

Barbara & Geoff Skerratt's
Ugandan Travel Diary

18th September – 12th October 2013



CARING FOR CHILDREN IN JESUS' NAME



18
SEPTEMBER

Arrived at Entebbe airport, loaded the minibus with all the luggage of children's clothes, tracked down a shop that sells Lifetime Water Filters and bought one for the Children's Village, then on to Kampala to work on the Tax Identification Number for BOHCM. No time to stop as we need to get to Mbarara (5 hours away) before dark and spend the night there.

Arrived safely in Mbarara, met Ben the BOHCM Manager and had dinner together, last hot shower for a month!



19
SEPTEMBER

Sorted out paperwork for the BOHCM Truck, left Mbarara and set off for Rukungiri.

Received a call that a sponsored baby is in hospital with suspected Meningitis, Agreed to pay the medical bills and call in later to check on progress. Visited Children's Village, greeted by happy children singing and dancing. House Mothers and Aunt all well. Drove to hospital in Rukungiri, poor baby looked so uncomfortable, swollen head and stiff neck. Gave support and left to go to the Hotel Riverside (HRS) to settle in for the month!



20
SEPTEMBER

Breakfast arranged for 8am daily - good job we like eggs. Today we went to the hospital twice. Baby still has not received a definite diagnosis. She had more tests today but she looks weak. We bought the guardian some food for herself in case nobody visited her and food is not supplied. They were going to fit a naso-gastric tube for the baby, she had lumbar puncture. Then visited three of the newly sponsored children, arranged a distribution for 20 children tomorrow, ordered loads of food parcels and visited a sponsored child to arrange an urgent roof repair. Also visited the children's village late afternoon.

No lunch, no afternoon tea but dinner was very much appreciated.

CARING FOR CHILDREN IN JESUS' NAME



Today we had a distribution at the Riverside Hotel. The guardians and children loved their food parcels as the food shortage is causing such hardship. Visited two sponsored children to sort out some issues and see a newly constructed latrine provided by a sponsor, also took a child home that had turned up unaccompanied. We then officially opened the Rukundo protected spring. It was lovely to hear how much the community appreciate the clean water. They have put up a separate water source for the cows and goats and no longer share the same dirty pond.

We have just been to the hospital. Told that baby does not have meningitis but they have not confirmed a diagnosis. So frustrating!! She looks a bit better and has taken some milk. There was a chicken walking around under the beds!! So hygienic. Bob our driver left us at lunch time to return to Kampala and will come back at the end of our stay. We will now use the truck to travel around. Sent Ben home for the evening and hope to have a shorter days' work tomorrow.



Met with Ben this morning to plan our itinerary and to highlight the most urgent items. It was a good meeting with lots of issues and government regs. discussed. PM we bought mattresses, blankets and more food gifts. Visited one family but rain forced us to return to HRS as the mud made roads impassable. Caught up with some paperwork and Arsenal on TV as the generator was working.

CARING FOR CHILDREN IN JESUS' NAME

23
SEPTEMBER

Today we met with 30 of the sponsored children and guardians, handed over

some mattresses and blankets plus one young goat from our income generating project. They all received their food

gift. The truck was laden down as each bag weighs 15 kilos. We had to give some of the grannies a lift home as they couldn't carry their gift. They were all very happy.

We visited the baby in hospital and she may be discharged tomorrow which is rather worrying as she still has a drain in her head. We will try to link up with the discharge nurse to get some fuller information. We are worried about her return home as the guardian is so poor and the house is very small, she also looks after other children.



24
SEPTEMBER

Took Abel the water engineer to a sponsored child's house to work out how to fix a rain water tank and gutters to their tin roof. He starts work on it tomorrow. Visited three more homes including our sponsored baby;

she looks well and can sit unaided. The family seem keen to look after her and she has bonded with her carer.

Gave out loads of clothes to many delighted children and the bag always seems to have just enough. Like the widows oil!! We still enjoy seeing the kids' faces when they receive a nice item of clothing.

One of the families we visited their goat had died but all was not lost as they had a "goat roast".

24th continued >>

CARING FOR CHILDREN IN JESUS' NAME

We have been given a cockerel and a large bunch of Matoke for us and honey for a sponsor. Don't know what British Airways would say with this lot.

Back to the hospital and the baby is still there but improving. Still not sure when she will be discharged.

We have arranged the making of the final steel windows for the church and they should be ready in a week. It then rained so hard we came back for tea and are about to bathe in our bowl when the Jerry can of hot water finally arrives. No fighting over the bathroom only the bowl.



A rainy start to the day but the sun came out and we managed to see 5 of the children and gave them their food gifts. It takes time to record their messages to their sponsors but very enjoyable to hear how much they appreciate the support.

We also opened the other protected spring provided by Colyton and enjoyed seeing the community who are benefitting. Went to the open market and bought 120 small pancakes made from bananas and millet flour for the CV children. They loved them and had three each with some to spare. This was followed by lots of singing and dancing and much laughter. Also bought some pans for another family. The market was full of cows and goats for sale and very colourful and very busy. Wanted to stay longer but out voted by the men.

We think the house mother at the CV has found a community placement for the baby if she is discharged from hospital as we are concerned that the current guardian cannot manage her care and medical needs.

It is now raining again with thunder, lightning and no electricity.

CARING FOR CHILDREN IN JESUS' NAME



Just returned to the HRS. The baby was discharged from hospital this morning so we had to rearrange our plans for the day (what's new). We had to wait for discharge papers and report and the medication she needs, each item in a separate queue. Some which they did not have and we had to go and buy it ourselves. We then drove to the new carer who lives near the CV, she is willing to look after her and administer the medication. Her house is clean and organised so we hope baby will be comfortable. Fortunately it was sunny all morning.

Heavy rains for part of the afternoon so we decided to stop for a relaxing lunch as the roads were impassable. One hour 45 minutes later the lunch arrived! due to no electricity and a broken generator. Not so relaxing!!

Met with James the chair of BOHCM as he is a retired Head Teacher and he has his own school. He gave us lots of guidance on regulations and government plans for nurseries and primary schools. Looked around his school.

Finished the day by visiting a child and giving him his sponsor's gift of food. The belt snapped on the truck steering as we neared home and needs a repair tomorrow.

Almost time for supper, heavy thunder again, Last night seven cows died when they were hit by lightning. The owner donated some carcasses to the prison as a treat! Saw them on a lorry.

CARING FOR CHILDREN IN JESUS' NAME



Lovely sunshine today all day!!! The truck went for repair this morning and we were able to go to a home with a builder to replace some roofing sheets for a family.

We then visited a child headed home to give them their gift as they live miles from our distribution points. Two of the children are HIV positive and were recommended to us by TASO.

Later we went and checked on the baby and she is comfortable and the new carer is so happy to have her. She told us this afternoon that she has always wanted another baby and this is a blessing to her.

Visited the CV and then the local clinic to get some anti - biotic eye drops for one of the boys as his eyes look very sore. Chaos at Kebisoni as there was a naked man running around!!! We averted our eyes.

It's now 7pm and our hot water has just arrived so we can bathe and then have dinner.



Today we loaded the truck with 42 food bags and met with more sponsored children. The truck was quite overloaded as each bag weighs 15 kg. Fortunately the road to Kebisoni is tarmac. Every child wrote to their sponsor and a photo was taken of each child.

There was such an atmosphere of appreciation for the support and much Thanks Giving to God. Then we arranged to take a child to hospital on Monday as she has terrible skin sores which need consistent treatment. Sadly she lives in a child headed home. Next stop the CV to give the House Mothers all the bags of fruits that we had received.

Having an early day today, it is 4pm and we are back at HRS.

CARING FOR CHILDREN IN JESUS' NAME



Yesterday we finished earlyish and decided to walk into town for a pre - dinner drink. Lovely to relax a bit. On the way back to the HRS we came across a girl "S" walking along with a crutch. She had stopped to rest her disabled leg. She was carrying a small bag from the market and we carried it home for her as it was getting dark.

It seemed that God didn't mind us having a few hours relaxation as long as we visited this family on the way home. When we arrived we found a young brother, sister and a toddler and a very sick mother all living in two small adjacent store rooms. The mother couldn't stand up and they had no food at all. We looked in her bag from the market and realised that "S" had been on the market tip and found four rotting bananas. That was their only dinner. We also discovered that she has a thirteen year old brother who was out trying to find some food.

By now it was dark and we were in the middle of a field, fortunately Boy Scout Geoff had a torch with him. We had to ring Ben our manager and ask him to come and meet us so we could work out what to do next.

Ben came and we went to the supermarket for bread, milk, biscuits and water as that was the best we could do until morning.

This morning we took them a large hot pan of potatoes, Matoke and nut sauce. They were thrilled. Went back again this afternoon with Posho flour, millet flour and ground nut. The children know how to make this. When we first arrived they were trying to prepare super and had five small Matoke bananas to cook between them. We are now trying to find a way to support them, if we take the mother to hospital we would need to provide a carer for her and the children. Please pray that we can solve this.

29th continued >>

CARING FOR CHILDREN IN JESUS' NAME

This afternoon we Bought mattresses and blankets and more food gifts. Visited one family and then it rained so hard we had to return to the RSH as there was no access to the remote homes but plenty of mud again.

Gave us the opportunity to relax a bit and catch up on messages, paperwork etc. as it was impossible to work outdoors. The families are really enjoying the bags of food from their sponsors.

We also had some sad news today, a child that we know her father has died. We went to the home to pay our condolences and to contribute to the funeral which is tomorrow. The family appreciated our visit, especially the mother.

He had been in hospital and had recovered but then fell sick again on Friday and died Saturday evening.



Took "A" to the hospital in Rukungiri today to see if we can solve the terrible skin sores on her legs. Still waiting for the lab test results and possible diagnosis. Doreen the BOHCM support officer is waiting with her. "A" lives in Kebisoni so it is quite a journey for her (15k) each way and she has never seen Rukungiri.

Ben's son has Typhoid and is being treated at home. Please include him in your prayers.

We have a meeting at six with Bathsheba the probation and welfare officer. We hope she will agree to us moving a little girl to the CV as she is in an unsuitable home.

2pm Finished at the hospital and needed four separate drugs for "A". We were so worried about her returning home that we visited our new foster carer and asked her to look after "A" for a few days whilst she learns to take her tablets and tend her sores.

30th continued >>

CARING FOR CHILDREN IN JESUS' NAME

The combination is complicated for an adult let alone a child headed home. The guardian agreed and we quickly shopped and bought "A" a new mattress and a bed sheet. She needs a skin biopsy and they have agreed to do it on the 17th Oct. it will then be sent to Kampala.

Visited "S" and her siblings we told you about and they were so pleased to see us and very organised. They had lit their fire and were boiling water to make a nut sauce to have with their supper. Their mother said she can now sit up for short periods so we are hopeful she will be strong enough for us to take to a clinic as currently we cannot move her.

Lastly today we had a meeting with Bathsheba as mentioned and she has agreed to write a report to remove the little girl to the CV (as long as we do all the work). Hooray, success!

There is a big government movement in Uganda to keep children in the community but we explained our concerns and she accepted our points.

We have a high court whiskey loving judge staying at the HRS, very friendly and interesting to talk to. We also met the local Magistrate who signs our Care Orders. He was friendly and told us he loves children. Another varied and complex day and thank God that He is always there with us.

CARING FOR CHILDREN IN JESUS' NAME



We are so pleased to have received some emails and to know that you are enjoying being kept up to date with our emails.

Today we went to the bank just to start the day of right!!!! Then off to the nursery to see all the children. They all enjoyed their porridge and we took biscuits as an extra treat. They are all so confident and enjoyed performing the songs and dances that they have learned.

We gave every child (84) an item of clothing to take home. After the children left we visited the new carer for Baby to get an update on her and also on "A" who is staying there for a few days. All is well in their home and both are receiving treatment administered by the carer. They are both receiving local herbal treatment as well as hospital medication.



Back to the nursery to have a meeting with all the staff. They are very excited to hear about the extension to the education programme. Managed to finish the meeting in one and a half hours. Following this we met with the builder on site and confirmed some plans to commence work. We are hoping the land can be cleared tomorrow. Lawrence the builder said "if you give me a deposit I can buy a new shovel and start work" and he wasn't joking.

Finally we visited "S" and family and took them a bag of potatoes to add to their food. We have arranged to pay one month's rent for them as they are behind by 4 months. We want to check with the owner of their room before we decide to pay any more.

Water has just arrived and we are fighting over the bowl!! Geoff won and is washing first. Hope you are all keeping well.

CARING FOR CHILDREN IN JESUS' NAME



Had a very long and tiring day today but the sun was shining so we achieved a great deal.

Started by meeting with the builder again to finalise the plans and costs. Then had a general BOHCM finance meeting with Ben.

Set off to visit a young mum and baby we support, they live far and on the way we drove past a mother with her two children that we used to support. She became mentally unwell and disappeared 5 months ago. She had walked miles with the two children today to try and locate us. Isn't God good as he enabled our paths to cross in the most unlikely place.

Finished our planned home visit and arranged to meet the lady later in the day to assess her in her new home. Visited the last of our sponsored children as she lives with a grandmother who cannot walk far and therefore unable to come to distribution points.

Went to the nursery to see the initial ground marking work, readjusted the site plan and briefly called into the CV. Then set off to take the lady and her children to her home. It was miles away and on the most awful roads. Even Ben and Doreen had never been there but it is still in Rukungiri District. It turned out she lives in one room with a shared outside kitchen and latrine. She pays a small rent there. Gave her some food and agreed to reregister her if she moves closer to Kebisoni as we need to be able to monitor her and it is impossible from where she lives.

Returned to the HRS and stopped briefly to visit "S" and family and top up their food.

Ben's dad has been taken into intensive care in Mulago hospital in Kampala so he is naturally very worried. Please keep the family in your prayers.

CARING FOR CHILDREN IN JESUS' NAME



Heavy rain this morning but managed to buy iron sheets for a sponsored child's kitchen roof after going to the bank!!!

Delivered them to his home and checked progress of their kitchen. Visited a secondary school to pay fees for two of our children.

Whilst there another sponsored boy came by. He had been looking for work digging with his guardian as they needed food. We have now planned to take him to a local school tomorrow and enrol him so that they can help us monitor him as his guardian is unwell and mentally unstable. He must have a very difficult life.

Visited the nursery site to see the progress of the foundations being dug for the new classrooms. Then had a nursery finance meeting with Respa our senior teacher.

Off to pick up the com. Dev. Officer, the rain was threatening and we decided to take a chance and go to the child's home as planned, we knew she was being neglected. It was a very tricky drive but God in His goodness held off the rain. The roads there are so steep and narrow that you do hold your breath more than once. Parked the truck and climbed up to the home. We managed to secure the child and bring her to the CV. Just as we left the home the rain came down with such force. The drive back was slow but manageable with the four wheel drive engaged the whole time.

The little girl was greeted by the House mothers and aunt and welcomed into the family by the children?

Visited baby as we heard she had not slept all night. She looked more settled and we are grateful to the lady called Peace who is caring for her. Checked on the site again as the Lorries carrying bricks were sliding around and digging up our lovely nursery compound. Decided not to watch!!!

Returned home wet, cold and muddy but very happy that the little girl was now safe and other activities had been successful.

Very glad to get into our bowl of hot water (not that we fit).

CARING FOR CHILDREN IN JESUS' NAME



started the day with a frog in the bed!!! Couldn't believe my eyes, I thought of kissing it to see if it turned into a prince. Geoff was the hero and chased it out of the room. We are only willing to share our bowl with each other. Nice warm sunshine today, so travelling was easier.

Went to the bank to get more funds for the builder as he has located a good supply of quality bricks which we will need for the classrooms.

Met the carpenter and took him to the CV as he is going to make our last few bunk beds. Also visited Karire School to take a sponsored boy there. They agreed to enrol him but even though he is ten he will go into P1. The headmaster agreed to send someone to order a school uniform and sweater for him which we paid for. We are hopeful that he will now attend school and at least have some other company rather than be with his mentally ill guardian all the time. Our other children will let us know if he attends regularly.

Checked on the foundation trenches for the school and they are doing well. Visited Kahengye School to drop off the letters to the head mistress from St. John's in Enfield.

The little girl is doing well at the CV she went to nursery with the others today. She came flying down the hill from nursery to the CV and said she loves the place and is so happy. How great is that!!

Went to visit another sponsored child as the sponsor had paid for a water tank for them. It's really great and the grandparents will now use rain water stored next to their home.

Onto to another home visit to check on a child that was recently registered. Gave out clothing to her neighbour's children of which there were many.

4th continued >>

CARING FOR CHILDREN IN JESUS' NAME

Went to visit "S" and family the mother can now stand up for short periods. The oldest boy was cooking the supper. Things are looking brighter. We told him to walk over to meet us at the RSH so we could find a coat for him as he is frequently wet through. We gave him tea and bread and then his younger brother arrived. More tea and bread and bananas. They loved it and said whenever they see us coming they praise God for helping them. Gave them clothes and some more beans and off they went smiling happily.

It is now 6:10 pm and time for our hot bowl.



A hot sunny day today, but sadly when Ben arrived he had news from his brothers that he must go to Kampala as his father is seriously ill and may only live for a few hours. He has taken the coach to Kampala. He was so distressed and just praying he would make the journey in time.

Visited a sponsored child to see the kitchen that the sponsor had helped them build. We took the boy into town to buy another mattress as his one had disintegrated, not surprisingly as more than one child sleeps on it. The family were extremely happy with their kitchen which has helped to improve all the home conditions.

Visited four new families and three met our criteria and were all living in very poor conditions. We registered the three families today.

Now back at the HRS and going to have tea and snack. It's just gone 5 pm so no more work today.

Just as a thought we do need some more latrines which are so essential to health. They are £100 and would make a good gift for someone as they will get to see the final photo of their latrine.

We set up the water filter at the CV yesterday and if this goes well it may be another Alternative Gift Card idea. It cost £55 approx. to buy complete with bucket.

CARING FOR CHILDREN IN JESUS' NAME



Went to the Children's Village and we all walked to Kahengye church together with the House Mothers.

Had a great time and the reading was from 1 Peter chapter five verse one onwards.

They gave thanks for BOHCM and were so grateful for the windows that were donated by people in Enfield. They said they had lunch for us and then everyone came and put a food gift at the front of the church. There were loads of avocado's, eggs, pineapples, bananas and paw paw. We had to bring the truck to the church to load it all into the back to take it up the hill.

We spoke to the congregation about many things and said we are always looking for capable and trustworthy foster careers to partner with us. A lady came forward after the service and we are visiting her home tomorrow to see if she can manage a child. Another lady came forward later but we declined as she has seven children in her home and we need to ensure our placements are appropriate.

Had lunch with the children and invited Peace the foster carer with baby and "A". The baby is slowly improving and "A" leg has started to dry and look less inflamed. Two of the boys at the CV are going with House Mother Beatrice tomorrow to Mbarara as they have a problem with inflamed eyes and the eye specialist is based there.

Visited the nursery site and they have started laying the bricks. Finished the day by visiting "S" and her siblings. The mother managed to stand up when we arrived and the children were washing their clothes and doing homework all outside their little room. We asked what they were having for supper and they had run out of food. We took two of them to town to buy some Posho and bread. We also bought them some school books as they hope to go back to school tomorrow.

6th continued >>

CARING FOR CHILDREN IN JESUS' NAME

Ben's dad is still alive but they know he won't recover and he is not recognising the family. Ben is on his way back from Kampala. Bob our driver has been in hospital with Malaria and Typhoid for four days. He has recovered now and will join us here on Thursday. That's it for now, hot water has arrived, time to wash the red dust off and relax for the evening.



Took the carpenter to buy some ply wood for the CV as we decided to put it under each mattress on the bunk beds to prevent the mattresses from pushing through the slats.

Checked on the building work which is going extremely well. Then rather a boring but necessary time preparing the monthly financial reports with Ben.

Drove to a sponsored child's house to discuss the sponsor's gift to them and decide what they needed most. Then visited a woman who has requested to be a foster guardian. We assessed her home, motives, capability etc and were pleased to say that she will be a foster carer for BOHCM. Gave out lots of clothes to some very pleased children and guardians.

Arrived back at 6.15pm for a cup of tea and our hot bowl

Ben said that his father has prostate cancer and he only has a short time to live as they cannot treat him. He is still in intensive care and they are keeping him comfortable. Please continue to pray for the family, they all met together in Kampala at the weekend and had time of fellowship and prayer.

CARING FOR CHILDREN IN JESUS' NAME



Guess what we did first thing this morning? Right we went to the bank. The builder needed some more money. Tomorrow is Independence Day and the president is coming to Rukungiri. There are soldiers everywhere, they are very friendly. He will be in the stadium for the celebrations but we are going to the CV to have tea with the children. We went shopping today as they are all closed tomorrow and bought goodies plus an iced celebration cake. If it is sunny we will eat in the garden and have games, dancing etc.

The judge is still resident here and he remains very jolly and friendly. He becomes even more so when he takes his evening medicine as he calls it (whiskey). His wife has now joined him. It's hard to get used to an armed guard around all the time but he goes everywhere with the judge. We now know his name is Joseph and he is fondly called Jolly Judge Joseph.

Went to the BOHCM office to discuss each sponsored child and make plans for any required actions. This took several hours as there are 114 children to discuss. Then onto the CV for a meeting with the House Mothers and Aunt. We were able to discuss many issues and ways to resolve them (hopefully).

Finally we visited the "S" and family. They were cooking the last of their beans. We gave them some vegetables and paw paw and the greatly sought after biscuits and a little money to buy Posho.

Ben's family are currently talking to the doctors about their father as the doctors have put him on a life support machine which they don't agree with as they know he is unconscious with no possibility of recovering. Also they have to pay each day for this care which is not benefitting their father and it is really straining the whole family.

Today was very sunny and we are hoping for a dry day tomorrow.

Building work is going well and they have some Uganda scaffolding round it. Who needs Health & Safety?

CARING FOR CHILDREN IN JESUS' NAME



A very noisy and busy start to the day with streams of people walking towards Rukungiri to get to the stadium. Soldiers everywhere and parking not available in the town. Many dignitaries flying past on the roads with blue lights flashing forcing everyone off the road. No fuel available so we are glad we bought ours yesterday.

First stop was a visit to a sponsored child as we had heard he was unwell and not at school. The visit was long and extremely complicated and we decided to take the boy with us to our foster carer Peace so that he can go for medical treatment tomorrow with Doreen our Support officer. We felt uneasy leaving him with his grandmother as she was not recognising that he is ill.

On to another sponsored child to arrange a latrine to be built and called in to one of our secondary students to check on her and give her the school fees top up.

Visited Peace to thank her for caring for "A" and to request she looks after our boy for us for a few days. She agreed as "A" was leaving and we drove her home, she was sad to leave her foster carer but pleased to see her sister. "A" legs have improved but she needs regular monitoring for hygiene purposes. Her skin biopsy is arranged for the 17th Oct.

Bought some mattresses for children and finally arrived at the CV where the lovely House Mothers had prepared the celebration tea. 31 of us ate together and devoured a mountain of jam sandwiches, eggs, nuts, and biscuits. Alvin and Thomas then cut the special cake and we all enjoyed it. This was followed by lots of singing and dancing and it was a lovely time.

Bobs daughter Mary has Malaria so he will come here on Friday instead of tomorrow.

CARING FOR CHILDREN IN JESUS' NAME



Started the day by finalising the itinerary with Ben. It seems that every time we almost finish our planned work we pick up more issues and families in need.

Doreen took the boy we mentioned yesterday to a clinic in town. He had a chest X - ray and all was okay. They have given him tablets for pain. He is free from infection and it is likely that he has bruised muscles. Great relief to know he will be okay.

Went through all the children's files at the village and listed any missing information that needs to be on the files. We can now work on getting these up to date. We met with the nursery teachers, Ben and Doreen to discuss how Primary one and two should run, fees, school hours, bursaries etc.

Went to visit a family where there is a mum and dad and three children. They are extremely poor and the dad has gone to Kampala to try and earn some money. They had no food and the mother was trying to buy some Posho on credit. The children sleep on a small pile of rags on the mud floor. We have registered them for temporary support so that we can monitor them and address any immediate issues. We are going back tomorrow with anti - fungal cream, detox soap for their heads and a mattress and blanket. It feels as if we are running out of time to do everything and we want to keep Saturday free to visit nearby Lake Edward.

We visited "S" and have registered them also for temporary support. The mother called Ester is getting stronger and she is hopeful that given time she can resume trying to earn some money. Went to the shop and bought them more food and some bread. When we first arrived all the children except the toddler were at school which is a big improvement. We are planning to give them a treat and take them to Lake Edward with us on Saturday. Hope the rain holds off as currently there is a torrential downpour.

Very quiet here now that everyone has left after the Independence Day Celebrations, apart from the rain on the tin roof it is quite peaceful.

CARING FOR CHILDREN IN JESUS' NAME



Started the day by going to the bank for the last time, Hooray to that. Bought a mattress for the family we are going back to today. Also bought a large sheet of plastic as the children still need the mattress covered!!

Visited Karire School to discuss the issues with the headmaster regarding the sponsored child that we have placed in short term foster care. Made a plan to support his return home and to school. Ben and Doreen will need to do extra monitoring to ensure the child is safe.

Drove to the children's village to sit quietly and have a meeting with Ben to discuss many BOHCM issues and his role. We had lots of men's tops and decided to give them to the builders in appreciation for their hard work on the classrooms. We visited them during their lunch break and there was much laughter and banter and they were very pleased with their gifts. We gave the lady brick layer a blouse which everyone thought was very funny, not sure why!!

Spent an hour talking with the boy who is in foster care and he is aware that he will return home on Sunday and back to school on Monday. By then he will have finished most of his medication.

Met with Doreen to confirm her post and discuss her role in general. Then visited the family with the mattress and a sheet, plus the detox soap and anti - fungal cream. Doreen will now monitor them closely to advise and support the mother on the care of her children. She was very happy with the support.

Finally we visited our sponsored boy but he was still at school even though it was 6 pm. His aunt was there so we left him a t - shirt and other items for the family.

Bob is on his way here but won't arrive until 9pm tonight. It will be great to see him

This visit has been so useful in building up our relationship with Ben and Doreen and Ben has said that he has learnt a lot and appreciated all the time we were able to spend with him. We have achieved many things through God's Grace and feel comfortable to leave and come home soon.

CARING FOR CHILDREN IN JESUS' NAME



Last full day in Rukungiri - had a lovely day starting with breakfast with "S" and siblings. Bob arrived last night and we set off for Lake Edward after breakfast. It was quite a tricky drive (what's new?) and fortunately the sun came out as we arrived at the fishing village. The land is flooded there so we had to get into a small fishing boat to go to the edge of the lake. The children thought that was great. They saw some hippos, deer, monitor lizard, buffalo and a baboon.

On the way home the road had become very slippery as it had rained in some places. Unfortunately we took a wrong track and ended up on a terrible impassable road and slipped sideways in to a ditch. Two hours later the local people had helped dig us out and we set off again leaving them with bags of clothes and a financial gift to share.

Eventually we arrived back at the HRS rather damp and muddy, the children went safely home with a bag of food and lots to tell their mum, we will see them for the final time tomorrow.

Had dinner with Ben, his young son and wife and of course Bob and we are now packing our bags ready to leave tomorrow.



CARING FOR CHILDREN IN JESUS' NAME



"S" and her siblings joined us for our last breakfast, gave them some more clothes and reassured them that Ben and Doreen will be visiting them. Visited the CV to say a final goodbye to everyone, checked on building work, distributed last of the clothes and set off for Kampala (7 hours drive) to stay one night.



Early morning drive to Entebbe airport on lovely empty roads. Said goodbye to Bob which is always sad, time for a cup of tea and toast and chance to reflect on the month's work, thank you for all your prayers, encouragement and support you really do help to change children's lives for the better. We should arrive at Heathrow by 4pm today, back to fighting over the bathroom.

God bless you all
Geoff & Barbara

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