

Bridging the Gap

Dear Friends

Welcome to the first BOHCM newsletter of 2015 and we extend a very big thank you for your generous prayerful and financial support over the past year.



Holiday Bible Club

Helping faith grow

On arrival we thanked God for a warm dry, sunny afternoon and the enthusiasm of 600 children as they gathered at the Bible Based Holiday club (BBHC). Each group eagerly waited to present their songs, dances and drama, a very exciting, lively and colourful experience for the UK team. Later we visited their classrooms where the children confidently answered questions on personal hygiene, home and health care and the Bible stories they had heard. Dozens of parents sent messages requesting that the club continues to run as they are seeing a very positive change in their children.



Education is vital

Because of your faithful support a newly built Primary 3 classroom was opened in February

2015 enabling us to reach out to another 40 children, thus bringing our current registration to 230. Teachers were interviewed and our first male teacher appointed, desks were made by a local carpenter, more plates, cups and sacks of food were purchased to ensure the children receive a free lunch from the first day of term.

Our three Nursery classes and Primary 1 & 2 were full before the term began and requests for places

continued to pour in. The parents and guardians requested a meeting to express their thanks and joy that their children are receiving good quality education and many gave heart-warming testimonies and are encouraged to know that their children now have a bright future. At BOHCM we are aware how education impacts a child's life and access to education can significantly improve their chance of gaining employment in the future.

Empowered by employment

We are increasingly seeing the great impact that regular employment has on a person's ability to care for their family. Nineteen people including cleaners, cooks, teachers and House Mothers are benefitting from regular work with BOHCM. Others such as builders, carpenters and the water engineer are employed as needed. People not only receive a wage they gain dignity and self-reliance and are able to better provide for their families.

Sporting start

Following on from the very successful Football & Netball tournament last year, two youth workers are now running a weekly group where the children can have fun in a safe environment. They participate in structured sports, social interaction and discussions on topics such as health issues. The current challenge is how to select the most vulnerable children for this programme and also keep the attendance numbers to a manageable level.

Sponsorship works

Our Child Sponsorship Scheme now supports 147 children. Currently four of these children do not have



Meeting the sponsored children

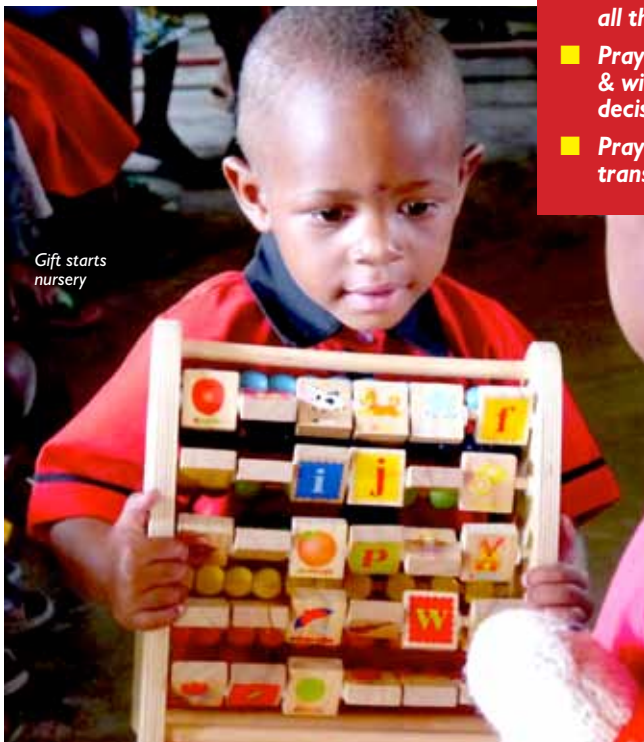
“...we were delighted to officially hand over the 20th completed Protected Spring to a very appreciative community.”

a sponsor, in February we visited them in their homes and their situations are desperate. Each family was given urgent assistance and now they need regular support through sponsorship of £12 per month. It may be hard to do, but just imagine your child or grandchild going to sleep hungry covered by a few rags not knowing when they will next eat. For the price of a cup of coffee per week a child's life can be transformed. If you have room for a child in your life please contact us for more information.

We are delighted to report that fourteen of the sponsored children have completed Primary education and now attend Secondary School. This fact alone shows that “Sponsorship Works”.

Children belong in families

The children at the BOHCM Children's Village continue to thrive and are as noisy and energetic as ever. Gift, the youngest has now started nursery and had to be persuaded to remove her precious uniform before going to bed. A new girl called Penelope was welcomed into the family and despite a period of ill health last year Siven received



Gift starts nursery

Prayer points

- Give thanks for the Primary School expansion
- Give thanks for all the staff
- Pray for guidance & wisdom in all decisions
- Pray we can transform more lives



Having fun at the Children's Village

good grades and has returned to his much loved Boarding School to start his second year.

Clean water saves lives

People need access to clean water for drinking, cooking and cleaning and we were delighted to officially hand over the 20th completed Protected Spring to a very appreciative community. Another dirty pond was assessed by our water engineer and work started on this project whilst we were in Uganda. We have since heard that the work is finished and this Protected Spring is also providing daily clean water for over 200 people.

News

Many families live in such poor circumstances that following an assessment at their home we may agree some “Additional Support”. Since the last Newsletter we have built homes for four families, re-roofed two severely leaking homes, four latrines have been built plus one kitchen. Ten mattresses and blankets were distributed along with six goats and a pig. We also continue to provide Bibles to families that cannot afford to buy their own.

We are sure you will agree that 2015 has started well, but none of this would be possible without our faithful God and the wonderful support from the friends of BOHCM, thank you once again for transforming the lives of so many children and their families.

Prov: 16 v 9
In his heart a man plans his course,
but the LORD determines his steps.

