

cornerstone FOUNDATION AUSTRALIA

Newsletter UP-DATE: February 2020



Dear friends,

Urgent need to return to Uganda:

Since our last Newsletter sent just a few weeks ago, we have been informed of dramatic changes to Government Regulations that affect thousands of NGO's (Non-Government Organizations) trying to operate in Uganda.

The Minister of Internal Affairs announced on 12th January that the number of officially registered NGO's in the country had been slashed from 14,207 to 2,118. **Effectively, over 12,000 charitable organizations have been told they can't operate in Uganda** following this decision.

Cornerstone Foundation (Australia) Inc. is one of those 12,000 organizations and has been removed from the list of approved organizations, even though our current registration was approved for 5 years, and all fees were paid enabling us to operate in Uganda up until November 2020.

We have been corresponding from Adelaide with the MAF logistics officer in Kampala who lodges documents with the Ugandan Government on our behalf. Many documents have been sent to him, and he has begun the process of "Re-Validation" of Cornerstone Foundation. However, as Directors of the Foundation, we are required to be physically present to sign forms and documents in Uganda.

Accordingly, Bev and I will be returning to Uganda immediately after the Annual General Meeting of CFA, departing Adelaide on 18th February, to meet with officials and seek "Validation" of Cornerstone Foundation. As expected, this new process is quite complicated and has three stages with fees to be paid for each step. The increase in fees to be paid is unbelievable. However, we have no choice but to return earlier than planned and lodge the paperwork and pay the fees, so that we can continue with our ministry in Kitgum.

Please pray that Cornerstone Foundation will be "Validated" and our "NGO Re-registration" approved in the coming months.

"Fun Night" Fundraiser: Friday 13th March: CANCELLED

The planned fund-raising event for 13th March has been cancelled, because of the urgency of returning to Uganda to meet the requirements of the NGO Bureau. Bev and I were really looking forward to catching up with many of you at that event, but another date will be arranged after we return to Adelaide again.

Annual General Meeting: 2.00pm Sunday 16th February 2020 at Gospel City Church 26 Cowan Street, GAWLER SA 5118

As a supporter of Cornerstone Foundation, your attendance at the AGM is very important, especially with the changes described above. The AGM "Attendance Register" is one of the documents required by the NGO Bureau, as part of the registration renewal process, so the more people attending, the more favourable the decisions by officials will be. Please aim to be there (directions in the recent January Newsletter).

With our love, *Wayne and Bev*