

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Kitgum, northern UGANDA, where the weather is fine, tending toward hot, and the rain is frequent at present (nearly every day!) It seems that you could all use some of it in Australia, but sorry, it can't be transported that easily.

A Tough Place:

We know our calling to Kitgum, and God's grace is sustaining us, but we are finding the reality of working in Uganda very "hard going". There seem to be obstacles put in our way constantly. We want to remain as positive as possible, but it's so wearing! We have been unable to find a church to date, that meets our basic need for fellowship, since services here are held in Acholi, which we do not understand. The lack of fellowship is a real concern to us, and we would appreciate your prayers (with ours) on this issue.

NGO certificate renewed and Entry Permits granted:

On Wednesday 25th June we received an e-mail from the MAF logistics agent in Kampala, to say that he had "picked up" our NGO certificate. We have subsequently collected it from the MAF office while we were in Kampala. This then allowed him to lodge our Entry (Work) Permit applications. We heard recently that they have been granted, but now we have to advise the Immigration Dept. about Permit Numbers issued to us in 1998. Nothing, it seems, is ever straight forward here! We trust that our Permits will be ready soon.

Containers released from URA:

On 1st August we received authorization from the URA (Uganda Revenue Authority) for the release of both containers. This meant that we could contact the URA official here in Kitgum and arrange for the seals to be broken. This was done at 2.30pm on 2nd August. We Praise God that we can finally access the equipment needed to begin construction work for the project (after waiting 9 months and 3 days). We were also able to "check out" some personal things which might be handy. But...we can't get too excited, since eventually we will be shifting into a room 10' x 15' and have nowhere to "store" extra things.



3 Phone Link calls:

Since our last Newsletter, we have had three phone "Link-up" calls to Adelaide. Two were at Fund Raising events and one to our Home Church, Birdwood United. It was incredible to be able to answer questions from people supporting us "back home". We really appreciate the efforts of Ian Turvey and Stephen Routley in making those calls possible. It did make us feel "in touch" with (and homesick for) people we know and love. We were also able to e-mail photos of "recent events", which enabled people to visualise what we were explaining on the phone. Praise God for such wonderful technology!!

Secretary needed:

Due to the pressures of University studies, our Secretary Kylie Beale has had to resign her position. We are naturally sad to see Kylie leave the committee, but completely understand the hectic requirements of final year studies and practical teaching “stints”, (we’ve “been there and done that”). We wish to thank Kylie for her great contribution to the committee over the past two years, and her continued commitment to Cornerstone Foundation. We wish her God’s richest blessings in all she does for His Glory! Thanks Kyles!!



Parcels and letters arrive safely in Kitgum:

We have received several parcels and letters in our Kitgum Post Box during our time here in Uganda. It takes about a month for mail to arrive from Australia. The postage of parcels is very expensive, so only send things that are “light weight” for your pocket’s sake. Surprise “greens” is something we cannot get here. (Just a hint!) We do love to receive them, so please continue sending us those “little luxuries” from home! Our Postal Address is: **Wayne Stevens, PO Box 134, Kitgum, UGANDA**

Land cleanup now completed:

The 6 workmen have done a wonderful job clearing the entire 6 acres of land. Learning Acholi, chasing rats, killing 6 deadly “Cobra” snakes, watering new banana palms and mango trees, burning off dried grass, breaking up termite mounds and dodging rain, amid much laughter, was all part of completing the clearing of the land. Now it all has to begin again, (we hope with less snakes) as the grass grows so quickly at this time of year.



Cornerstone Website:

The CFA web-site is now “on-line”. Please take the time to visit

www.cornerstonefoundation.org.au

and learn more about Cornerstone Foundation, and progress made to date.

There are many links to other sites with further information about Uganda, its geography, people, history and much, much more. There is also a great “photo gallery” to check out.

Please encourage your church family and friends to visit the site!!

Membership Renewal 2008 / 9 Reminder:

Don’t forget about your Membership/Renewal form for 2008/9, which was included in our last Newsletter. As most of you would be aware, our membership year runs from July/June, so please complete and send the form back to our Treasurer, Mr Don McKenzie, at the address given. We also welcome any new members. Thank-you for your support.

Trip to Kidepo Valley:

On the weekend of 8th to 10th August we took “time out” for a trip to Kidepo Valley, 140km north-east of Kitgum. The scenery on the way was spectacular! The roads were un-real. The mountain ranges going through “The Pass” reminded us of the Blue Mountains or The Grampians at home. We thoroughly enjoyed our trip to Kidepo and the tranquility of the place itself. We were lucky enough to see Zebra, Water Buffalo and Water Buck along with the resident elephant in the compound, where we stayed in a Banda. Sitting around the camp-fire on both nights was very enjoyable. We observed changes to the scenery ranging from viewing thunderstorms in the distance, to perfectly clear and wonderfully starry skies. The bird life was glorious!! We had “superb starlings” and other birds come around our camp-site. It is going to be a real “treat” getting to know the local birds of Uganda!! There are some really beautiful ones!

Time for supplies from Kampala:

Recently we travelled to Kampala to buy the materials needed to build the 16m x 8m shed which will house much of our equipment and also serve as a “Workshop” for the builders. We did this at the end of August, taking a 3 day break at Murchison Falls National Park on our way. This is a wonderful place!! We went on a Game Drive and saw many giraffe, elephant, kob, hartebeast and varieties of birds. On the Boat Cruise we also saw hundreds of hippos and crocodiles. This was a little “scary” for me (Bev) as the boat we were in was much too flimsy for my liking.

After a lovely break in beautifully tranquil surroundings, we headed on to Kampala to complete the necessary preparations, before collecting our friend David Bennett from Entebbe Airport. The work involved in ordering and purchasing all the materials and equipment needed, and organising transport by truck to Kitgum, was very tedious and time consuming.

Wayne prepared a list of what he needed and where it was to be purchased, then set about ordering and arranging delivery of the necessary supplies to a warehouse kindly made available to us by Civicon in Kampala. All of the materials were finally loaded onto a truck on Tuesday 16th Sept. and transported to Kitgum.

We then travelled to Kitgum in the Land Rover on Wed. 17th Sept.

We left at 3.00am and arrived in Kitgum at 2.15pm just in time to off-load the truck before dark. P.T.L!



Visit from Australia:

On 11th September we drove to Entebbe International Airport to “pick up” David Bennett (a committee member). Dave and his wife Glenys have been friends of ours for all our married life (37 + years). He has come to give Wayne a “hand”. With access to the generator and other tools and equipment Dave has been able to fabricate roof trusses and Wayne has then painted them, ready to erect the roof over our small “room”. A 3.6 metre “tank stand” is currently being constructed, ready to support a “2000 litre poly tank”.

We are pleased to have Dave’s help and encouragement, when we have been feeling rather “weary” from the past months of frustrations. God’s timing is perfect!! as our Landie decided to “pack up” on Sunday 21st Sept. We had NO CLUTCH, quite a necessary item for a vehicle! He was able to fix the problem and also give the Landie a thorough “check over”, so that Wayne will not be held up having to repair other things in the foreseeable future. What a Blessing! Dave will be with us until October 23rd. The Land Rover is also such a blessing to us and the ministry of Cornerstone Foundation. We continually thank God (and Joey) for it!!!

Entertainment Books: Just a Hint!

As a fund-raising venture for Cornerstone Foundation, Candice Walker is promoting “Entertainment” books containing vouchers for discounted prices at a large number of restaurants, movie theatres, sporting events etc. These books are great value! Vouchers can be presented at a wide range of venues and are valid from March 2008 until June 2009.

To purchase an “Entertainment” Book please contact Candice: (08) 8371 2001 or at walker12@arcom.com.au

Toucal built on land:

We have had a Toucal (traditional African hut) erected at the back of where our house will eventually be located, and near to the “room”, so that we have a place to go for some “respite” from the 46 degree heat of Uganda’s summer. The all metal room will get very hot from about October to April, so the toucal will be a place of “refuge” for us both. We will also use it for “entertaining” any visitors who come to see us, and for “Staff meetings” in the future. Toucals are very cheap to build, very cool in the heat and warm in the cooler weather. Two local men from “Oryang Ojuma” have done a lovely job of building it. Our first project!



STOP PRESS: Progress Hindered again!!!!

The past week has been a very difficult one, with our plans to begin construction of the 16m x 8m shed dashed by information given to us by the Town Clerk, Kitgum Town Council. Having drawn up the necessary plans, it seems that no construction work is able to proceed until the land has been **surveyed again** and approval to build is given from Kampala. This could take months??? Once more progress is held up by the system!!!

A letter has been lodged with the Town Clerk requesting permission to erect a “temporary structure” (ie. a roof over the two containers) to then enable at least our “room” to be built. The room was pre-fabricated in Australia and is packed in the containers, ready for assembly “on-site”.

Without approval we cannot even erect the room, and therefore cannot live on the land.

Please pray for a favourable response.

The construction of the shed is also vitally important. Until it is built, no major items (eg. tractor) can be removed from the containers, since we have nowhere to store them securely apart from in the containers. Without important equipment such as concrete mixers etc. construction work will continue to be hindered.

Wayne & Bev's Itinerary December 2008 – February 2009

After our arrival back in South Australia in December the following dates have been confirmed as venues at which we will be speaking. Any further details of other venues and/or details, will be published in the December issue of "Cornerstone News".

Sunday January 4th : Mt Barker Church of Christ. (not sure of time)

Saturday January 10th : 2.00 pm afternoon tea. Combined Cornerstone, Gateway & One Tree Hill Uniting. Venue to be confirmed.

Sunday January 18th : 10.45am at Aldinga Uniting Church (to include friends from churches "down South")

Sunday February 8th : 10.00am at Modbury Church of Christ.
Barbeque to follow the service, prior to the AGM of Cornerstone Foundation.

AGM of Cornerstone Foundation: 2.00pm

We will be staying at Ross and Marlene Shepherdson's property at One Tree Hill and would welcome any visitors to drop in for a "cuppa". We will list our Australian mobile phone numbers in the December newsletter.

E-mail Address:

With the recent increase in postal charges for mail delivery, it would be very helpful to notify Wayne and Bev if anyone currently receiving "Cornerstone News" by post, could access the E-mail version instead.

Wayne and Bev's e-mail address is: wbstevenscfa@ozemail.com.au

Photo Gallery:



Workmen's new toilet & wash-stand



The first two roof trusses painted

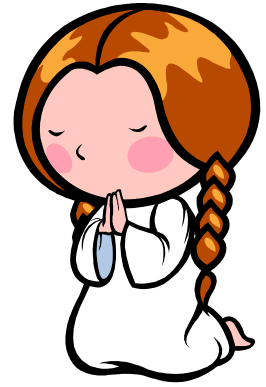


Dave Bennett at work under the Land Rover

Prayer Points:

Praise God: For the CFA web-site now being “on line”
 For His protection when travelling on the roads around Uganda
 For accommodation provided for us by Afrimax
 For continued protection over the workers at Oryang Ojuma
 For Dave’s visit, help and encouragement

Please pray: For approval of plans and applications for the building programme
 For continued financial support for the project in Kitgum
 For continued good health for both Wayne & Bev
 For Dave as he travels back to Australia on 23rd/24th October
 For the management committee as they provide vital support for Wayne & Bev in Uganda
 That insurgence by LRA rebels will not rise up again.
 Pray that any future plans by Joseph Kony to plunder northern Uganda, Sudan or the DRC
 will be squashed.



Thank-you for your on-going prayerful and financial support.

Lubanga Omedi Gum *(God Bless You)*

Wayne and Bev

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

