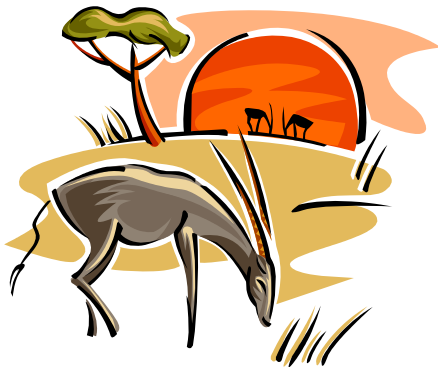


CORNERSTONE NEWS

JUNE 2009

Volume 9 Issue 2



Wayne & Bev Stevens
PO Box 134
KITGUM
UGANDA

E-mail: wbstevenscfa@ozemail.com.au

Mobile Phone: +256 775115026 (W)
+256773259088 (B)

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Kitgum, where it has been VERY HOT and dry, until today, when we received just over 50mm of rain in a couple of hours. PTL !!!!

We apologize for the long delay in getting this issue of “Cornerstone News” to you. Communication via e-mail has been virtually impossible for over 4 months here in Kitgum. We have tried on numerous occasions to send news of progress to you all, but with no success. Either we have had no signal from our internet provider (MTN) when we have been able to access power OR we have had a “somewhat shaky” signal from MTN but no access to power. To achieve power and signal at the same time has been almost impossible. T.I.A. (This is Africa!!)

After writing a very strong letter to MTN we have been assured in the last few days that the service fault has now been rectified. Please pray for the signal to continue, since we find it very difficult to keep you informed when our only practical way of communicating is either by mobile phone or SMS messages. Accordingly, we have now purchased a small inverter and a car battery to ensure a reliable and “surge-free” power supply. We trust that communication can now be resumed on a regular basis.

We have tried to include in this issue as much information about the main developments since our last newsletter (with photos to match), so that you are aware of progress, and can pray more effectively for issues that are still of concern.

40ft Container Arrives:

At the time of writing our last newsletter we were busy preparing the concrete footings for an empty 40ft shipping container to be delivered from Kampala, to provide much needed extra storage space for all of the items packed around the tractor, so that it could be removed from its container and used.

Well, the container arrived on April 8th (about a day later than advised), on an old Mercedes truck that had definitely seen better days! The fact that it got to Kitgum was in itself a miracle. The next miracle was how the driver ever got his licence! The late arrival was due to his hitting a “speed hump” while travelling too fast, resulting in the fan re-shaping the radiator.

Upon arrival he further demonstrated his incredible driving skills by “jack-knifing” the truck on his first attempt at reversing, then he skillfully spun the wheels until it was firmly “bogged”.

After 3 hours of trying to dig him out, darkness descended, so next morning after a further 4 hours, the truck was again mobile. The driver then attempted to reverse the truck into position between the already prepared lifting jacks, not once, not twice but wait for it.....

Yes ... **15 attempts** before he got the truck in the right position to unload the container !!!!!!!

This is what is considered a normal day in Kitgum. After much frustration the container was unloaded safely and now sits on concrete blocks and termite caps. It is already proving to be a very valuable item, enabling the tractor to now be fully utilized then stored in it after use.



Truck beautifully “jack-knifed”



Container being lowered on “lifting jacks”

Home at last at Oryang Ojuma:

We moved from our Afrimax accommodation out to Oryang Ojuma on 13th May. The pre-fabricated room was far from “ready for us”, but we had to move out from our accommodation since a group of 36 Americans were coming to stay at Afrimax. We were in quite damp conditions for about 3 weeks, until the roof structure was completed.

After the last two roof trusses were welded in place, purlins bolted in position, then fascias and guttering added, the roof cladding was finally completed on 3rd June, just prior to our trip south to Kampala.

This has made a huge difference to our living conditions in the room. We are now able to sleep more comfortably, quite dry. It is great to listen to the rain (on the few occasions when it does rain) knowing that water is being added to the 2 new 4000 litre poly-tanks.

As people pass by they comment on our beautiful roof.



The two banana palms planted last year are doing very well and we have also planted a row of small seedling shrubs across the front of what will ultimately be a fence line enclosing our house compound.

It's great to be finally living “on-site” at Oryang Ojuma, on land that will become known as “**Cornerstone Vocational College**”.

Rain water tanks installed:

Another blessing is that upon our return from Kampala, we found that the first rain water tank was full. Wayne had the second tank installed within days, and after some rain a few weeks back, and today's downpour, we now have 8,000 litres of good drinkable water. Previously we have been buying all our drinking water to make sure we did not pick up any "local bugs" from bad water. Our workmen are now enjoying the luxury of rain water for drinking, as Bev fills their bottles each morning and afternoon from the tank.



Only 6% of the local people here have good, safe water for drinking.

Shower's at last:

For the first couple of months in our new "home", we had to endure washing in a bowl using jerry cans of water brought from the water bore. We both found this quite "trying", but finally Thursday week ago, we were able to have our first shower in our room. The floor of the shower recess is even tiled!!! We are now using rainwater for showers from a 500 litre overhead tank, which sits on a firm construction outside our room. What a BLESSING! How we take these luxuries for granted, when they are usually so readily available to us. Photo shows our "en-suite"



Bev's new kitchen:

We decided very quickly not to enclose the concrete slab added at the front of the room, as mentioned in our last Newsletter. We decided instead to build some facilities into the "Matson" container. Wayne welded some brackets and installed the gas cooker. We retrieved the plastic kitchen table (used as a work bench) from storage at Afrimax, and placed some plastic stackable racks on it. Tote boxes are again our "pantry" and are placed where they are accessible within the container. Not all women have a 6 metre extension ladder above their kitchen work bench. Anyway, it works well, though very hot during the day. The concrete slab is now used for our breakfast meal in the cool of the morning, and we have even entertained visitors for an evening meal there.



Tractor and Slasher now in use:

On June 25th another milestone was reached with the Kubota Tractor landing on African soil for the first time. IT'S A BEAUTY!!! To complement the tractor, the slasher, purchased from Kenya was also put to use (after several modifications). The 3 point linkage fittings were not completely compatible. With necessary adjustments made, it now does a fantastic job. The property looks so good after being slashed. Work which previously took our 6 workmen over 3 weeks to achieve, took Wayne only 6 hours on the tractor with slasher in tow.



“Toucal” ready for concrete floor:

Now that so many items are able to be stored in the 40' container (known to us as “Civicon”, because that’s who we bought it from), we are now “boxing-up” for the cement floor to be poured in the main Toucal next week. When that is done we can then have a circular brick wall built just inside the posts, to complete the structure. We are experiencing 35 plus degree heat every day, even though it should be the “rainy season”. We are both finding this difficult to cope with. We are also aware that it is not even Summer yet! The kitchen, set up in the other container gets a little “toasty” to cook in !!! The Toucal will be such a blessing to retreat to when the heat becomes unbearable.



Second “Toucal” constructed:

A second “Toucal” has been constructed near the entrance gate, for use by our guard and our workmen. They need somewhere to shelter when it rains! This new Toucal is much smaller than the first, but quite sufficient for our needs. We are using only a Night Guard at present, as we felt it was too costly for a day guard as well when we have men and ourselves “about” to keep watch on things during the day. We will always need to revert to both guards whenever we are away from Kitgum.



Bean Crop planted:

Just over 3 weeks ago the workmen prepared and then planted a crop of beans on approx. ½ an acre of land. The crop has been hand watered several times over the past couple of weeks just to keep it alive. Rain has been in short supply, and local crops of maize and ground nuts (peanuts) are looking terrible. The prospects of serious food shortages and hunger are very high. The price of local produce in the market has already increased quite dramatically. We hope that our small crop of beans will at least yield a harvest.



Praise the Lord for today's beautiful soaking rain !!!

Gift Parcels:

We have received several parcels so far this year, and they are very much appreciated. Items such as TimTam's (YUM YUM!!!) Fruit Chewy Bars, Nestlé Hazelnut Coffee sachets, Continental Surprise Peas, Hot Pot casserole starters and many more items have been very welcome. (We have found that some of the food items packed in the shipping containers are simply not "fit for use" now, since it is approx. 3 years since we packed them.)

Please be assured that your parcels are getting through. We appreciate them so much!!!

We realize it is very costly to send parcels (ranging from \$35 to \$65) depending on the weight enclosed. Thank-you does not seem enough to say to all who have sent us a parcel!

Some suggestions (in addition to those listed above) for light weight items to include in a parcel you might like to send include:

- Continental Spring Vegetable Soup Mix
- Nestlé Butter Menthol Throat Lozenges (pkt of 10 lozenges)
- "Back Country Cuisine" Freeze Dri Beef Mince (160gm)
- Dried fruit ("Angus Park" apples, mixed fruit, banana chips, apricots etc.)
- Jelly crystals (any flavour)
- Cadbury "Boost" mini-bars (chocolate)

Please note: the description declared to Australia Post on the parcel should be kept rather "vague" to avoid possible theft here in Uganda. eg, use terms like: dried foods, coffee sachets etc.

Official Welcome for Wayne & Bev:

We attended our first Acholi funeral (that of the LC1's wife), on June 22nd. After the normal 4 hours of "proceedings", we were welcomed officially into the community of Oryang Ojuma. This was a great honour! We were the only "muzungu's" (white people) among over 2,000 people attending. Throughout the entire service and during the simple meal that followed, 2000 pair of eyes watched our every move. We felt a bit like fish in a bowl (floodlit).

Bev's Rose Garden:

While in Kampala earlier in the year we were able to purchase 6 rose bushes which are now planted in front of our little room. We have had several flowers already and the perfume is beautiful; just like the original, traditional English Rose. Pink, red and yellow flowers have been such a blessing to us. (A little reminder of our garden back in South Aust.)



Quiz Night: August 15th

A flyer giving all details regarding the coming Annual Quiz Night for the Foundation is attached / enclosed with this issue. If you can attend we know you will have a most enjoyable evening and help to support the ministry of the Foundation at the same time.



For bookings ring: Denise / Ian Turvey 8264 5005

Membership Renewal July 2009/June 2010:

Membership is again due for the 2009/2010 year ahead. Attached is a Renewal/Membership form. Please fill out and send to our Treasurer, Don McKenzie. If you have become a member since March of this year, your Membership is valid until June of next year.

Secretary Needed:

As mentioned in previous newsletters, we are still seeking a permanent Secretary for the Management Committee. Our thanks to Denise Turvey for taking on the role of Secretary in the interim period. If you are able to assist in this vital role, please contact the Chairman, Ross Shepherdson (8280 7616).

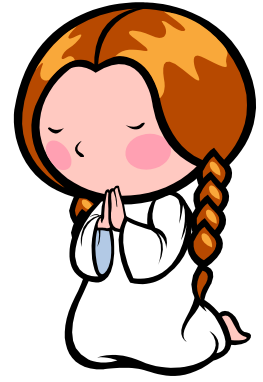


Lubanga Omedi Gum (*God Bless You*)

With our love, *Wayne and Bev*

PS: After waiting for 4 months we were finally informed this afternoon by our Lawyer that the Surveyor will be here on August 10th-11th to complete the last major process in obtaining the Land Lease Title. GREAT NEWS !!!!!

Prayer Points:



Praise God: For the Waeco fridge, Thermos cooker, Suzuki Motor bike & “Landie” – all gifts from friends. They mean so much to us.
 For supporters who faithfully pray for us
 For His protection while travelling on the roads in Uganda
 For His protection over our workers at Oryang Ojuma
 For a beautiful shower (even with cold water, it’s still great!)
 For MAF friends, Mike & Laura, who were granted adoption of Deborah & Ivan recently

Please pray: For God’s appointed person to accept the position of Secretary for the Foundation
 For Sam as he works to see the “Land Lease Title” work to completion asap
 For approval of building plans and applications in Kitgum in 2009
 For continued financial support for the project
 For continued good health for both Wayne & Bev, particularly in the heat
 For protection when travelling on the “special” roads in Uganda
 For the management committee as they provide vital support for the project
 For Mike & Laura, Deborah and Ivan as they move to England and await God’s future direction for them (We are going to miss them *soooo* much!!)
 Pray that any future plans by Joseph Kony to plunder northern Uganda, Sudan or the DRC will be squashed.

Donation Reply Slip:

(A receipt and thank-you note will be issued for all donations)

I / We would like to Support the ministry of Cornerstone Foundation (Australia) Inc. in Kitgum
 Donate toward Wayne & Bev’s personal support Monthly Quarterly

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Enclosed is my donation of: \$ _____ Phone: () _____

Method of Payment: Cheque Postal Order

Please post to: Mr D McKenzie
 Cornerstone Foundation (Australia) Inc.
 PO Box 26
 PINNAROO SA 5304

