

Friends of AICM Newsletter

December 2008

A Visit to Uganda



Early on the morning of Friday, 3rd October, Colin Townsend and Lawrance Titterton, both Trustees of Friends of AICM, took off from Gatwick for Uganda. Although there were to be a few days of relaxation, the main reasons for this trip were to be fact finding and training and also, rather poignantly, to represent the Friends at a ceremony of dedication of the newly equipped workshop to the memory of Graeme Naish, until recently an honorary Trustee.

terms of equipment, infrastructure, software and skills.

To address this and to provide the students of the VTC with the best possible chance or acquiring life changing skills that will make them self sufficient, the Friends of AICM plans to establish an upgrade project that will address each of the issues currently facing the VTC. We are looking for an experienced and skilled project manager to take ownership of, and manage this project. Working closely with a Trustee of The Friends of AICM, the project manager will take responsibility for part or all of the following: planning, resource acquisition and transportation, commissioning, training and implementing maintenance processes.

If you have IT experience and feel that the time is right to give something back to a community, this may be the opportunity for you. If you are interested in either of these tasks, please get in touch with any Trustee or email enquiries@aicm.org.uk giving some details of yourself.

Enoch's Travels

The Lambeth Conference for Bishops of the Anglican Communion takes place every ten years at the invitation of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Bishop Enoch Kayeeye, who founded AICM, attended in July with his wife, Phoebe and made the trip more memorable by arriving early to visit many old friends and acquaintances.

Whilst at Lambeth he was invited to a bishops` course at Canterbury starting on Jan 23rd. He is now going to arrive in Oxford about the 9th January and will be in Scotland from the 10th, Belfast from the 15th, Manchester from the 20th, back to London for the 22nd, then on to Canterbury for the course. On Saturday 31st, he arrives in Kent, then on to Jersey for the 3rd and back to Oxford for the 9th. If you're interested in meeting up with him, get in touch with any Trustee.



Contacts

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The roads between Kampala and Kabale seemed to be getting worse, but the travellers had a warm and loving welcome when they arrived at AICM after 8½ hours on the Saturday evening. Sunday was rest and worship, but on

Monday they visited the VTC outlet shop opposite the Queen’s Hotel to see how business was and to look at the quality of the furniture.

On Tuesday 7th, Colin visited the workshop, whilst Lawrance checked out the PC lab. Colin was impressed with the competence and knowledge shown by the staff of four. Two, Johnson and Blessing, were the “production” team, whilst Everest and Samuel were responsible



for training ten students. High humidity made difficult conditions worse, but in general, the staff operated well within safety limits, although Colin was able to do much in improving their use and understanding of the machines they had.

Lawrance found problems in the computer lab with a number of the PCs inoperable and the remainder with a range of operating systems from Windows 95 up to XP. This made uniform training impossible and the lack of networking prevented effective maintenance and management of the PC suite. A lack of PC accessories (boards and projectors) made teaching difficult and this was compounded by the frequent power outages. It is apparent that a change to the PC provisioning policy is



required to overcome these problems. On Wednesday 8th, C and L visited a Batwa settlement with Richard, the Field Co-ordinator, after purchasing some clothing as gifts. Dreadful poverty was

Also present were the Chairperson, Deputy Executive Director and Members of the AICM Board supported by the department staff.

All spoke very warmly of Graeme. He was well remembered and much loved. Colin was able to tell everyone what a positive occasion his funeral had been, and how much he had served his Lord in the UK as well as Africa. There was much excitement and joy about how well the workshop had been equipped. After the speeches, everyone burst into song:



*“Tukutendereza Yesu!
Yesu Omwana gwe ndiga,
Omusayi gwo’gunaziza!
N’ebaza Yesu O’mulokozi!”* *“We thank and praise Jesus!
Jesus, the lamb of God,
Whose blood washes away all sins!
We thank Jesus the Saviour!”*



This is the popular Luganda chorus, which was composed by members of the 1935 East African Revival, which started in the Kigezi region (and which strengthened the Evangelical movement and the Anglican Church in East and Central Africa). The photo shows Timothy, Colin, Robinah Barintuma (Dep Dir-Gen) and Lawrance at the unveiling.

The ceremony was a fitting way of remembering a lovely man who did a great deal of good for very many people.

HELP

A number of volunteers are required, with details on the website, but for those without access, they are basically for general fundraisers and a specific one to project manage the VTC PC lab improvements.

For fundraising, we are just after people who are creative and innovative and can turn challenges into successful ways of raising some money for the needy in south-western Uganda.

The VTC one is more specific and involves the PC lab where basic computer courses are offered. This area is severely under resourced in

A Big Thank You

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have given regularly to AICM over the past year. It is the standing orders that have enabled us to send £1200 a month to pay the salaries of the administrative staff. Without this AICM could not survive. Also a big thank you to the people who have sponsored orphans. This has not only enabled them to have secondary education, but also helped to keep Ihunga School running. Thank you all very much.

John Tapper, Treasurer

At present we sponsor twenty children at Ihunga Secondary School, one at Muko High School, two at Kabale Secondary School, two at Brainstorm High School, two at Ruhinda Secondary School and one at Kitagyenda Primary. If sponsors wish to send a letter, photo or small gift, we could take them with us when we visit in July. If you do, please send them to me at Mill Cottage, Mill Lane, Sissinghurst, Kent TN17 2HX in the next few months.

Liz Tapper, Sponsorship

Graeme Naish - A Dedication



On 15th October 2008, a ceremony was held to dedicate the newly equipped carpentry and joinery workshop at AICM to the memory of Graeme Naish. Unwilling to become a full Trustee, Graeme had nevertheless played a full and enthusiastic part in Friends of AICM since meeting Enoch in 1987 and had regularly been an unofficial participant in most of the Trustees' meetings as well as hosting a

number of them. He left a legacy to the Friends, and donations from his funeral were gifted too. Colin and Lawrance were at the ceremony as representatives of the Friends, whilst Timothy Twikirize, AICM Director, and his Deputy attended for AICM along with the VTC Principle.



evident throughout the area. More land, hoes and seeds were urgently needed.

On Thursday, the three men visited women's groups who had prepared craft work for Lawrance to research



a possible market for them, then on Friday, they travelled to Queen Elizabeth Park for a few days break.



Monday 13th saw them at Kyobugombe Health Centre near Bukinda. The building needed urgent repairs, the roof was leaking, and a lack

guttering was washing the foundations away. They met the office staff at World Vision who are covering the Teach Inn scheme, which was the main project to come out of Millionaires Mission in 2007. This appears



to be a success and although it is still finding its feet, is improving all the time.

Back in the VTC, Tuesday saw C and L preparing for the Graeme Naish ceremony, a report on which follows.



Colin and Lawrance flew back on Friday 17th. It had been a fruitful trip and much had been learnt that will have to be improved on, but that is what the Friends are for.

Alternative Giving

Two years ago in 2006, we launched our alternative giving scheme. We offered three gifts then and in 2007, we offered four. This year, we have considerably increased our catalogue and all details are on our website and in our leaflet. Please do use this opportunity to give a gift to a friend that will directly benefit those amongst whom AICM are working in South-Western Uganda. You can help children at school, Batwa and other women on the land, students attending the VTC, the nurse at the Health Centre and the staff of AICM as they travel to the remote communities that they serve.





We would like to thank you for your generosity in the previous two years. We are delighted to report that all money donated through the gift scheme has been sent out to AICM and spent exactly as it was intended to be. Staff at Kabale are encouraged

when they are able to distribute these gifts and the recipients are so pleased to receive them. We would like to give so much more, so please do use this scheme for your Christmas giving and on any other special occasion.

A Prayer

**“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful”
Colossians 4:2**

We hope the following topics help you to pray for the work of AICM in Uganda and Congo and for the Friends here in the UK.

- Wisdom for the Trustees in the UK as they take important decisions regarding financial support, and as they seek to plan to increase support in the UK, so that much more needed help can be given to help the work in Uganda. Please pray that God will raise up some willing younger helpers.
- For the new website - that it might be well used and a tool to help raise much needed funding.
- Give thanks to God for a safe and profitable trip to Kabale during the first two weeks of October, for two of our trustees, Colin and Lawrance. Both offered training and encouragement to staff at AICM headquarters and at the VTC. Thanks for safety in travelling.
- For the launch of new orphans’ sponsorship schemes and for the new Alternative Giving leaflet. Pray that the latter will be much used for Christmas gifts.
- For the planning of a trip to Uganda in July 2009 and to raise awareness of AICM..
- For Bishop Enoch and Phoebe back in Congo after their trip to the UK. For God’s protection at this time of increased trouble in Northern Congo, and for great wisdom for them both in whatever situation they may find themselves.

- For the current term at the VTC, which is just ending, and for preparations for the new term - that staff and students establish good work patterns and good relationships. Pray that in their bible studies and worship, all may learn more of the grace and love of God.
- Give thanks to God for the safe delivery of a baby daughter to Edfson, Director of the VTC and his wife, Mercy. The little girl is called Elizabeth.
- For safety, as AICM staff travel into remote communities by motor bike, bicycle and by motor vehicle.
- For students and staff at Ihunga secondary school - and for enough sponsors here in the UK to enable all students to remain at school to complete their courses.
- For Timothy, the Director of AICM, that he will maintain his daily walk with God and be guided and sustained in his difficult and important role.

Orphan Sponsorship

We would like to draw the readers’ attention to our Sponsorship schemes. There is a new leaflet, which you should all now have, giving details of these, and they are also on our newly revised website.

Primary and secondary school children all over the area served by AICM are greatly in need of help, in order to reasonable education. Sponsoring an orphan can make all the difference, and there is the personal touch in that you will receive a photo and a letter of introduction and thanks from your sponsored child. Students who wish to take advantage of the training offered at the VTC are often unable to do so because of lack of funds. It is now possible to offer a bursary to a needy student, so that this vital training becomes available to them.

You can also help generally towards enabling primary school children to complete their education by contributing to the Primary Education Fund.

Please look at these schemes and see if you can offer to help.

