

Cornerstone Foundation (Australia) Inc.

FACT SHEET: (May 2008)

Wayne & Bev Stevens (founding directors of CFA), spent six months during 1998 working in a war zone, among the “Acholi” people of Kitgum, northern UGANDA. Over 70,000 orphans struggle to survive, in a region devastated by war, AIDS, poverty and disease.

Wayne is a qualified Technology Studies teacher with 14 years teaching experience, having worked previously in the automotive industry as a fitter & turner / toolmaker and production engineer. Bev and Wayne have fostered a number of children over a 10-year period. They have two adult children and are proud grandparents.

UGANDA is a country the size of Victoria, with a population greater than the whole of Australia (26.8 million) 51% of the population (13.5 million) are under 15 yrs old. **More than 2 million of those children are orphans**. 70,000 Ugandans die every year from malaria. 35,000 are children under 5 years of age.

Since 1986 a group of rebel soldiers known as the LRA (“Lord’s Resistance Army”) have been terrorizing the people of northern UGANDA, abducting healthy adults and children as young as 10 years of age at gun-point in the dead of night. The LRA are an extreme, fundamentalist militia group from southern Sudan, led by an incredibly evil man named Joseph Kony. Over 20,000 children have been abducted by the LRA over the past 19 years, to become slaves and “child soldiers” and forced to commit the most atrocious deeds. Young teenage girls are given as “trophies” to the rebel commanders, to be raped and abused. Many of these young girls are now HIV positive and face the terrible prospect of dying from AIDS.

In a United Nations report, 7000 children are “presumed dead”, due to disease, starvation and brutal abuse at the hands of their captors. Many young people have been mutilated in the most brutal ways by the LRA. Abducted teenagers are often sent back to their communities with hands, lips, ears and nose cut off, to instil total fear among the people. These young people face an extremely difficult future. Many will die, unless they receive help from compassionate friends.

The AIDS epidemic has also contributed to the huge number of orphans throughout the country. A whole generation of parents are “missing”. Many grandmothers, already living in poverty, are now caring for their grandchildren as well. Other orphans struggle to survive on their own, in the midst of poverty, disease and war.

The insecurity due to rebel activity in the northern region of Uganda has resulted in 1.8 million people being forced to leave their homes and live in Internally Displaced People’s camps. They “live” in the most appalling conditions, but cannot return to their homes for fear of their children being abducted or killed. Many schools in the region have closed and a whole generation of young children are no longer receiving an education.

Wayne and Bev returned to Australia with a clear vision from the Lord, to build a Vocational Training Centre for orphaned and destitute teenagers. In June 2000 “**Cornerstone Foundation (Australia) Inc.**” was formed, and registered as an Incorporated body. CF(A) is a Christian, inter-denominational, charitable, non-profit organisation formed for the purpose of helping orphaned teenagers in desperate need.

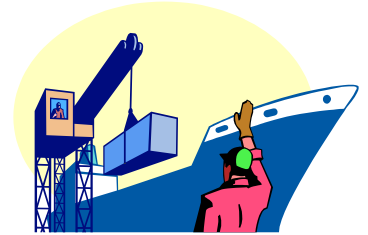
The scripture verse that underpins the Foundation is: “***The Christian ... is the one who takes care of widows and orphans, and who remains true to the Lord.***” (James 1:27)

Cornerstone Vocational Training Centre will provide “free-of-charge” education and training in a range of vocational skills such as Carpentry, Computing, Welding & Fabricating, Tailoring and Secretarial skills etc. The children will receive free daily food, medical care, clothing and vocational training, to enable them to survive, become self-sufficient and contribute toward UGANDA’S future.



In 2002/3 six acres of land was purchased in Kitgum, on which “Cornerstone Vocational Training Centre” will be built. In 2003 a 7ft high security fence was erected around the property boundary.

The training centre will comprise 4 workshops, a kitchen / meal preparation area, a medical clinic, toilets and staff accommodation. Two shipping containers have been bought. A tractor & implements, building equipment, machinery, power and hand tools, hospital beds and many other items needed to establish the centre have been purchased and shipped to Uganda.



The vision of Cornerstone Foundation also includes building a number of small “cottages”, each with a paid “house-mother” to care for 5 or 6 young people who have been mutilated by the LRA.

Wayne and Bev are working hand-in-hand with the Acholi people and live ‘on-site’ in Kitgum to oversee the construction of the training centre. Step-by-step their vision from God is becoming a reality. The ultimate goal is “to teach Ugandans to teach Ugandans”, to rescue as many orphaned teenagers as possible from the cycle of poverty and death, and to bring the love of Jesus in a very practical way to young people who otherwise have no future at all.

Over \$420,000 has been raised toward the project, which will fund Stage 1.

Stage 1 includes: Purchasing of 2 shipping containers and all necessary tools and equipment.
Shipping of containers and contents to Kitgum.
Payment of import duties and taxes on container contents.
Construction of Staff accommodation.
Construction of large Garage (*workshop for fabrication / construction and for storage of tractor, implements and equipment*)
Drilling of water bore.
Construction of student “Carpentry & Joinery Workshop”

Stage 2: (Food preparation facility, Tailoring Workshop, Metal Fabrication / Welding Workshop, and Medical Clinic will require a further \$230,000.)

If you would like to help, would like further information, or would like a representative of CFA to speak at your Church (any denomination), School, Youth Group, Businessmen’s Meeting or Service Club, please feel free to contact:

The Secretary: Kylie Beale
E-mail: beaky86@aptusnet.com.au



If you want to keep up to date with developments in Uganda there is an excellent web-site: <http://allafrica.com/uganda/bydate> that provides daily “New Vision” & “Monitor” newspaper reports.

“No man or woman stands so tall as one who would stoop to help a child”