



Dear friends,

Our apologies for the delay with this issue of the Newsletter. It's been a "full-on" two and a half months since we returned to Uganda. We arrived back in Kitgum in early September after a very extended stay in Australia. We thank God for the time spent with family and friends, and for some recovery time after arriving home at the end of 2016 very "burned out".

Things are slowly resuming a normal pace here in Kitgum, but the weather has been very, very hot, which seems to tire us more as we get older. There has been a lot of rain during October and early November.

Could you please take note that our Uganda phone numbers have changed. We were out of the country too long to retain our old numbers. If you would like to contact us, our numbers are:  
Wayne +256 790512422 and Bev +256 790533670

### **Nathan and Kendra's visit:**

We were blessed to have American friends Nathan and Kendra Jackson (who work in a Christian ministry in southern Uganda), travel up to Kitgum in convoy with us, and stay for a week to help Wayne out. They "camped" under the roof of our house area with their 4 children; John, Hannah, Dan and Abigail, in a neat "dome tent". We were amazed that they should give up their "holiday time" to come and help us. Nathan began the massive task of slashing elephant grass on the property. He also did some maintenance work on machinery and then helped to lay the first "slab" of concrete for the flooring of our house / staff accommodation.

Kendra was great company and help for Bev.  
Their visit was such a Blessing !!!



### **Massive Cleanup completed:**

When we arrived at Oryang Ojuma in September, elephant grass 8 to 10ft high covered about 75% of the 6 acre property. Slashing this tough African grass is quite a challenge. Wayne continued to slowly achieve more time on the tractor, but his back has been a real problem for many weeks, which has hindered things considerably. The men have re-mounded and mulched all the plants, including the banana plantation.

Simon, our new young workman, has now taken over the task of mowing around our immediate “house” compound, so it is looking much tidier than when we arrived. He loves using the “Rover” lawn mower and is doing a good job. Simon-Peter is our “whipper snipper” man, and George trims the plants at the front of the property and around the compound. At the time of writing this Newsletter, Wayne has completed the slashing, all the rows of “chaff” have been burnt, and the entire property has been slashed again.



It was great to have the property cleaned up ready for the “Family Fun Day” for our workmen and their families, that was held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November. Bev’s Bible Study Ladies were also invited, and they really enjoyed the company of others and the opportunity to watch the children having fun. 44 people ranging in age from just 3 years to approx. 87 years came and enjoyed games such as a “sack race”, “three-legged-race”, “tunnel ball”, “egg-and-spoon race”, volleyball, soccer and rides on our Honda ATV for the children. Sodas, banana cake, potato chips and a lolly-pop completed our time together. All-in-all, a great day!!

### **Ladies Bible Study Group resumed:**

Bev’s Bible Study group has resumed and continues to be a joy and encouragement! It has been delightful to see a couple of men coming, who are quite open to share. One man, Wilfred is a fellow we helped several years ago. He came to us malnourished and weak, crawling on his bottom. He was starving to death. We were privileged to be able to give the assistance he needed at the time, and he is now walking freely and Praising the Lord! He stated at a recent meeting that “now I am back with the Lord, I will not depart until I leave this earth”. We never know the effect we have on the lives of others. What an honoured position God has placed us in!!

### **Stone Crusher in Action:**

Since returning, our men have been busy crushing Linton (aggregate / gravel) for each section of the reinforced concrete floor. It is so good to see the Stone Crusher in action after setting it all up under a shelter, late last year. The smaller Linton is proving very worthwhile, as the finished flooring is much better and doesn’t crack.

### **Concrete Floor under construction:**

Three slabs of the concrete floor of our House / Staff Accommodation have now been completed. Each slab measures 8 metres x 2 metres, with reinforcing steel mesh incorporated in the floor. Our workmen are doing a great job mixing the concrete with the petrol engine concrete mixer, and have worked well screeding the concrete, leaving Wayne to float and trowel finish each slab. We are aiming to complete the remaining 6 slabs of the house floor, before returning to Australia in mid-March next year. It is good to see such positive progress.



### **Help with the Building Program:**

Friends, we need to inform you that due to several health issues, we both feel we cannot carry on here indefinitely by ourselves. We have sought help for several years since Wayne's accident, and God has thus far remained silent. Wayne's body simply cannot continue with the heavy work involved in building, so we have come to the decision that if help does not come soon, we will have to seriously consider whether we will be able to return to Uganda in the near future. It would break our hearts if the project remained incomplete!!

**HOWEVER:** some very encouraging news:

We have just come across a product that has been used in Australia for many years, but has just been introduced here in Uganda. "Light Gauge Galvanized Steel Framing" is now being manufactured in Kampala, and may well be an absolute "game changer" in seeing our building construction occur more rapidly. We met with the General Manager several weeks ago, and using this product would enable the wall frames of the house to be erected very quickly. Wayne is currently preparing details for the Company, to enable a quote to be made.

Our heart's desire is to continue working toward the goal of completing construction work and begin vocational skills training for the young people of Oryang Ojuma.

This is God's project, and we continue to pray that He will move someone to come and help full-time, with the view of taking over construction work and seeing the vision of "Cornerstone Vocational College" come to fruition. Our desire to be here is just the same! The needs in Oryang Ojuma are still the same!

The need for help with the building program remains a critical issue. The building tasks ahead are quite daunting. There is so much to do, and Wayne's body cannot continue to do what a 30-year-old person could handle with ease. If you love the Lord and have a heart for mission, and would love to come on a "mission trip" for a month or so, please contact us, or the Secretary for further information. We can also arrange to meet with you upon our return to Australia to discuss details.

You would need to have "building/construction experience" (especially with concrete work), to assist with the building program OR the skills needed to complete the construction of a 7ft high "chain-link" security fence around the house compound, begun last year.

Mission trips are always "self-funded". You would be giving your time and finances to God, not to us. The rewards from Him are enormous, and the experience "life changing"!!

Contact details for any further information:

Wayne and Bev Stevens, PO Box 134, Kitgum, UGANDA

E-mail: [wbstevenscfa@gmail.com](mailto:wbstevenscfa@gmail.com) Mobile: Wayne +256 790512422 and Bev +256 790533670

OR:

CFA Secretary (South Australia): (John Tate): Mobile: 0428 972 868 E-mail: [ouredt@gmail.com](mailto:ouredt@gmail.com)

### **Sponsor needed for elderly widow:**

Dominica, a member of Bev's Bible Study group, is one of many widows who are trying to survive in a culture where the elderly are often badly neglected. In many cases they are left to fend for themselves, with no financial support and expected to live in pretty rugged accommodation. Dominica, aged somewhere around 80 years, has been largely abandoned by her "in-laws" and receives very limited food. She is too frail to dig and plant any kind of food crop, so lives from day to day on whatever she can scrounge. We have helped her as best we can with food, bedding and firewood for cooking, but she really needs someone to help her on a more permanent basis. Re-locating her in a small "tukul" (grass roof hut) away from the abuse of her "in-laws" would, we feel, be the best way to provide for her on-going health and safety.

If there is someone reading this Newsletter who is willing to sponsor this dear old lady for AUD\$25 a month, it would change her life. We realize that she would be dependent on that sponsorship for the remaining years of her life, but we see no other way to be able to remove her from her current abusive situation and ensure she can live independently. \$25 a month would buy her food, charcoal for cooking, oil and soap.

If you can help, please contact the Treasurer, Paul Johnson. (Contact details on the last page of this newsletter.)

We would personally make sure that she receives the support each month, and give feed back to the sponsor.

## Prayer Points:

### We Praise God for:

- ✓ HIS constant Protection over us.
- ✓ The JOY of helping others to know Jesus.
- ✓ The help from Nathan, Kendra and family.
- ✓ The resumption of our fellowship meetings.
- ✓ The recent rains to help the local crops along.



### Please pray for:

- Paska, and Caroline, as they travel to Gulu for ongoing assessments.
- God's protection over our workmen, George, Simon and Simon Peter.
- The thousands of people suffering in neighbouring South Sudan, or those who have fled the fighting and now look for help and daily food in refugee camps across northern Uganda.
- The long-term help Wayne needs with the building programme. The right person in God's perfect time!
- Wayne's health, which has been a constant problem since our return, particularly his back. The pain has resulted in many sleepless nights for both of us.
- The many families suffering due to Nodding Disease. Their pain is un-imaginable.
- Dominica (needing sponsorship) who has many needs not being met by her family. She needs to know just how much God loves her.
- An affordable quote for the Steel Framing needed for building construction.
- Please pray for the future of our work here. It is critical!!

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  
Mobile: 0456 888 010



**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**