impact on Garance.



As part of this work she really enjoyed working with deprived Batwa children at Rwamahano primary school run by AICM. The school was very basic and is barely standing now after storm damage. Friends of AICM, are raising funds to build a new school for these children. Garance would have fully supported this effort and it is hoped to be able to raise funds in her memory to build one of the classrooms, which will then be named after her. Please help us raise **£6,000** for this excellent project which will be a fitting memorial to a lovely girl.

TO DONATE: Cheques payable to "Friends of AICM" can be sent to Mr. M. Lloyd, Greenleas, Orchard Way, Cranbrook, Kent, TN17 3LN. Bank Transfer: CAF Bank Ltd. Account: "Friends of AICM", Sort code:40-52-40, Account No. 000111431.

My Donate: <https://mydonate.bt.com>

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

On behalf of our Trustees, I send our warmest greetings at Christmas and New Year to all Friends of AICM. We give thanks to God for several Friends who have died in 2016 and we commend their relatives to God's loving care. We invite you to renew your commitment to support AICM by prayer and giving as we move into 2017.

Gordon Ogilvie

Chairman : Trustees of FAICM : December 2016



November 2016



St Ebbe's Visit Number 5, July 2016

Sue Townsend gives some of the news & highlights from the recent July visit to AICM by St Ebbe's Church, followed by views from the four student travellers.

"The St Ebbe's Uganda mission team, has recently returned from an

excellent visit to AICM. Led for a second year by Nick Wooldridge, a second year theological student from Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, and accompanied again by Colin and Sue Townsend, the team give thanks to God for His gracious protection on our flights and on our many travels on long and dusty roads. The visit was very full with an extremely varied programme, thanks to the folk at AICM who planned it.

There were many highlights from our visit. One was the joy of children at both Batwa primary schools playing games around our rainbow parachute.



These two schools at Rwamahano and Muribindi have recently had a staffing overhaul, and now have two excellent head teachers and committed staff. Teaching in these two remote schools, with inadequate buildings, is very challenging and these staff members need our prayers. Both staff and children, and often watching parents, thoroughly appreciated and enjoyed our team visits.

This year's team had much opportunity to join in the AICM ministry to rural communities, and a very noticeable achievement of this ministry is the integration of Batwa and Bakiga communities. It was wonderful,



humbling and often moving to join with the thanksgiving and dancing of these communities. Let us please keep praying for AICM field staff in this challenging work needing great commitment and resources. The team continued the encouraging bible teaching ministry of the previous four years each morning in the AICM

college chapel. There were good times of sharing from John's gospel and evidence in several students and staff of a desire to learn more from God's word.

There were many more notable highlights from the visit, but I shall let the four team members complete the picture."

First of all Nick, the team leader:-

I might not have believed it after last year's trip if you'd told me that this

Rwamahano School building appeal.

Readers will remember reading in our summer newsletter reports from Mike Peachey and Rev. Roger Smith, following an FAICM trustees' visit to AICM Kabale earlier this year. Both were profoundly affected by what they saw of the work of AICM in the communities and wrote in some detail of their experiences. Both made mention of the challenges facing the Batwa communities in Muribindi and Rwamahano where AICM has established primary schools. In particular, Mike listed some immediate recommended



improvements that could be made in both locations and promised funding for them. These are currently taking place and are briefly reported upon in another article. Mention was also made of the trustees' plans to seek to replace the severely damaged school building at

Rwamahano with a new building.

In September FAICM launched, via BT My Donate, a "Back to School" appeal to begin fund raising for this building, which readers should have received information about. Trustees are encouraging other fund raising efforts, and donations can be made straight to the treasurer as well as via mydonate.bt.com/events/batwaschoolappeal. At the same time, trustees are making approaches to various grant funding bodies to ask for funding. Our projected total is £40,000 based on provisional estimates for the building costs. We are greatly encouraged in two ways. The first is that one funder is interested in supporting us with up to half of these costs if we can raise the other half. The second is that we have been blessed with some very generous donors from among supporters and to date have raised around £10,000. We are praying that God will bless our efforts and that we can achieve the necessary funding. The building will make such a difference to so many. If there is any way in which you can help by donating, fund raising, or suggesting a funding body we could approach, please do contact a trustee.



Please remember to look at the new Alternative Gift Leaflet for possible Christmas presents (and gifts throughout the year too). It will arrive in the post, or as an email attachment, depending on how you receive the newsletter. Remember too, about using EasyFundraising, when you buy on the internet. Information on how to use it is on our website.

project focuses on running “Family Life Field schools” and addresses nutrition, hygiene and quality of life in the first one thousand days of life - this last is important for pregnant and breast feeding mothers. The Pilot Light project is focused on the Batwa communities, particularly sanitation and hygiene, covering construction and use of pit latrines, drying racks, bath shelters and using hand washing and washing up facilities such as tippy taps.



Andrew, together with Dennis, the other AICM field officer has also been involved with visiting all the Batwa households and their neighbouring Bakiga homesteads and visiting the two AICM Batwa primary schools at Muribindi and Rwamahano, as well as other schools where Batwa and Bakiga study together. Some Good News bibles have been given to some youngsters or their parents if they can read English, or Rukiga bibles to a leader who can read and will be able to teach others. Funding for these bibles comes from FAICM gifts. A few Batwa have recently been confirmed and there are 15 Batwa who are in local church leadership positions.

FAICM has recently sent funding to AICM to enable them to carry out necessary improvements at both Muribindi and Rwamahano. This work is ongoing, but the wooden classroom at Rwamahano has been made more weatherproof by the addition of a plywood lining, the kitchen facilities at both schools have been improved and there is continued provision of daily food at both schools which includes not only breakfast but a good lunch as well. There are also repairs being made to the rainwater harvest tanks on both sites.



Andrew also has oversight of the FAICM sponsored students in secondary school and some at the AICM training college. He visits the students in school, consults with their guardians, ensures that they have the necessary school materials and shares regular bible teaching with

them. This support from friends in UK via FAICM is life saving for many, giving them a chance of an education not otherwise available to them. FAICM is currently revising its sponsorship scheme and hope in the future to encourage more sponsorship.

This is just a glimpse of the valuable work being done through AICM amongst very vulnerable communities. Thank you for the support that you give which makes this possible.

year we'd get even more opportunities to meet people in different contexts and share our faith with them, but we did! On top of all we did last year, this year's trip included visits to a local hospital, a local prison and All Saints Church for their Sunday services.

The thing I found particularly encouraging, this being my second visit, was seeing not only the great work that AICM is doing, but how their involvement had improved things over the previous twelve months. This was perhaps most apparent at the schools which, thanks to the work of AICM, seemed better staffed and organised and consequently the children were more attentive and eager to learn what we were teaching them about creation and the cross.

Second, Bethany Kilbey:-



Nick at All Saints



How can I sum up an experience like our time in Uganda with a few paragraphs? Even whilst trying to write a daily journal I was often at a loss as to how to condense everything onto paper! However, flicking through my journal now, I'm so glad to have some of the memories recorded. Isabel Allende once said we should 'Write what should not be forgotten'. I would certainly put my

time in Uganda in that category! I thank God for all that I learnt and saw, and pray that He'll guide me to use those experiences to His glory.

What struck me most was undoubtedly the wonderful people we met, particularly those working or volunteering with AICM. They are incredibly humble and hard-working, whilst also being a great deal of fun! Faith, the Executive Director, is a larger-than-life character who is absolutely committed to doing her best in her work. Another member of the team whom we had the privilege of spending quite a lot of time with was Timothy- a student who volunteers with AICM during the holiday. I remember one afternoon after spending five very bumpy, very dusty hours on the roads we returned to find the VTC in the midst of preparations for their graduation ceremony the following day. Whilst we were ushered inside to find some (very welcome) refreshment, Timothy was set to work sweeping, cleaning and

dusting - a task he gladly set himself to without a moment's hesitation. There were numerous other examples of the staff's readiness to forgo their own comfort, yet the most striking thing was that they always did so with a smile. Amazing examples of the kind of worship described in Romans 12:1, in which their bodies are offered as living sacrifices.

Another thing which really stuck me was the gratitude of the people we met. Visiting a prison and a hospital were particular highlights. In both places we were greeted with such warmth, it was clear that our visits meant a lot to the inmates and patients. Similarly, the joy expressed at the alternative gift giving ceremony when community groups were presented with a goat was humbling. I'm not sure the goats shared their new owners' exuberance, but they were obliged to join in the dancing and celebrations regardless!

Next David Sarjudeen:-



My time in Uganda was truly amazing and humbling. We were a great team, each bringing something different and a great joy to work with. I also learnt so much during my time there. One of the things that really struck me was the attitude of the Batwa children in the schools towards their education. It was



clearly important to them and it was great seeing their thankfulness to God for it. Another highlight had to be the alternative gift giving occasion we were privileged to be part of. Seeing the pure joy and thankfulness of the various communities for receiving something as simple as a sheep was so humbling and really helped me to appreciate what I have so much more. Though there were many problems and difficulties with living in Uganda, it was still so evident that God is working there and it didn't look as though things were slowing down! I really hope to go back at some time in the future.



Finally Qui-yi:-

I absolutely loved Uganda and value every experience I had out there. Uganda is such a joyful, vibrant country to be in – everyone is so colourful, praiseworthy and is always happy to sing and dance, which I found very striking as it completely contrasted with the extreme poverty and simplicity of their surroundings. After experiencing life there and meeting all the people AICM reach out to has made me appreciate the diversity and abundance of opportunities we are exposed to in our lives back home as well as having so much freedom of choice compared to people in Uganda. For example, things as simple as school, education, water, food, sport, travelling and so much more are so easily accessible to us, but is a luxury to them to be able to have access to. And for being a Christian it really made me appreciate the resources we have such as Bibles and small groups to look at the Bible closely with which they had very little of there, particularly in the communities in the middle of nowhere. So this was a joy and privilege to be able to share that with them there. However, despite these hardships and



lack of resources, it did not stop these people. I love how creative they were in getting around these barriers - they played football with a ball made of a scrunched up rubbish bag and string, they sing, they dance and make baskets and all sorts of things



with whatever they have.

I was also amazed by the work AICM has done to reach out to so many different communities in the middle of nowhere and in each of these how God's word has transformed their lives to bring the two tribes to work and live together in peace and unity.

Rural Community Report

Recently the AICM evangelist, Andrew, sent the trustees an excellent report of the many activities overseen by AICM in the various rural communities that they serve. These include various projects that AICM implement in partnership with USAID and with Pilot Light Foundation. The USAID