



Uganda News: October 10

Welcome to edition four of our 2010 newsletter.

Hello friend(s),

As we get into the final quarter of this year, I would like to introduce myself to you. Anthony (Tony if you like) Ambrose Mwaita is my name, and I have recently replaced the long serving Cathy as she has relocated to the UK. I hope to enjoy working with every one of you. On a somber note, on 18th October we were shocked to hear news of the sudden death of Stella Namabega, a staff member from Beersheba, who died in childbirth, leaving a healthy new born son as well as a husband and daughter. Stella was a vibrant, caring, compassionate lady, and her family, the staff team and the Redeemed church where she fellowshipped ask for your prayers as we come to terms with this big loss. Aside from this tragic event, the last 3 months have been filled with lots of exciting events, so we hope you enjoy reading our news. Thank you for your time and interest in our work here in Uganda.

With warm wishes,

Anthony Ambrose Mwaita

Bambejja girls finish on-site training...

'We're glad to finish our classroom training. We now look forward to doing our internship so we can do the work practically ...' This was the excited declaration of the girls at the Skills Training Project (STP) when asked about how they felt on completion of the course. These girls have been at the Bambejja site for the last 5 months and now get a chance to practice their skills in an apprenticeship setting. We have also recently recruited another 20 girls who started their on-site training in October.

Meanwhile, the Child Support Project girls have resumed school for their last term, and for many it's a time of excitement, hard though it might be to believe! When asked why she was so delighted about school, one girl answered, "I now know that I will live to achieve my dream of becoming a doctor." We are also very proud of one of our oldest princesses who has recently started studying for a degree in Business Administration in Makerere University.



One of the princesses who has joined University

Beersheba gets into holiday mood...

There was much enthusiasm in Beersheba during the 2nd term holidays when cooking lessons were introduced. The girls learnt how to prepare chapattis and potato chips, amidst much excitement. The girls also had a wonderful time with Ruth and Daniel Chalke, who visited the project for a few days.



Children playing during holiday programme

We also ran a holiday programme for children in the community who have previously been coming to Beersheba for Saturday Kids Club. 90 children from Musoto came for 2 days and the programme included games, crafts, Bible stories, a film and lunch on both days. The programme was supported by extra volunteers from the Redeemed Church as well as Beersheba staff, and it was a resounding success, meaning we will hopefully continue to run other events for local children during holidays in future.

Bless someone this Christmas...

Oasis Uganda is challenging you to creatively bless others this Christmas by sending season's greetings to loved ones through NOT sending any Christmas cards, and donating your savings to help make a difference in the lives of children, youth and families living in poverty! Please see more information on the attached flier or on our website.

Strategic Plan - Determining direction to make the biggest Impact...

Right now, Oasis Uganda is going through a time of strategic planning in order to write a new 3 year plan to start in January 2011. Several activities are being undertaken to enable us come up with a clear direction that will be followed for the next three years. Every project is running activities to help this process – for example, we have recently carried out Community Needs Assessments through meetings with various stakeholders including children, family members, local leaders and community institutions such as schools and churches in both Kawempe, Kampala, and Musoto, Mbale. Through working closely with community members, who have the most expertise to identify the serious issues in the community that impact them negatively, the focus for Oasis will be on working with these people to help them find ways to manage their own problems and support them to find sustainable solutions. It is an exciting time as we look to see how best we can serve the people living in emotional, physical, spiritual and social poverty in the communities where we work. As another element of the strategic planning process, staff and beneficiaries of Oasis Uganda felt greatly privileged to learn the ABC of saving money and how to encourage women in the community to save in order to access loans through the same pot of money, enabling them to become self-sufficient as taught by Mr. Kuldeep John from Oasis India.



Local women discuss issues in a stakeholders' meeting

She had lost all hope after dropping out of school...

"My name is Hope and I am 26 years old. I completed my senior six in 2006. After that I could not find funds to continue with my studies. After dropping out from school I lived a frustrated and desperate life. I got myself pregnant through careless living. I moved in to stay with my boyfriend but our relationship was so unstable that I parted with him and got back to my father's home. When I joined Oasis in January 2010, I was so reserved, shy and with low self esteem. I did not think I could amount to anything at the eAcademy. After the course, I got a loan from Oasis Uganda-Net2Work Project. Now I am keeping poultry. I have 150 birds. I am so grateful to Oasis for the double assistance they have given me. First is the training I attained, and secondly they considered me for a loan. May the good Lord bless Oasis."



A Net2Work graduate tends her poultry

A Word from the Country Director

Many thanks to those people who contributed to the building fund mentioned in our last newsletter. We were grateful to raise about half the total money needed, and successfully carried out much needed work on fixing a classroom wall which was in danger of collapse. We have also been blessed to recently receive money to fix the exterior wall. We would still like to raise another £500 to complete the facelift of the premises, to work on the kitchen, fix the drainage, do some renovations to the toilet, and do some painting. If you would like to make a contribution please do so through the website below or please contact Gill at gill.olaaka@oasisuganda.org for more information. Thank you.

To make payments please visit www.oasisuk.org/donate or contact us at the following addresses:

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Prayer and Thanksgiving

- We thank God for one of our princesses, who completed high school and has joined Makerere University for a degree in Business Administration.
- Please pray that the strategic planning process will go on smoothly.
- We thank God for the reconstruction work at Bamejja we have been able to carry out.
- Thank God for all our current partners in the work.
- Pray for the good health of Oasis beneficiaries and staff.