

Points for Prayer

- Following the burning down of the Trinity Hostel, we give thanks that no-one was hurt, and ask that provision may be made for those who lost all their personal possessions.
- We give thanks that the Ugandan NCHE has granted Provisional Accreditation to AICM's Vocational Training College and ask that the necessary improvements can be made to the library, the motor vehicle workshop and staffing.
- For the healing of Wilberforce, AICM's new Projects Manager, who has broken his leg.
- For Hope Kayeeye's wedding on 25th August.
- For the safety of those who ride the new motorbikes, and that the Friends can provide more for other Extension Workers.
- For successful negotiations to buy a field near to the VTC .
- For Timothy, Enoch and all the AICM staff.

Easyfundraising

The above site is on <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk> and enables anyone to raise funds for their charity at no cost to themselves and for little extra effort. Log on to the site, register, and "Find a Cause" (in a menu along the top) by typing "FAICM" into the box provided, then click on "Support" once it finds FAICM. All you have to do from this point onwards, is to come to this site first (put it in bookmarks or favourites perhaps), select your retailer from a list of 2000 and go to the retailer via this site by selecting **GO**. That basically is it. Accessing your retailer this way can earn AICM typically 1-3% of any purchase price. Go on, do it! You know it makes sense!

To make a donation to the work of AICM, please complete this form and send it with your name, address and cheque to:

**The Treasurer, Friends of AICM, Canon John Tapper,
Mill Cottage, Mill Lane, Sissinghurst, Kent, TN17 2HX.**

I enclose a cheque for £.....

For general funds/specific purpose (specify).....

I am a UK taxpayer and under the Gift Aid scheme, I would like AICM to claim back tax on all donations until further notice.

Signed

Date

Friends of AICM Newsletter

September 2011



The "Eyes and Ears" of AICM

A small group, including five trustees, visited AICM in May. Here is one of their stories.

One of the most interesting events of our recent visit to AICM, was a meeting we had with all the extension or field workers in the AICM office at Kabale. Most had made the journey to town the previous day

for a symposium on human rights at the end of an important collaboration with the Independent Development Fund working with the Batwa communities, and as we had asked to see them, they stayed to share time with us.

The extension workers were introduced to us by Timothy the executive director, Robinah, representing the board of AICM, and Wilberforce, the new Projects Manager for AICM. It was Timothy who honoured them by calling them the “eyes and ears” of AICM, showing the love of God in the communities; Robinah recognised the significance of their work in promoting human rights; Wilberforce, a man worthy of that name, recognised



Wilberforce

their sacrificial work, but commented that “giving is a sacrifice”, and that we need to remember that all of us, both in Uganda and UK are involved in sacrificial giving. The extension workers were invited to introduce themselves to us



Fred

and speak of the area in which they worked and some of the successes and challenges they experience. We learned that Fred, in Murambo, faces the problem of pregnant women who are miles from the nearest hospital. Victor, from Kanungu, has



Victor

4 Batwa centres in his area and is trying to get the children to attend school, but, although a few are studying well, this is a struggle. George, from Muribindi, is a remarkable pastor, still working amongst the Batwa at 84 years old. AICM needs to



George

find someone to work alongside him. Edson, the newest worker, is a trained primary school teacher, and is currently shadowing Nichodemus, the longest serving and senior extension worker at Rwamahano, a Batwa community. He commented on problems of transport, as the workers have to cover huge distances in difficult terrain. Nichodemus, himself



Edson

a primary teacher, was proud of the success of the primary school in Rwamahano. There are now 150 students ranging from P1 to P5, although the drop out rate is still high. He has



successfully resettled the Batwa community at Rwamahano, although huge problems remain. Libon, another primary teacher told us of his Batwa communities in Nyakabungo, Makanga and Kinyarushengye. His school incorporates 23 Batwa students into a mixed intake totalling 467 students.



Libon

Topographic survey and strategic plan

During the recent visit of FAICM members to Kabale, it became apparent that there was a need for a development strategy for the Vocational Training College (VTC) site to accommodate the expansion and changes suggested by AICM in Kabale in their ‘vision for the future’.

Any expansion needs to be controlled and sustainable and follow a clear long term strategy that has been well thought out, discussed (and agreed) with both AICM and FAICM before progressing through the Local Authority approval channels.

With this in mind, the FAICM have commissioned a full topographic survey of all the AICM land holdings. This will not only accurately indicate the positions of existing structures, trees, boundaries, overhead and underground services etc, but also give a grid of levels across the sites. These levels are important as there are some serious level changes across the sites which could have practical and cost implications on future development plans. The survey will be tied into registered land holdings, both AICM’s and their neighbours, which have already been surveyed by the local Municipal Council.

With a clear picture of what AICM own, a strategy for future growth will be developed that is flexible enough to accommodate the future changes and needs of the VTC. This strategy will also consider temporary arrangements that may be required whilst permanent structures are being constructed along with additional servicing implications such as relocation or extension of 3 phase power supplies and the incorporation of sustainable initiatives such as rain water harvesting, solar panels and photo-voltaics for electricity generation.

Talks on AICM and FAICM

After September, Colin and Sue Townsend are happy to visit groups to inform and update them both on the work of AICM and that of the Friends in supporting AICM. They can be contacted on 01993 703463 or at colinandstetownsend@hotmail.co.uk

Membership, Newsletter and Sponsorship; Mike & Gill Henderson, 01480 466101, or henderson_michael@sky.com

General enquiries: enquiries@aicm.org.uk

A Personal View

(By Trevor Williams, trustee and previous chairman of FAICM.)



One of the main objectives of the trustees' visit in May was to refurbish the Peachey Hostel for Boys. What was exceptional about this visit was the fact that six trustees not only talked the talk but walked the walk! It was fun working alongside VTC students and some staff. The fact that our visit was

in term time allowed us to see how AICM and the VTC operated and meant that we could meet together and get to know the staff to an extent we had never achieved before. In fact there's no better way for people to get to know each other than by working together, and everyone worked incredibly hard! - painting, scraping, polyfilling, cementing, plastering, not to mention fixing guttering and drainage channels etc. so that, to Mike's surprise, the job was finished before our visit ended. The sense of fellowship inspired by our working together was reinforced by the awareness that this was in the name of Christ and a practical expression of a shared faith in Christ (which would find full backing in the Epistle of James) The underlying motive of Christian love is implicit or explicit in all AICM's projects, whether in providing a voice for the voiceless (the Batwa), or in restoring hope to the women widowed by AIDS, or providing medical resources where needed. Our visits to various settlements were always



Trevor

accompanied by prayer. Back on AICM's main site, the day would always begin with a rousing service which we could join in. One can hardly hope to visit an African country without being made aware that it is possible to live without so many of the devices and facilities we take for granted, running water, electricity, etc., but that's no excuse for not labouring to provide not merely consumer goods, but human rights, justice, health, and education. These are the objectives which AICM pursues. Our visit gave us a wonderful opportunity to see what it's doing and to join in.

Trevor



Benson

Finally, Benson, chair of the 5000 plus women and men in the Bwindi Women's Associations, tried to give a picture of the enormous scale of his work, which includes two Batwa centres on the the edge of the Bwindi forest. HIV/AIDS has widowed many of these women and left orphans in extended families. All of these men were so grateful to the Friends of AICM for support through various alternative gifts including agricultural tools, seeds, crop sprayers, goats, school uniforms and funds for school meals. They thanked us especially for the recent gift of metal savings boxes with pass books, calculator, and three padlocks, one for each community, in order to encourage a culture of saving. At the end of the meeting we presented another gift on behalf of the Friends. Three new motor bikes were handed over and funds will provide helmets and insurance. Great gratitude was expressed by all the extension workers. They will be a huge asset in covering the treacherous distances involved in the work. There is really a need for up to 7 more. At a cost of around £1000 per bike this might be a fund-raising project some groups might like to consider. We were so impressed with these humble men. We visited many of the communities in which they serve. They do indeed give of themselves sacrificially. Their salaries are small and all expressed their concern about affording the education of their own children. If anyone feels they would like to help towards this work please contact the Secretary for details.



Sue Townsend

Water Harvesting



Imagine how much water 500 students need. We take for granted that we can turn on a tap. This is possible in Kabale town, but this water is very expensive. There is no piped water supply to villages served by AICM. There is plenty of rain in South West Uganda. All you have to do is "harvest" it. St. Dunstan's Church,

Cranbrook, raised money for a large 10,000 litre tank to be put in place between two workshop buildings at the VTC. Students flock to use water from it, carrying their yellow jerrycans. This is not primarily for drinking, although it is possible to purify it or boil it. It is mainly used for washing (themselves and their clothes).

Mosquitos like “stagnant” water in order to breed. This can be stopped by a thin layer of oil on the surface which won’t contaminate the water.

The next step for the VTC is to install a few more water tanks, with the necessary provision of guttering, so that students don’t have to walk too far to collect their water. The cost is about £1,200 for each tank. All the VTC buildings could have guttering in order to supply a tank. The provision of one of these tanks



could be a project that your church or group would like to take charge of. A project on our recent visit ensured that guttering is now in place on the Peachey Boys’ hostel. This is necessary to stop rain from the roof eroding the soil around the foundations. This building is an obvious next target for a water tank. Maximum provision of rain water harvesting on the VTC site would be a big financial saving, and release funds for much needed salaries.

Some Recent Updates

Who’s for cricket?



On the recent visit, Helen Peachey took a huge bag of sports equipment out to Kabale. The VTC students thoroughly enjoyed evenings of games which Helen organised, and this included teaching them cricket, which was a great success.



where all those clothes go we put in our charity bags, they are for sale along the roadsides in towns like Kabale. At the VTC I really enjoyed working alongside the students. They were really enthusiastic

over the work they did in the boys’ hostel, always eager and smiling. I spent time with the catering classes and realized that the conventional cookers didn’t seem to be in use. They were using their own traditional ways of cooking. Doughnuts cooked in a wok over an open fire were delicious, but I did wonder about using an oven heated from beneath with wood for baking. I didn’t follow it up, but did they use the electric ovens as they would need to, if they intended working in hotels?



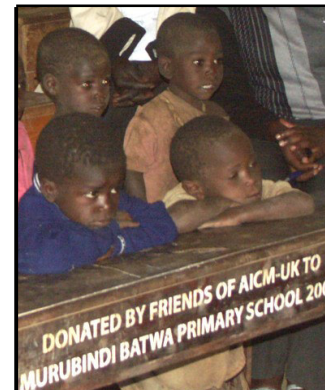
Visiting the Batwa Communities was the highlight of my visit. Unfortunately it was out of term time so I didn’t see the children in school as such. Some came along and enjoyed Sue’s telling of ‘The Lost Sheep’ and singing. I would have liked to have spent more time with them and joined in their lessons; maybe next time. I have just read that a Batwa girl has graduated, which is a first. Hopefully, this will encourage others to continue with their education. Their teachers and outreach workers need our support and prayers. It was an experience of a lifetime. Uganda is such a beautiful country. I hope that I’ll make another visit before too long.



God bless the work of AICM

(From the May visit)

Joan Jones



Could you help these children to graduate? Could you educate them, so that they could earn a living for themselves and their families? Become a sponsor and make a difference to a young life today.



Fire Incident at VTC Campus

After the area had been without power for some days, it was suddenly restored just before noon on Monday, 11th July, and almost immediately, the Trinity Boys' Hostel caught fire. This was one of a number for male students, and preliminary investigations suggest the cause was a high voltage surge.

Staff and students fought the blaze initially, but no-one was hurt at any time because classes were in progress.



Some students' property was lost, although most personal belongings were rescued. The building was damaged beyond repair and was subsequently demolished and the affected students relocated to the remaining hostels. There was no insurance in place and AICM is trying to compensate the already needy students. If anyone feels able to help towards towards this, or even a new hostel, please donate through the Treasurer.

My First Impressions



My first visit to Uganda began eventfully with the President, Yoweri Museveni, being sworn in and his unwelcome opponent, Kizza Besigye, travelling into Kampala at the same time as we were. The road was thronged with his supporters, police and army. Fortunately, we were able to make a detour

before trouble broke out. We had a good night's rest and set off to Kabale, again not without problems, when our 4x4 came to a grinding halt before we had left Kampala. After a quick repair, we were off again. First stop was a late lunch at the equator. I hadn't imagined it would be so green and that there would be fruit, nuts and vegetables for sale everywhere. I evidently hadn't done my homework. There must be some organization that could become involved and give them a better standard of living.

Kabale was full of little workshops along the roadside. I now know



Presentation of mosquito nets

Recent visitors to Kabale from the Witney/Oxford area gave a gift of over 400 mosquito nets to be used by boarding students at the VTC. Generous friends had donated funds for these. Malaria is a risk to these students and most cannot afford nets.



Library books for the VTC

The visitors also took gifts of books for the VTC college library, and an extra gift helped the college to purchase books to enable the teaching of Swahili. The college needs to greatly improve its library in order to meet standards required by the Ugandan National Council for Higher Education. These gifts were a token of more to come as the Witney/Oxford group is currently collecting books on any practical, technical, legal, health and business subject, together with good English fiction, which they plan to send out to Kabale later this year via Tools with a Mission.

Savings boxes for the rural community



Recently all the women's groups within the Bwindi AICM association, including some Batwa groups, were given metal savings boxes, complete with pass books, calculators, savings boxes and three separate padlocks to be held by three key members of each group. This is to encourage the women into a culture of savings and is an initiative

encouraged by Wilberforce, the new projects manager at AICM.

Higher education accreditation for the VTC

The VTC has been striving to meet the targets required for recognition by the Ugandan National Council for Higher Education. At the end of June, it was granted a provisional licence to run a tertiary institution. We give thanks to God for this recognition and congratulate Timothy, Gloria and all the staff for all the hard work it has involved. The Friends recognise the vital contribution of the VTC to the surrounding communities and will be praying for and supporting AICM as much as possible, so that the VTC can maintain and improve its standards and ultimately gain full recognition.

Rydal Penrhos School visit



The links between Rydal Penrhos School and AICM were further strengthened by a visit of 9 pupils and 4 teachers to Kabale this July. The group spent two weeks in Uganda in total, visiting the schools in Mbarara with whom they

have formed partnerships, and seeing the work of two other NGOs (RUHEPAI working in the rural community near Mbarara, and VAD working in Wakiso district near Kampala) as well as AICM.

After driving from Mbarara and checking in to our hotel, we had lunch with Bishop Enoch Kayeeye and Timothy Twikirizi who both gave us a great welcome. Some of the pupils and staff remembered Timothy from his visit in May 2008 to the school in Colwyn Bay. In the afternoon we met other AICM staff and had a tour of the VTC, followed by tea in the office.

The next day we drove out to Rwumahano with George and Nicodemus to see the Batwa primary school and community. The Headmaster showed us round and the pupils sang songs to us in the classrooms.

Then we had some speeches of welcome and greeting



followed by some dancing by the community members. To the great amusement of the pupils, Mr Phil Simpson was called upon to join in the dancing!! We then presented the gifts of pens and other things that we had brought for

pupils including a football – which of course the boys had to try out with the Batwa children. Kicking a ball about is a great way to make friends in spite of language barriers and the girls also made friends introducing the Batwa children to the fun of blowing bubbles.



This was certainly one of the highlights of our time in Uganda, and the group have returned to the UK with the determination to raise funds in order to sponsor at least one child.



On our way back to Kabale, enjoying the breathtaking scenery, we stopped at Lake Bunyonyi for a late picnic lunch. In the evening we were able to spend a bit more time with Timothy, George, Nicodemus and Gloria by inviting them to join us for supper at our hotel. The following morning Gloria helped Mrs Karen Teal and Rev. Nick Sissons buy some cloth and pashminas in the market. The group then ended their time in Uganda with a couple of days at Lake Bunyonyi, swimming, canoeing and generally reflecting on a fantastic two week experience.

For myself, it was great to return and renew friendships. For the pupils and my colleagues on their first trip to Uganda, they have made many new friends and, like me, have acquired a love for the beautiful country and people of Uganda. We especially enjoyed our time in the far south west of Uganda where it was not quite so hot and the hills reminded us of North Wales (minus sheep!).

Phil Simpson

