



Newsletter July 2016

Volume17 : Issue 2

Dear friends,

Greetings once again from Kitgum. We have had a very busy 3 months since our last newsletter was sent out. Hence, we again apologize for the lateness of this issue. Construction work is progressing at a steady pace, but God is quietly and constantly at work in ways unseen. We thank Him for the opportunities He gives us to witness for Him in Oryang Ojuma.

A second “break in” on the property:

A few weeks ago we were broken into for a second time. The “thief” took 4 plastic chairs from our Toucal (20 metres from where we slept in our room), and 2 jerry cans. They have all been retrieved by our local LC1 (council representative). Our neighbour found the chairs early the next morning and took them to him. The jerry cans were left (one broken) just the other side of the fence. It seems so senseless! On the advice of our LC1 we plan to hire a permanent “night guard”. We Praise the Lord for His protection over us, as there have been many robberies recently where people have been held up at gun point. It is concerning that this is going on. A second security fence is now being erected within the property, to include the house compound, workshop and shipping containers. This was always in our planning, but has now become a high priority. Of course, this takes the men from building construction, and adds a huge load on Wayne.

Ladies Bible Study group:

Our meetings studying some of the “Prayers in the Psalms” have been very rewarding. The ladies have begun to share personal experiences, which has been enlightening for me (Bev). It has been a thrill to have 3 of my ladies give their hearts to the Lord over recent weeks. They have humbled themselves, knelt and raised their hands as they prayed the prayer of commitment (following my lead). I pray for wisdom, as I have begun a course with these dear souls, on the “Foundations of Faith” (thanks to Erica who has helped me with teaching materials). We will have the privilege of seeing them Baptized in a fortnight, thanks again to Africa4God, who have allowed us to be included in their wonderful day of celebration. (Photos in our next Newsletter).

Paska up-date:

We wanted to let everyone know that Paska has returned from Gulu with Caroline, following her regular “check-up”. This time she needed to stay longer, to have Caroline measured for a wheel-chair (which she brought back with her to Kitgum). This is exciting to us, as Paska previously has carried Caroline on her back constantly. She never complains, in fact, she is always so joyous and Praising the Lord! Please continue to pray for this dear lady who has a very hard life with an alcoholic husband who takes much of their money for drinking. The family are often left in desperate need. We thank one dear lady from Adelaide who has given a donation to support her. Her gift meant that quite a large part of the “hospital bill” has been paid.

Lamel's Story:

We want to share Lamel's story with you. Lamel began coming to our studies late last year, and has been a regular and valued participant with us. Bev asked her permission to share the following story.

Lamel's family were cattle people so they moved around while she was growing up. She isn't sure when she was born but estimates her age to be 87 years. She was dedicated and confirmed in the Catholic church. She married and had 4 children. All of them have died. Her daughter died at around 8 years old of Malaria, because there was no treatment available then. Her 3 sons have all died of HIV, due again to lack of available treatments. One son was married and had a daughter (who was not affected with HIV). So Lamel was left to raise this child. To support herself and the child Lamel brewed the local alcohol. She became a hopeless alcoholic and was very miserable. There was no hope in her life.

One day a pastor was passing her hut and saw her crying. He stopped to see if he could help her. They talked, and he tried to lead her to the Lord, but she wanted to "think about it". He returned the next day and she decided to give her heart to Jesus. She was invited to the church the next day. As she was walking to church her friends came to her and tried to coax her into going and drinking with them. "You are such a good drunkard" they said, "and we have a new brew, which is nice and warm". She replied that she had made up her mind to follow Jesus and was going to the church. They told her that she would not last a week as a Christian, as she relied on the drink.

When she arrived at the church she was welcomed and invited to the front to be "introduced". The pastors prayed for her and relayed the story of Job. He had lost his children and stock, but would not turn his back on God. This encouraged Lamel and she set her mind to following Jesus for the rest of her life, no matter what her circumstances would be. That was about 17 years ago, and she still believes strongly in the Lord.

Of course, following Jesus meant she had to give up making the local brew. The elders of the church brought her and 2 other widows before the congregation, and told them they had to support these ladies. They did that faithfully, and that is how she survived. A white lady saw what was happening and decided to also give her support. With some of the money she was given Lamel bought a few items to sell, and still sits near one of our boundary fences selling tomatoes and little items, to support herself. Her nephew has supplied a Toucal for her to stay in, with no charge for rent.

Lamel was one of the ladies who received an Audio Bible this year, and so appreciates being able to hear the Word of God. She has taught me "Pak Rwot Yesu", which interpreted means "Praise the Lord".

The photos show some of my ladies receiving their Audio Bibles.



DOMINICA



LAMEL



SYLVIA

Training starts again with new staff:

Since our last newsletter we have made significant changes due to staff leaving. Ronald chose to go Boda-boda riding (motor bike for hire), so our staff was reduced to 1 member: faithful, reliable George. We recently employed James who is proving to be a very careful, good worker. Bosco has just joined us, so we now have 3 workmen again. Unfortunately for us, Bosco plans to start a course in Civil Engineering toward the end of this year, so his stay could be brief. He is a lively and very enthusiastic worker. We have also interviewed an experienced night guard recently. So, “we press on to the goal set before us”.



George, Bosco and James (left to right)

Project news:

Maintenance of the property is always on-going, and much has been done to keep the place in order. We have removed 13 developing mango trees, a big task for our 2 workmen at the time. The two existing very large mango trees present a huge problem with ripe fruit dropping to the ground, bruising badly, then rotting, needing constant cleaning up. To keep an additional 13 trees would be a nightmare! They were initially planted to give shade for students, but we didn't realise the problem they would create. We have now planted 12 “evergreen” trees instead, for future shade. We learn new lessons constantly!

Our priorities now are to erect the Security fence around the house compound, and construct a “shelter” for the Stone Crusher, ready to crush linton (gravel) for concreting the floor in the house area, and the workshop. The internal sub-floor plumbing pipework for the house has been completed, and the areas between the raised foundations have been cleaned out ready for filling and compacting with maram (road base). A “Vibrating Plate Compactor” has been purchased for this task. Once the floor base has been compacted, pouring the reinforced concrete floor will be the next step.



Workmen setting up the first post of the Security fence



Vibrating Plate Compactor

That said: **WE NEED HELP!** Wayne is one man, and there is so much to do. We could really use some help. If you have a heart for mission, and would love to come on a “mission trip” for a month, please contact us for further information. You would need to have “construction experience”, and be able to work as part of our team. Mission trips are always “self-funded”. You would be giving your time and finances to God alone. Contact: E-mail: wbstevenscfa@gmail.com or Mobile: +256 794847359 (Wayne) / +256 794847861 (Bev)

Health issue:

We Praise the Lord that Wayne's health issue has improved enormously since our last Newsletter. After our trip to Kampala, which was not encouraging, (with no helpful medical advice or diagnosis), his "reflux" seems to have settled down. He did have an overnight stay at a local clinic with Food Poisoning from canned meat bought in Kampala. Not a good experience!! I (Bev) Praise God for our family here (Lois, Erica and Robb) who helped me in every possible way, as I "go to mush" when Wayne is *really* unwell.

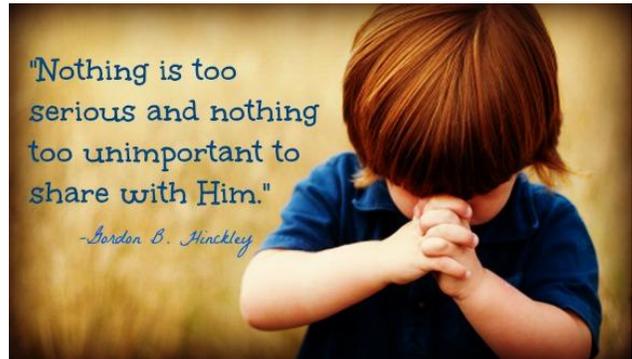
Membership Renewal 2016-2017:

It is time for Renewal of Membership for 2016-17. An "Application Form" and "Statement of Faith" are enclosed. Simply complete the form and return with your subscription to our Treasurer, Mr. Paul Johnson. We thank all who continue to support the ministry of Cornerstone Foundation in Uganda by Annual Renewal of Membership. We would of course, welcome anyone who wishes to become a Member for the first time!!

Prayer Points:

We Praise God for:

- ✓ HIS Protection during the "break in".
- ✓ George who has been a faithful employee and encouragement over these trying months.
- ✓ The JOY of helping others to know Jesus.
- ✓ The fellowship meetings with Erica, Robb & Lois who God has provided as our "family" here.
- ✓ Lamel's story, and the beautiful person she is.
- ✓ Cecilia, Dominica and Sylvia, who gave their hearts to the Lord at one of our studies recently.
- ✓ The opportunity for these dear ladies to be Baptized.



Please pray for:

- Paska, and Caroline. That Caroline will adjust to sitting in her new wheel-chair quickly.
- People suffering from malaria in Kitgum district. Many people have died in recent months.
- The government here in Uganda, re-elected in February 2016. There are still many troubles in this nation.
- Many people suffering in our neighbouring country of South Sudan, because of such un-rest there.
- The long-term help Wayne needs with the Construction programme. The right person in God's perfect time! We know He is preparing someone.
- Wisdom to know what the Lord has planned for this area of Oryang Ojuma. So many need Jesus!
- Dominica, struggling to face daily living, feeling lonely and un-loved. Pray that she will know the Saviour's Love, Joy and Peace in her life, through the extra studies we are doing.

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
- 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**