

Uganda Kids – kids finish school

UGANDA KIDS is a registered charity under the Queensland Collections Act 1966.

Registration Number CH2018.

STOP PRESS—FUTURE DONATIONS CAN BE A TAX DEDUCTION!!

The Beginning

Our Lady of the Way Petrie parish in northern Brisbane has had a long association with St Bruno's Catholic Church in Masaka Uganda as a result of work done by two parishioners who led the way in forming this relationship.

Since then a few of our parishioners have been fortunate to be able to visit. One of the founders of the relationship continues to visit to provide leadership training 12 trips so far!

Since visiting St Bruno's for the second time in June 2010 Paul and Sue Fyfe have created and registered a charity called "Uganda Kids". The vision of Uganda Kids is "kids finish school".

This simple vision was arrived at after realising that one of the major problems that poverty causes is the

inability of parents, or carers, to pay school fees for their kids to get a basic education.

There are many orphans in Uganda who are cared for by their extended families.

\$5 per fortnight is enough to give a primary school kid an education. It pays for their school fees, lunch at school, and a new uniform.



The view from our accommodation, the Palms Springs hotel in Masaka

8 June 2011

Issue 1

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A different world - Our first trip

In April 2008 a group of ten of us landed at Entebbe airport. The arrivals area at the airport had recently been renovated for the Queen's visit to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in November 2007.

Although we were carrying in excess of 100 kilograms of donated school and medical supplies we were whisked through Customs after speaking to some helpful officials.

It was late in the afternoon and our hosts told us that we needed to "get going" as we had at least a three hour drive to Masaka in front of us. Not a great idea to travel at night because of the condition of the roads. I will never complain about the conditions of our roads in Australia again. As a result we took some back roads through slums and skirted the edges of Kampala city. The sights and smells were foreign to us and were real eye openers, especially to the three teenagers in the group.

Where ?

Africa



Uganda



Some numbers

- 35,000,000 people live in Uganda
- 50% of the population are under the age of 14 years
- Only 2% of the population are over 65 years of age
- Kampala, the capital, has 1,500,000 people
- Life expectancy is 53 years (rated 204th in the world – Australia 81 years rated 9th in the world)
 - 1,200,000 people are living with HIV/AIDS
 - Gross Domestic Product in Uganda is \$1,200 (rated 207th in the world)
 - Gross Domestic Product in Australia is \$41,300 (rated 17th in the world)
 - 84% are Christians 12% are Muslims
 - Uganda's land area is just smaller than Victoria
- Local currency is Ugandan Shillings (\$1 = 2,500 Ugandan Shillings)



St Joseph's Primary - June 2010

St Joseph's Kiyimbwe primary school is located away from the town centre of Masaka. It was originally a Catholic school but is now administered by the government. It has approximately 900 pupils of many faiths including Catholics, Muslims, Anglicans and Pentecostals. The school principal, Aloysius Mukasa, has a teaching staff of about 20 teachers.

In 2010 200 of the children attending St Joseph's were either orphans or children from very poor backgrounds whose families or carers find it extremely difficult to pay for school fees or food. These children quite often go without food at school. (This number is now over 300).

When we visited in 2010 with donations received prior to leaving we were able to help put electricity and lighting onto all classrooms and refurbish all blackboards. The kids are now able to come back to

school at night to study (something our kids would find foreign and hard to believe). We were also able to provide sufficient money to pay school fees and food at school for 75 kids and new locally made uniforms.

100 three seater wooden desks were made by the skilled local carpenter Augustine who told us that it was the biggest contract he had ever had. He had to put on two staff to meet the deadlines that we had set. As a result 300 less children are sitting on the floor in class.



Kids getting "free" water from the one school tank which is unlocked at lunch time.

St Joseph's Primary - 2011

There are three school terms in Uganda. Since formally setting up Uganda Kids in November 2010 and as a result of donations made by some very generous people we were able to provide food at school and school fees for 50 kids in term 1. The great news is that we will be supporting 150 kids in both term 2 and term 3!

While particular donors don't "sponsor" an individual child (or a group of children) we have a list of the names of the children who benefited from Uganda Kids donations in term 1. The list identifies children by name and records whether they are orphans or have a Mum or a Dad or both. This will apply into the future and the principal is now working on the lists for term 2 and 3.

Here are the first names of some of the kids helped so far: Suzan, Philly, Regan, Josephine, Halima, Baker, Alex, Vivian, Justine, Marvin, Travor, Maureen, Jovan, Grace, Majorine, Swabulah, Deo, Ben, Tonny, Godfrey, Nicholas, Catherine, Victoria, and Maria..

Term 1 - 50 kids

Term 2 - 150 kids

Term 3 - 150 kids

"You are very welcome"



A welcoming dance at St Joseph's

This is a phrase that you will hear many times each day from people you meet in Uganda.



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Kids Finish School



Uganda Kids is a non religious registered charity set up by one Queensland based family after visiting Uganda and coming to the realization that it doesn't cost much in our terms to really make a difference.

We are looking for people to take the opportunity of being involved in changing a child's life by making small regular donations. When we get a large group donating then we can give these kids the assurance that their education will be paid for and they will have a chance at breaking the poverty cycle that they find themselves in.

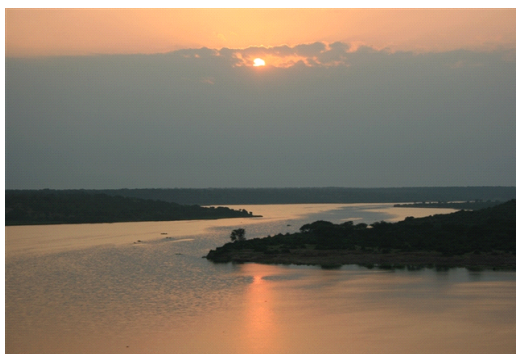
From little things big things grow!

7 June 2011—We have just been informed by Catholic Mission that they are prepared to partner with us in the future. This means that by donating to Uganda Kids through Catholic Mission tax deductions are permitted! More information to follow shortly.....

Queen Elizabeth National Park

Uganda is blessed with beautiful flora and fauna and any trip to this country should include a visit to at least one of the many national parks. Queen Elizabeth National Park is located in the southwest of the country near the Democratic Republic of Congo border.

There is accommodation to suit all budgets. We have



Sunset from the verandah at
Mweya Lodge

chosen to stay at Mweya Lodge on both trips and the service and food were of a very high quality. The lodge is contained within the park so a minute out of the gate and you are "on safari".

In 2010 we saw numerous elephants, 20 or so lions, 3 leopards (which walked up to our vehicle as we left the park) hundreds of birds, heaps of hippos, hyenas, cape buffalo, warthogs, giant forest hogs, Ugandan kob, mongooses, etc etc.

Guides know their stuff and are proud to tell visitors about their native wildlife. "All inclusive" packages to the national parks are available at very reasonable prices.

After driving through the bush for a couple of hours in the morning "on safari" we returned for a top class lunch and then off on a boat cruise on the Kazinga Channel to get up close and personal with hippos and other abundant wildlife including thousands of birds.