



Newsletter April 2016

Volume17 : Issue 1

Dear friends,

Greetings to you all from Kitgum. We apologize for the delay in sending out the Newsletter. We have faced some serious staff issues, a break-in, health problems and a massive clean-up of the property here, before attempting to prepare this issue. We arrived safely back in Uganda on April 1st after spending precious time in Adelaide with our family, in Clare in the mid-north, and Tumby Bay on Eyre Peninsula. We shared about the ministry of Cornerstone Foundation in Birdwood, Murray Bridge, Hampstead Gardens, One Tree Hill, Clare, Cummins, Lock and Tumby Bay. It was a very busy time, but provided a great opportunity to meet with supporters of CFA, and to share with others for the first time, about the project in Kitgum.

“High Tea” Event an Outstanding Success:

Since our last newsletter a “High Tea” was held on Saturday, April 16th at the home of Manfred and Merri Eckert in the Adelaide Hills on their property near Gumeracha, as a fund-raising event for the Foundation. 70 people attended and were treated to fabulous food and delightful tea served in fine china cups, under Marquees with beautiful table decorations, and in the lovely surroundings of Manfred and Merrie’s garden and open home. MC Manfred, looked a treat decked out in smart attire (including Bow Tie). Guests also had the opportunity to check out the plant and produce stalls. From comments we have received here in Kitgum by e-mail, the event was a tremendous success, due to the detailed and meticulous care in presentation by Merri and Manfred and their band of helpers. \$2620.30 was raised for the Foundation at this fabulous event.

To all who attended and those who helped in so many ways to make the day such a success; in the language of the Acholi people of Kitgum we would say: “Apwoya Matek” (*Thank-you very much*).



Some of the delightfully presented food enjoyed by guests at the “High Tea” in Gumeracha. If you couldn’t attend, you missed out on a tasty, delicious, wholesome, totally non-fattening, low sugar feast.



Some of the guests enjoying fine china, and great food and drinks, under the garden marquees.

Ladies Bible Study:

The Ladies Bible Study has continued, with George competently leading the group during our time back in South Australia. We thank George for his dedication and commitment to these ladies. We resumed upon our arrival back in Kitgum, and 15 ladies came to join us. I (Bev) will have the joy of presenting the Audio Bibles to the older ladies of my group, who are unable to read. I'm sure this will bring much excitement and blessing!

“Break in” on property:

While we were back in Australia, thieves broke into the property at Oryang Ojuma, smashed the rear door window of the Land Rover which was stored on the property, and stole 2 batteries, ropes, some tools and spare parts. Our night guard (Ronald) was sorting out a problem at the front of the property, while the thieves entered by straining the back fence and crawling under it. We believe the two events were deliberately co-ordinated! Upon our return, we were pleased to discover that the LC1 (local council representative), had retrieved some of the stolen items dropped by the escaping thieves. Erica's husband Robb came, after checking with the local Police, and removed other items left in the Land Rover that could possibly be stolen, if the thieves returned. We thank him for his loyalty to us. We praise God that at least some tools (irreplaceable) and the spare tyre were not taken. We are also aware of God's protection over Ronald on the night. Thieves can be quite violent in this part of the world, even bearing guns.

Staff Changes:

We have made some staff changes upon our return. Two of our men (Norbert and Paul) decided not to come to work while we were away, taking their full pay (paid in advance for 17 weeks), and choosing to do other things. One chose to make additional money by becoming a boda-boda (motor bike) rider, carrying people for a fare, and the other used all the funds for medical bills. Wayne has spoken with them both and prayed with them, but they have been told they can no longer work for the Foundation. George was left to manage the entire property during each day. Watering of the plants is a three-man job. He did his best to keep things alive. We were quite surprised to see the hedge around the house compound still green and healthy. He did a marvelous job, and is such a faithful worker! Ronald and George remain as our only full time workers. We will hire casual helpers as they are needed.

“Clean up” of property completed:

As you can imagine, with 3 months spent in Australia, the property needed a huge “clean up” when we returned. It has taken almost a month to complete the clean-up. With only 2 men, and Wayne on the tractor / slasher, tasks have taken much longer than in the past. Elephant grass 6ft high has kept the tractor pretty busy.

Mango season is also upon us, taking time to pick up, sort and clean them each morning, and giving away most of the plentiful crop to Tender Trust (Lois Ford’s orphanage).

The hedge has been trimmed, our compound and drive-way mowed and slashing of the 6 acre property has been completed, in between heavy rain storms (140mm in 15 days). The banana plantation also needed trimming (as shown below). We are enjoying some of the fruits of our labours with beautiful Mangoes and Bananas.

The weather has been very hot during the day (44 degrees recently in Bev’s container kitchen) often followed by heavy rains late in the afternoon /evening. Sorry to those needing rain.



Dominica up-date:

While we were in Australia we learned that Dominica had Brucellosis, an illness picked up by eating local meat. We praise God that Erica and Robb saw to her need for treatment. She is now joining us again in the Ladies Group and enjoying her “bed off the floor” (camp stretcher). Please pray for this dear lady who has many problems and is very lonely.

Annual General Meeting:

The Annual General Meeting of Cornerstone Foundation (Australia) Inc. was held at Birdwood United Church, on Sunday 14th February. Ross (our previous Chairman) and wife Marlene resigned from the Board, but remain firm supporters of C.F.A. We thank them for 10 years of service on the Board, and for their commitment to both the Foundation and ourselves. Ross spent many, many days helping with the packing of 2 @ 20ft shipping containers on his property at One Tree Hill, before they were shipped to Uganda in 2007. Thank-you Ross for your invaluable help, and support, and for the use of equipment and tools used during that process.

We welcome Johannes Hartszenberg to the Management Board, and pray that his time with us will be a blessing to him and to his family. As it was important that members be able to vote on changes to the Constitution, we would like to thank all who attended the AGM. All changes were approved and the amended Constitution is now in place.

Health issue:

Since returning to Kitgum, Wayne has had constant stomach pain that we thought was simply “reflux” (which he has experienced many times before). Normally however, after a few weeks back in Uganda, our bodies seem to adjust to different food, water and the change in climate. This time, stomach pain has been constant for a month, especially at night, and sleep has been very hard to come by. Our dear friends Erica and Robb are going to Kampala late next week and have offered us a ride. We will seek medical advice there and possibly have some tests to see what is causing the pain. Please pray that the doctor will be able to diagnose and treat the problem.

Prayer Points:

We Praise God for:

- ✓ Safe travel returning from Australia back to Kitgum.
- ✓ George who continued the Ladies’ Bible Study in our absence, and for his faithfulness in his work.
- ✓ The JOY of knowing Jesus, and helping others to know him.
- ✓ Erica, Robb & Lois who are back joining in fellowship with us on Sundays.
- ✓ The new speaking opportunities experienced in Australia during our time there.
- ✓ Lois’s return, after a very testing time with surgeries etc. in New Zealand.



Please pray for:

- Paska, and for Caroline who had to spend a month in hospital with sickness. Please pray for their appointment with Doctors in Gulu next Wednesday. Her appointment in March had to be cancelled because Caroline was too ill.
- The government here in Uganda, re-elected in February 2016.
- Many people who are experiencing difficulty due to large increases in food prices.
- The help Wayne needs with the Construction programme. The right person in God’s perfect time!
- Wayne’s health, which has not been good since we returned.
- Dominica, struggling to face daily living, feeling lonely and un-loved. Pray that she will not just hear about the Saviour’s love, but accept Him into her life, and receive His Love, Joy and Peace.

With our love,

Wayne and Bev

Donation Reply: *(A receipt and thank-you note will be issued for all donations)*

I / We would like to:

- Donate toward Wayne & Bev's personal support Weekly Monthly Quarterly
- Support the ministry of Cornerstone Foundation (Australia) Inc. in Kitgum
- Donate to the "Replacement Vehicle Fund" for the purchase of the Land Cruiser
- Enclosed is my donation of: \$ _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Phone: () _____

Method of Payment: Cheque Postal Order Direct Debit

Cheque /Postal Order: payable to: Cornerstone Foundation (Australia) Inc.

Direct Debit: Commonwealth Bank Of Australia
Account Name: Cornerstone Foundation Australia Inc.
BSB No: 065102 Account No: 10154438

Please post to: Mr Paul Johnson
Cornerstone Foundation (Australia) Inc.
Unit 8 / 90 Melrose Street
MOUNT PLEASANT SA 5235



Reminder: If using Direct Debit for any payments please notify the Treasurer so that a receipt can be issued for Auditing purposes. Thank-you.

Contact Paul either by postal address as above
or by e-mail: paul_johnson_42@bigpond.com