

Bridging the Gap

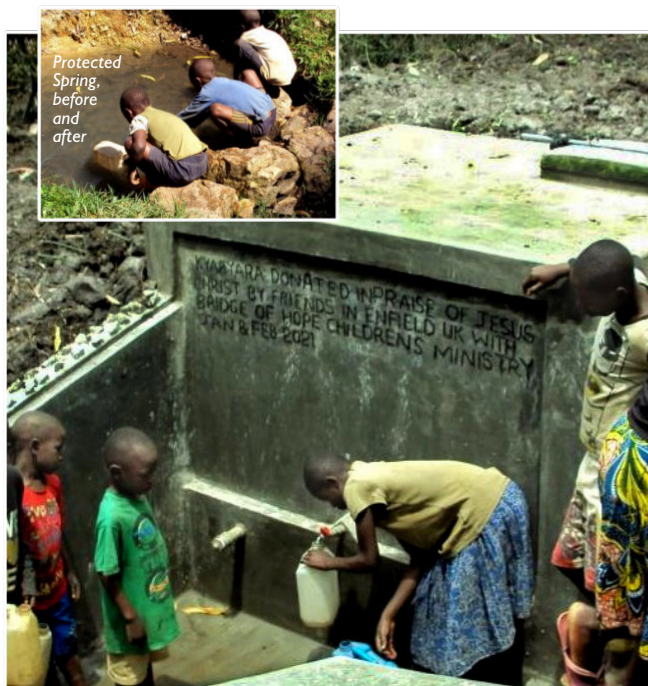
Dear Friends

We know that 2020 and the start of this New Year have been very challenging for so many of us. Yet in the midst of this pandemic and despite the pain and disruption to so many lives, you have continued to support the work of BOHCM by your prayers, encouragement and generous giving. We sincerely thank you and truly appreciate your steadfast commitment to changing the lives of so many children and their families.



LOVE & JOY despite the pandemic

We are thrilled to announce that in the past few months three weddings have taken place of the BOHCM staff. In Uganda, weddings are traditionally a family and community affair with hundreds of people attending the event. Currently due to the pandemic, numbers at weddings are to be kept very small but can still take place in church followed by a simple celebration. We were delighted to receive photos of the three couples and wish them all the best for a strong and happy marriage.



Clean Water Saves Lives

We give thanks to God that yet again BOHCM has been able to arrange the construction of another Protected Spring, thus ensuring that up to two hundred people per day can now receive clean water.

Child sponsorship

Across the district of Rukungiri, schools are preparing to open in regulated phases. Children in Primary 4 & 5 will return to school on the 4th April, P6 children are already studying at school as are P7 candidates who are preparing to take their exams at the end of March. All other children will hopefully return to their school on the 4th June. Although it is said that Primary education is free in Government run schools, parents are still required to provide a termly parental contribution, scholastic materials including exercise books, plus the school uniform and sweater for each child. Sponsorship is a true blessing to a family and helps to lift the burden from a child's guardian by enabling the sponsored child to receive a regular education.



Bridge of Hope nursery and primary school

Currently our Primary 7 candidates and teachers are working hard and putting in extra hours of study to prepare for the exams scheduled for the end of March. Our P6 children are also facing the challenge of trying to catch up with so many hours of lost study during the Lockdown. They are required to reach a certain standard in order to progress to P7 in due course. These children are pleased to be back at school and benefit further from a daily free school lunch. We are looking forward to hearing more about the phased return to school for the other children.



Vocational Training

Students have now been allowed to commence or return to their training placements. Currently we are supporting twelve young people to learn practical skills such as carpentry, tailoring, hairdressing and craft making, whilst a further two students are training as primary or nursery teachers.

Bridge of Hope Children's Village

Our access road from the main highway to the BOHCM CV has become so worn with the rains that it has become a



danger to our staff and anyone visiting there in a vehicle. Our manager Ben in Uganda is in the process of arranging for repairs to the road and we hope this work can commence very soon. We have also made improvements to the solar lighting in the two homes to ensure that safe lighting is available whenever needed. Paraffin lamps and candles are a common but risky source of lighting in Uganda and our maintenance of the solar lighting prevents the use of such items. Two of the children have spent several days in hospital since our last newsletter to monitor unexplained high temperatures but we thank God that they recovered and are now safely home.

News

Building Projects 2021 –

So far this year BOHCM has provided two more families with a latrine and together with the local community assisted an elderly woman to construct a kitchen.



Vaccination – Uganda has to date received 964,000 doses of Covid 19 vaccine; the latest donation was given by the Indian Government and consisted of 100,000 doses. Health care workers and teachers are expected to be the first to receive the vaccination followed by the elderly population.

Alternative Gift Cards

Thank you to everyone who bought Alternative Gift Cards for Christmas. This enabled us to provide over £2,000 of extra support to families in need. For a full range of available cards including Easter cards or for more information please email info@bohcm.org or ring **Monica Wood** on **020 8363 4555**.

We thank God once again for your support, we couldn't do this without you.

Prayer points

- Give thanks that schools and colleges can plan to reopen
- Give thanks for the donations of the Covid 19 vaccine
- Give thanks for the dedicated staff in Uganda
- Pray that it will soon be possible to travel to Uganda and resume our mission trips

Colossians 3:17

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

