



Newsletter: October 2019
Volume 20 : Issue 3

Dear friends,

Greetings from Adelaide. Time has marched along so quickly since our last Newsletter. We arrived back in Adelaide on September 24th and are finding it rather difficult “settling in” to life in the land of OZ.

As you will read on page 3, there are several health issues that have caused us to “re-think” our future plans for the Cornerstone project. We trust that you will be encouraged as you read about the ministry to our elderly widows and be challenged to help us in whatever way you can as we look forward to what God will do in the days ahead.

Widows now have fresh rainwater:

History was made just before we returned to Australia. Most of us would find it hard to believe that a woman over 80 years of age had never turned a tap on during her lifetime. Sylvia was so excited to be able to access fresh rainwater for drinking and cooking her food, for the first time in her life! Oh, how we take for granted the basic things in life!

We had the privilege of seeing the joy on her face as she opened the tap. Your support can enable other widows to access fresh, clean water and live in safety on the Cornerstone property knowing that someone actually cares about them. If you would like to donate toward the building of further “tukuls” or support a widow, please check out the details on page 5.



Olara Charles now working “full-time”:

Since our last newsletter, Ocaya George has left us to work with his family on a farming project. His decision to leave us came just as we received an Income Tax imposition dropped on us “out-of-the blue”, which forced us to reduce our staff to two “full time” workmen, to enable us to fulfil the tax obligation. At that time, Olara Charles asked if he could work full time, having gained some weight and greater physical strength while working “part time” for us. He is very keen to learn new skills, and is now working with Simon, maintaining the property during our time in Australia.

Charles is a walking miracle and an incredible answer to prayer!

He was very willing to lead the elderly widows weekly fellowship gathering, while we are back in Australia.

E-mail version of Newsletter:

If you are currently receiving the Newsletter in the post, but you also have the capability to receive future issues by e-mail, please just drop us a short note with your e-mail address to: wbstevenscfa@gmail.com and we will add you to the list to receive our news in “living colour”.

Third Tukul under construction:

A third “Tukul” is currently under construction, to provide accommodation for another elderly widow to live on the Cornerstone property, knowing that she will be cared for and receive financial support through Australian sponsor donations in the years ahead. The rendering of the brickwork has been completed by our 2 workmen, and local craftsmen will be employed to complete the bamboo / grass roof structure upon our return to Kitgum next April. The ministry to elderly widows is an expanding aspect of the Cornerstone Project and is providing security and on-going care for some of the most vulnerable women in the Oryang Ojuma community.



Workmen building the tukul wall



Rendering of completed brickwork

House External Steel Wall Frames now in place:

In our last newsletter we shared how after waiting for 3½ months we finally received the Light Gauge Steel Wall Frames, and after assembling the first few frames we were making good progress. Our speedy progress was “short-lived” however, with the quality of manufacture of the majority of the frame components being so poor, that it has taken 3 to 4 days to assemble each frame, rather than a few hours as promised by the engineer. Very few of the screw hole depressions used to locate the component parts actually line up, so for the majority of the frames new holes had to be drilled and the parts then pop-riveted together. Despite these issues, most of the external wall frames have now been assembled and bolted in place, ready for external wall cladding to be commenced soon after our return to Uganda next year.

As shown in the photo below, several Poly Tanks have been purchased ready to collect rainwater from the house. They are being stored temporarily inside the house framework on the concrete floor. If they were left sitting on the ground, termites would soon chew holes through the plastic! (PS: Don’t worry; the final external wall frame will not be installed until the tanks have been removed from their temporary storage.)



Poly tanks stored inside the House Steel Wall Frames



Completed External Steel Wall Frames

Work Experience Opportunity for Secondary Student:

Recently a secondary school student named Stewart (currently in Year 9 in Kitgum and cared for by our dear friend Lois Ford), spent a week on the Cornerstone property gaining experience in a wide range of vocational skills, to enable him to choose wisely which subjects he will study in the future toward his employment goals.

During his time with us:

- + He experienced using a wide range of electric power tools
- + He learnt how to start and stop a petrol engine generator / arc welding machine
- + He received some basic training in arc welding
- + He used a rotary mower to mow the grass in the staff accommodation compound
- + He helped with the assembly of a Light Gauge Steel Wall Frame, using a range of clamping tools to assemble the components, measuring to ensure squareness with a steel tape, before drilling with a cordless drill and pop-riveting the frame together
- + He learnt how to set up boxing for concrete work, then how to mix, pour and trowel the concrete
- + He was also involved in some basic machine maintenance

After spending the week experiencing “Hands-On” practical training, this young man left us knowing very clearly what field of study he wanted to pursue. He wants to study Engineering.

This has been from the very beginning the major reason for the “Cornerstone Vocational College” project. Ultimately, practical vocational training will be provided for young people like Stewart, to gain valuable vocational skills, to equip them for employment in a range of skilled professions.

Until God brings someone skilled in building construction, to help us “on-site” we will continue to the best of our ability to complete the house and further accommodation for more elderly widows in desperate need.



Stewart (in red shirt) learning how to assemble a Light Gauge Steel Wall Frame

Future Plans for the CORNERSTONE PROJECT:

Following a recent medical check in Adelaide, Wayne’s osteoporosis, diagnosed 4 years ago, has deteriorated dramatically with a high risk of bone fractures if he were to fall. Obviously, with the huge amount of construction work remaining to be completed on the building program in Kitgum, our plans for the future require very prayerful consideration, and some changes will have to be made to enable us to continue.

Our GP in Adelaide is arranging for some tests to address other health issues.

Bev has found it harder to cope with the living conditions in Kitgum in recent years, and with no “on-site” skilled help for Wayne on the horizon it seems, the demands of construction work and maintaining the 6-acre property are becoming more and more difficult each year. Our health has suffered accordingly.

After consultation with our Management Board, we have made the decision to spend **6 months in Uganda and 6 months in Australia each year** from now on, depending on the results of medical treatment in the coming months.

On the positive side, the time spent in Australia will enable us to fulfill speaking engagements, highlighting our urgent need for extra skilled help in Kitgum, and we trust will enable additional funding to be raised for the on-going project.

If you would like us to speak in your Church or Fellowship group during the next 5 months, please contact us either by e-mail: wbstevenscfa@gmail.com or mobile: 0436 402 903 (Wayne) or 0436 344 155 (Bev).

How can you help?

We need urgent help “on-site” with building construction to see the House completed so that preparation for the “Multi-Purpose Student Workshop” can begin.

If you or someone you know has skills in any of the following areas and would be willing to volunteer their services to help us, please contact us for details by e-mail: wbstevenscfa@gmail.com

- Plumbing: Installation of external plumbing to connect to septic tank and soakage system
Construction of “on-site” underground concrete septic tank
Installation of “Shark-bite” / Pex pipe plumbing and fittings
- Erection of chain-link Security fence around the house compound
- Mechanic: service and repairs to Kubota tractor, Land Rover
- Tractor driving with slasher to slash the 6-acre property upon our return to Uganda in April 2020

Prayer Points:

Praise God for:

- ✓ Our safe travel to and from Uganda
- ✓ For the miracle of New Life in Dominica, and for the obvious changes in her
- ✓ For Sylvia’s presence with us and the blessing she brings to our little community
- ✓ For the progress made with construction
- ✓ For the wonderful healing of Olara Charles from tuberculosis



Please pray:

- For the short-term and long-term skilled help Wayne needs with the building programme
- For Dominica and Sylvia as they live on our property
- For the Bible Study Group as they meet for fellowship, led by Charles during our time in Australia
- For safety for Simon and Charles as they maintain the property in our absence
- For sound medical advice as we seek to fulfil God’s plans for us in ministry to those in need in Kitgum

With our love, *Wayne and Bev*

Donation Reply: *(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
- Sponsor a Widow for \$25.00 a Month
- Donate toward the construction costs of a “Tukul” and purchase of essential items for a Widow
- Enclosed is my donation of:** \$ _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Phone: () _____

Method of Payment: Cheque Postal Order Direct Debit

Cheque / Postal Order: payable to: Cornerstone Foundation (Australia) Inc.

Direct Debit: Commonwealth Bank Of Australia
Account Name: Cornerstone Foundation Australia Inc.
BSB No: 065102 Account No: 10154438

Please post to: Mr Paul Johnson
Cornerstone Foundation (Australia) Inc.
Unit 8 / 90 Melrose Street
MOUNT PLEASANT SA 5235
Mobile: 0456 888 010



Reminder: If using Direct Debit for any payments please notify the Treasurer so that a receipt can be issued for Auditing purposes. Thank-you.

Contact Paul either by postal address as above, Mobile
or by e-mail: **paul_johnson_42@bigpond.com**