

# Bridging the Gap

## Dear Friends

A very warm welcome to the Autumn edition of "Bridging the Gap". Thanks to your overwhelming generosity, *Bridge of Hope Children's Ministry (BOHCM)* has been able to show God's love in action by supporting hundreds of children and their Care-givers through an extended dry season and subsequent food shortage.

## Water crisis

In our July edition we wrote about the lack of rain and the food crisis. The rainy seasons in Uganda have shortened and the water crisis in many areas, including Rukungiri, continued right into October. Crops dried up, animals were dying as it became more difficult to find sufficient grazing and people lacked drinking water. Ben, the BOHCM Manager in Uganda, worked tirelessly to find water sources to meet the needs of the children in our care.

Finally, the rains came and filled the Rain Water Harvesters at our School and Children's Village. People have replanted their crops but it will be months before they are ready for harvesting, so food remains very expensive. Unsurprisingly it is the poorest people that are suffering and BOHCM became a lifeline to many hungry children.



Malnourished child



## Sponsored children's project

Historically, in September all sponsored children received an extra food gift from their sponsor as well as their monthly support. However, due to the recent food shortage BOHCM extended this programme by providing extra food during June, July & August to help families survive this crisis. Several other desperate families with malnourished children also sought our support and were included in this urgent food distribution. Care-givers explained that looking for food to feed their families steals the joy from their lives and leaves them exhausted and terrified as they helplessly watch malnutrition sap the life from their hungry children.

## Bridge of Hope school

In January 2018 interviews will take place for another Primary School Teacher and our long awaited Primary 6 Class will commence at the start of the academic year. As the children graduate through the school we will also be welcoming many new Nursery Children into the "Baby Class". Anticipating this growth in numbers, we were blessed to be able to construct a brick built kitchen with three large stoves and



New kitchen and stoves



enough space to prepare daily meals for all the children, whilst also ensuring our cooks have a safe and well ventilated place to work.

### Community building projects

Since our July Newsletter, a widow caring for her several small children and an orphaned boy has been provided with a new roof and for the first time in years the family now have a safe and dry home to live in.



Collapsing house

We also constructed a house for a desperate grandmother and her orphaned grandchildren as their house had



House under construction

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Coffee Morning with Bring & Buy and Clothing Collection on Saturday November 11<sup>th</sup> from 10 am until noon. Full details are on the website.

collapsed. More latrines and a kitchen have been built for other vulnerable families.

These building projects are so important that we are currently constructing a house for another elderly widow who is looking after three orphaned grandchildren (see pictures). Also, two more families will soon have a latrine providing them with improved hygiene, privacy, dignity and safety.

### Alternative gift cards

Why not make Christmas special and buy your loved one a gift card that will bless and support some of the poorest children in Uganda. We have a range of cards available to support school lunches, educational bursaries, school uniforms, a bag of essential food for a family or even build a latrine.

For more information and a list of cards available please email us on [info@bohcm.org](mailto:info@bohcm.org) or call **01992 712427**.

### In memory of Tony Wilson

We are greatly saddened to share the news that Tony Wilson, a dear friend and enthusiastic Advocate for BOHCM, recently passed away. Tony became an Advocate in 2009 following the first of his three visits to Uganda. Tony will be remembered as a friendly, compassionate and genuine person who will be greatly missed by so many people. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Pamela & their families.

### Prayer points

- Give thanks for the life of Tony Wilson
- Give thanks for the rain
- Pray that the new crops will grow
- Pray that the Teachers' interviews are successful

Deuteronomy 31:6  
Be strong and courageous.  
Do not be afraid... for the LORD your God goes with you: he will never leave you nor forsake you.

