

# Bridging the Gap

Dear Friends of BOHCM, in September a team of six arrived safely in Uganda and were soon confronted by the threat to the staple food crop faced by the people in South West Uganda.



Banana wilt virus was destroying crops and plantations and as bananas (Matoke) are staple foods people were being forced to look for other food sources such as Posho (Porridge).

Inevitably the price of Posho was rising at an alarming rate and the poorest families were suffering. Movement of cattle and goats was also forbidden due to reported cases of Foot and Mouth disease and milk was becoming scarce and very expensive.

Faced with all these issues we sincerely thanked God for all our generous **BOHCM** friends who provided financial gifts, which met many immediate needs and also enabled us to plan for the future.

We eagerly arranged to visit the Pre-school nursery and were met by eighty-six little children singing in both English and the local language. Every child receives a cup of porridge during the morning as most of them arrive hungry and they have already learnt about basic hygiene such as hand washing. The nursery curriculum is very thorough and well documented and it was good to be reminded of the life-changing power of education. Without basic literacy or numeracy these children are destined for low paid unskilled work or long-term unemployment. Research shows that educated children, live a healthier and longer life, earn more, have fewer children of their own and in turn educate their own children.



Following a fun filled and noisy party hosted by the UK Team every child went home with an item of clothing. Plans were in place to build the much needed kitchen and the nursery fence was under construction. Our challenge now is how to include and support the poorest children as they cannot raise the £8 per term nursery fee required and we are considering ways to provide a "bursary" for them.

The **BOHCM** Community Sponsored Children's project is thriving with ninety children being supported. Three of the children have special needs and four of the homes are "Child Headed Homes".

The Children's Village continues to be a "Haven" for the nineteen children living there and we took three of the children with Enid, a House Mother, to visit the Game Park. Lions, elephants and warthogs were amongst the animals seen and a boat ride on the Kazinga channel surrounded by hippos caused many squeals of delight and laughter.

We celebrated the opening of another Protected Spring provided by South Downs College Students; hundreds of local children attended and testified that "Water is Life" followed by exuberant singing and dancing.

With Christmas fast approaching we are planning to "Make Christmas Special" for all the children and remember the true meaning of Christmas. Our Alternative Gift Cards are now on sale so please do contact **BOHCM** for details and if you are able to provide a meal for a family we would love to hear from you.

2012 has been another amazing year for **BOHCM**, we thank God for His faithfulness and we wish you all a Happy Christmas and a blessed New Year.

## A date for your diary – March 16<sup>th</sup> 2013

*It would be wonderful if you could join us at Enfield Baptist Church for a special evening of thanksgiving to thank God for the work of **BOHCM**. More details to follow.*

*Proverbs 22:6*

*Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it.*

