

Bridging the Gap

Sowing seeds and making an impact

Dear Friends

We are excited to confirm that the newly established eleven day *Bible Based Holiday Club* was a resounding success. Three hundred and fifty five children aged 4-12 years attended in groups named *Shepherds, Sowers & Seekers*. The local teenagers vocalised their disappointment at not being included and ardently requested a club be held during the next school holidays. Children learnt about God's love through songs, bible stories, memory verses and games. The sessions also included hygiene, health care teaching and good behaviour. Many parents couldn't wait to report the changes seen in their children including being more helpful, polite, confident and eager to share their learning experiences.



Fortunately the rainy periods were few during this time and many children were able to meet outside, as the nursery building was already full to capacity. Our next challenge is how to expand the clubs and accommodate such large numbers of children during the rainy season.

With these exciting images of Hope and the sound of laughter ringing in our ears we continued working and were soon faced with images of utter despair for example; a three month old baby covered in sores and weighing 7.5lbs; a thirteen year old mother having been raped by a local teenager holding Gerard, her new born son; a profoundly deaf woman, homeless and abandoned with her two little children and an elderly

grandmother in tears as she could not feed her two orphaned grandchildren.

Images of Hope begin to be restored as the sick baby is admitted to hospital and responding to treatment, and other families were given emergency support and registered for the **BOHCM** *Child Sponsorship Scheme*. As we were preparing to leave Rukungiri a lady sitting under a tree with her severely disabled child asked to speak to **BOHCM** Manager, Ben. Having sold everything to pay for medical care her other children were now suffering and **BOHCM** was her last hope for support. A quick assessment under the tree and Hope was restored to this caring mother and her daughter.

A meeting of parents of the nursery school children was encouraging as they expressed sincere appreciation for setting up bursaries for the poorest children and providing such good quality education and implored us to enroll more children. The recent training and treatment they received on how to deal with Head Fungus has seen a 96% improvement for the children. Many parents said they simply did not know the cause or treatment required to prevent reinfection.

Sixteen suitcases of clothes and equipment donated by people in the UK were duly distributed in the most needy areas, including the local Health Centre and the paediatric ward at the hospital.

We were delighted to attend the official opening of two more Protected Springs handed to the Local Community on behalf of our partners "*No More Dirty Water*" and "*Friends in Bristol*", resulting in over four hundred people accessing daily clean water. Please take time to look at the **BOHCM** web site in the "Images" section where you will find photos from the latest visit to Uganda.

None of these issues or developments could have been addressed without your support and prayers and many children and families would still be suffering. Our sincere thanks go to you all, everything you do makes a difference in the lives of these people.

We remain determined not to be overwhelmed by the many needs we encounter as we are truly upheld by the presence of our Lord in all He asks us to do.

Proverbs 3:v 5-6
Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your path straight.

