

Prayer Letter

February 2009

Christmas all year around

It's February and Christmas is still here. Apart from a local shop still playing 'Mary's Boy Child', the greetings cards keep flowing in thanks to the delays in the Uganda postal system. This is an opportune reminder to us to thank all of you who sent us cards, letters and parcels over the festive season but especially to thank the Uganda postal system for ensuring that every day is Christmas Day.

The run up to Christmas

The run up to Christmas was extremely busy as we undertook both legal and education seminars in various communities around the country as well as continuing to develop the work in Kasese. Details of all we have been up to can be viewed at our online journal:

www.bmsworldmission.org/29503

Into the bush

We have started to put together a short programme of visits across the BUU western region to meet with pastors and district leaders. In January we spent



Children in Kamwege district where we recently stayed

a few days in 'the bush' in Kamwege district, visiting and staying with a pastor and undertaking a needs assessment with the BUU Western Regional overseer Pastor Kaiso. We were most humbled when the pastor gave up the bed in his hut to us for the night whilst he and his family slept on the floor.

We have plans to do two more visits in the next few months to the more isolated parts of the region, with planned visits to the churches in the Congolese refugee camps at Kyangwali (13 to 16 February) and Chaka (13 to



15 March). Jenny will conduct some legal training whilst Graeme and Pastor Kaiso undertake some Bible teaching seminars. We also hope to travel to the towns of Mbarara to the east (23 to 26 March) and Kabale (date tbc) to the south for a few days to help run community leaders child rights training as part of the UCLF national programme.

Please pray for the village pastors who work full-time without an income and have to provide for their families as well as lead their congregations. Pray also for safety and good health as we travel to and stay in extremely remote and isolated parts of the country.

The school inspector arrives

Graeme hopes to join the Kasese Baptist Education Board for inspection visits to 12 schools over the next six weeks. Following the inspection, he hopes to begin to work with the schools in helping to develop management initiatives and run teachers workshops with the aim of raising the quality of both the academic and spiritual education in the schools. Having lived through the trials of ofsted in the UK we hope to take a much more relational approach to the school inspections.

Please pray that the upcoming inspections will be a time to build relationships with the schools and find ways to affirm and best support them.

Team visits

We are currently in the process of organising some programmes for various teams who hope to visit us over the next few months. In April we hope to host a team from one of our link churches, Didcot Baptist, who will work in some of the local schools and alongside church youth. We then hope to have a volunteer family from the UK come to work alongside us from May to July, and a team of law students and young lawyers from the LCF (UK) visiting in July to help do legal education.

Please pray that this will be a real source of encouragement and learning more about God's heart for mission for the teams, ourselves and the local churches.

Christian lawyers' fellowship group

The UCLF began as a fellowship of Christian lawyers in Uganda back in the 1980s and this remains one of the core activities of the organisation. Ninety per cent of Ugandan lawyers practise in Kampala, so it was always going to be something of a challenge to get a significant fellowship off the ground in Kasese. However, in the last few months Jenny has been leading a monthly Bible study for lawyers. Although attendance has been small we are reminded that where two or three lawyers are gathered for Bible study... it keeps them out of mischief elsewhere.

Please pray for Michael, a local lawyer who has been coming regularly to the meetings, who is going through a particularly traumatic crisis at present.

Church on the move

We have recently been informed as a church that we will need to vacate the land where we currently meet. Calvary Baptist has been meeting outside under a simple tin roof in the grounds of a derelict hotel. The owner now wishes to develop the land and has asked the church to move in the next few months. With the increasing cost of land in town the church has been unable to buy its own plot and erect a building and we would ask you to join with us in prayer for the pastor and elders as they consider the options for the church's relocation.



BMS in Uganda

...and finally

What is it with people criticising Kasese town? A recent travel guide stated that the most attractive feature about Kasese was its bypass. True, Kasese will never win the 'Uganda in bloom competition', but we are so blessed to be living in a very spectacular part of the world. The same guide book continues, '[The area around Kasese] is a fabulous tapestry of volcanoes, hot springs, gorges, escarpments, upthrust mountains, and great sunken troughs, glaciers, moraines, lakes, rivers, oxbows, and waterfalls...'. Any potential investors and business partners, who want to help Graeme set up a geographical field study centre after his retirement, should apply in writing in 30 years' time.



Heading as quickly as possible for the by pass in Kasese

*Thank you for your continued prayer and support.
With our love, Graeme and Jenny*

BMS World Mission supports 350 personnel working in 34 countries of the world. Together they are involved mainly in church planting, development, disaster relief, education, health and media and advocacy.

If you would like to support work like Graeme and Jenny's you can make a one-off donation, or you can become a 24:7 Partner for as little as £2 per month. Visit www.bmsworldmission.org or call 01235 517617 for a 24:7 Partners leaflet, or 01235 517641 for our donation hotline.