



The Wickhams in Uganda, June 2010

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To our dear friends, family and supporters: Greetings from Uganda! After a long gap (sorry about that..!) we have finally got ourselves organised into sending out an up-to-date newsletter! This may be our very last from Uganda so we find ourselves at a time of reflection and thanksgiving for all that God has done for us during our four years in 'the Pearl of Africa'.

KIC-B... In February, our church, Kampala International Church, opened a new branch over the opposite side of Kampala. We have been involved in this new 'plant' mainly because there were no musicians to lead worship, and also Keeley was struggling to work at Heritage School all week and then attend church in the same building on Sunday as well! So we volunteered our services for KIC-B (Kampala International Church – Bugolobi). In terms of leading worship, Andrew has found it an exciting challenge planning songs each week while at the same time working with/encouraging the few musicians that are beginning to come out of the 'woodwork'! We now have a fairly regular set-up of guitar, bass and drums, and someone to man the (very small) sound-system. The congregation is small (around 30 people) and as a result, there is a real community feel; a large percentage of people are actively involved in the life of the church. There is also, a genuine feeling that everyone is there simply because they love Jesus. The church is still firmly a part of KIC, but is an example of God growing something naturally and pouring blessings all over it!

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT!

Keeley writes:



The cast take a final curtain call!

In just 8 weeks of rehearsal we pulled it off! It was a wonderful event: a fabulous band, colourful costumes and some amazing performances from our young people. Somehow God enabled the huuuuuge Joseph coat to arrive from the UK, and a big surprise during show week was a flying visit from my mum who came all the way from Cyprus to see the performances. Annie made her debut

I prayed that if God made it clear that we were to return to the UK then I would put on a whole school show at Heritage - the first in many years. What better show to choose than good old 'Joseph ...' which already has many, many happy memories for us as a family - and totally inspired our last born's name choice!



Annie, her friend Nancy, and grade 11 student Tom as Joseph



stage performance as a dancer and the poor goat who meets a sticky end, and Charlie made a dashing guard at Pharaoh's court! We're not sure all the British jokes were appreciated by our international audience ('his astounding clothing took the biscuit/quite the smoothest person in the district!'), but a jolly good time was had by all.

Last night presentations by Jacob, aka our Finance Director Jonathan Mayo!

14 STUDENTS ARE BAPTISED IN A SPECIAL HERITAGE BAPTISM!

God has been doing amazing things at Heritage, particularly in the High School. We were overjoyed to see 5 young MEN commit to Christ over the last few months, and to affirm and strengthen the faith of some of our students we held our first baptism service on the morning of the last day of term. What a celebration! John Willison our church pastor helped Keeley perform the service and it was a special time of blessing. We all felt a powerful sense of God's love.



A beautiful African morning, and an awesome sense of God's power and goodness as Meki, a Grade 10 girl, takes the plunge!



Bertha, one of our High School graduates looks forward to new life in Christ!!

Knowing each student's story and what had led them to make this public declaration of faith was very special and an amazing end to an incredible year of seeing God working in the lives and hearts of our students!

Please pray for these students as they seek to become committed followers of Christ – and pray for continued revival in our High School!

STORIES FROM THE BIBLE: LUGANDA... The adventure of the 'Stories from the Bible' picture books continues with a translation into one of the main languages of central Uganda; Luganda. The work was done by a team of local Pastors, using the English 'Stories...' text and a number of Luganda Bibles. The idea remains to provide a simple and colourful presentation of the Bible message. We are very pleased to introduce this new edition, entitled: **ENGERO EZOMU BAIBULI**.

FAMILY NEWS... SCHOOL'S OUT FOR SUMMER! At the end of year assembly/chapel both Charlie and Annie were awarded the prestigious 'Christian Character Award' for their class! We are very proud and thank God for the way he has been shaping their young lives.

Robert is becoming more and more a part of the family. He had a great time at school and has really progressed with counting, drawing pictures, and speaking English.



Christy continues to amaze us all with her development. She has benefited a lot from being at school with Jane (her support assistant pictured left), and the social interaction has really brought her forward in many ways. We are hoping to have her properly assessed in the UK later this year so that we can learn the extent of her learning difficulties and how best to help her grow in all areas!

And finally, little Joseph, now age 2, is a joy to have around. Being the baby of five kids means that he has turned up the volume, charm and personality to extreme levels in order to get his share of the attention! He spends most days moving around entertaining us all with his funny ways!



Keeley is continuing to work at Heritage over the summer in the office...perhaps she will get a break at some point...who knows!? And Andrew is almost finished his second year of part-time theology study.

Quad biking in Jinja over the Easter Holidays!

OUR FUTURE PLANS

As many of you know, we are planning to leave Uganda at the end of July. Keeley has secured a job at Whitefield School in Walthamstow, East London training as Special Needs teacher. Andrew will continue to be studying for his Theology degree. We plan to live in South London in a multi-cultural area and Charlie and Annie have places at a church school in Brixton.



We do need your prayers as we make the giant leap of faith in a few weeks as we apply for SETTLEMENT VISAS for Robert and Christy. This is costly and not guaranteed, but the only legitimate way for them to enter the UK and have access to schools, health care and other benefits.

This is likely to be a difficult and trying time for us for so many reasons, but 'seek ye first the Kingdom of heaven and his righteousness and all these things shall be given to you' Matthew 6, v 33. We do believe that God will do great things for us in the coming months and we give him the honour, glory and praise for his continued blessings and goodness!