



THE VIEW

Christian Partners in Africa | Spring 2017

**THE FACE
IN THE
PLACE**

**LIFE
ON THE
MARGINS**

**CITY
OF
REFUGE**

**TOGETHER
WE ARE
STRONGER**

CPA News



Harvest Supper

Back in November, our friend Sue Quincey and her husband, CPA Director Paul, gathered a merry band of volunteers and laid on an amazing Harvest Supper. It was a sell-out success with delicious food, raffle, live music and a quiz! Much fun was had by the nearly 100 guests and Paul and Sue and their team raised £1,037 for the Ethiopia Famine Relief fund. What a brilliant night!



'Queen of Katwe'

Recently Julius, the Director at Komamboga Children's Home, took the children to a screening of the Disney film 'Queen of Katwe' – It is set in Uganda and tells the true story of a young girl's journey from the slums of Kampala to becoming a chess master. The children loved the film and have been inspired to take up chess!

New Social Workers for St Paul's, Uganda

A warm welcome to Midred and Nelson, the two new social workers at St Paul's School. We look forward to working with them in the coming months.

We wish Martin and Shivan the very best for the future.



The Face in the Place

Komamboga Children's Home, Uganda
Fairy Trubish



"Living at the Home was an amazing experience. Of course not all rosy, but the best moments outweigh the bumpy ones. We were children from different backgrounds and cultures but we all lived happily as one, seeing each other as brothers and sisters, even though we were not biologically related. Even after going our separate ways we still live like that today. We learnt how to put God first while growing up because fellowship was a daily thing and it was a must to gather for prayers.

We had amazing aunties who looked after us and disciplined us, which has helped us in our old ages.

We were shown so much love from CPA; they'd visit and carry us like they were our real parents. While they were around they would take us to school and we would play games. They showed us so much love that

we sometimes forgot we were orphans.

They loved us like we were their own. I personally have never gone a Christmas or birthday without a present from my CPA family.

We had a beautiful garden where we would dig and grow food.

Overall growing up at the Home was a blessing because I was able to have a big family to always call my own

and to have so much that I probably would never have had. I have two biological sisters and two brothers who all grew up in the Home – and now, two nephews and two nieces. My biggest sister Aissata (Asha) now lives in Congo and is working as a lawyer; I live with my big brother Bob, who works in a bank; Agasha works with insurance and Yan is an artist.

When it was time for my older sisters and brothers to move out, they took me with them, although I still stayed under the care of the Home to continue with school and university. Just recently I have qualified, being the last one among the children of my time.

I studied travel and tourism so currently I'm looking for a job. I do have a small business selling men's clothes, as I learnt how to tailor. However, my dream is to own a travel agency and have a family and children of my own.

All in all I am grateful to God for giving me such an opportunity to be taken care of by such amazing and selfless people. It wasn't all perfect; nothing in life is perfect, but I am grateful and will forever be grateful to God and CPA."

Fairy was one of the first children that Chris and Rosey met on their very first trip to Uganda. She wasn't expected to live beyond the age of two. She is now 24 years old.

'City of Refuge' Afar Girls' Education Project, Ethiopia

Rosey Shelbourne



Many of the 1.4 million people of the Afar region of Ethiopia have traditionally been nomadic, moving across a vast area of 270,000sq km with their cattle to find suitable grazing areas.

Changing weather patterns and lack of sufficient grazing have made it increasingly difficult for the Afar to continue their old ways and many are having to find established places to live.

The right to an education is embedded in the UN Convention of Child's Rights. The Ethiopian Government is trying to promote education amongst the Afar, where education levels have historically been very low, especially among girls. Afar girls are often viewed as a commodity, expected to help at home, look after cattle, and despite it being illegal under the age of 15, to get married as young as 20 years old. They are often subject to traditional practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM), which reinforces their subservient role in society. This coupled with frequent droughts, lack of schools and tuition costs, discourages many Afar families from allowing girls to go to school.

During 2016 CPA paid for 40 Afar girls to receive an education at the first senior school in the Afar region. 25

of them boarded under the care of Roman, a mentor and mother figure, who ensured they were cared for and supervised their homework. She also acted as a protector in case of attempted kidnap or other types of abuse.

Roman said, "I have been working as coordinator of Afar girls boarding since 2013. The Afar community have a low attitude towards girl's education. Since 2013, 39 girls have taken the national exam and joined preparatory and universities. It is really a great achievement if we are talking about the Afar pastoral community. One thing that astonished me is the behavioural change of the girls. When they first joined I was struggling to manage their conduct, since they are nomads, but with a lot of counselling and praying, being a friend to them and with a mentoring programme, they are now totally different."

All the girls in Grade 10 who sat exams passed with the best ever results registered in the District. They have now gone to a nearby town for their final two years and another group of girls has moved into the boarding house.

“ KOYNA...

"I am now 20 years old. Four years ago, I was pushed to marry according to our culture, that is arranged marriage. By default I am supposed to be the wife of my cousin. But I was eager to continue my education.

While I was struggling with the culture, I heard about VWDO girls boarding and when I told my life story they did not hesitate to accept me. Now I am grade 10 and ready to take the national exam. The girls' boarding for me is 'the city of refuge' that protects me from harmful traditional practices and provides me with everything that I need to continue my education. I would like to say thank you for the facility to move me into my dream."



“ NEJAT...

I am 22 years old. I joined Afar girls boarding last year after four years drop out of school because of my family's poverty. Now my academic performance is totally changed; the reason is I do not have to worry about clothes, uniform, food, sanitary napkins and stationery materials. On top of that I have benefit of tutorial classes. I am grade 10 now and am ready to take the national exam. I would like to thank Roman, as it would have been difficult to achieve this success without her help."

'The Beckley Tales' Uganda



Tim Beckley



'At the end of October 2016, Pat and I made a return visit to St Paul's Community School in Rukungiri. It was Pat's third visit to Uganda and my second trip to this beautiful area in the South West of the country.'

'On the first day I accompanied Rosey and Den from CPA to Komamboga Children's Home, where we played some energetic games with the children in the garden. The caring and calm atmosphere of Komamboga and the obviously happy and flourishing youngsters there was really great to see and experience.'

'On Sunday, Stephen transported us to Rukungiri. His mini-bus was soon crammed with the four of us, our cases and our bags that were full of art and craft materials and other equipment,

which we would leave at St Paul's. We took the main highway linking Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya, crossing from the northern to the southern hemisphere. Many overflowing, long distance buses passed us at breakneck speeds with names such as 'God's True Pilgrims', painted on them. The road ran close to Lake Victoria, with lots of roadside traders trying to sell fish caught from the lake.'

'We were welcomed so warmly by all of the school's staff and pupils and joined in the lively music and prayers at their assembly. It was good to meet our friends Moses, the School Director and Justus, the Head teacher of St Paul's School again. During the day Rosey and Den ran various training workshops for the teachers whilst Pat and I spent some excellent

time with the staff and children in the Nursery School.'

'While Pat led training sessions with the nursery teachers and carers, Stephen, our wonderful local driver, and I went to the market to buy wood; Stephen interpreting and haggling. We took it back to the Nursery and made a child sized market stall so the children could play shops, count money, read shopping lists and buy items.'



'We visited an inspiring local community centre and church congregation, also meeting families of children attending St Paul's. The people were so pleased to see us. It was overwhelming. The work done by St Paul's and CPA is crucial in the successful development of all the children.'

'On our return to Kampala we had dinner with lecturers and researchers from Makerere and Kyambogo universities in Kampala. Pat, who works at Bishop

Grosseteste University Lincoln, was discussing a potential joint research project with them, of which CPA would be a part.

Hopefully the outcome of this collaboration could influence the provision of education in the wider international community. We had a wonderful evening discussing educational provision in Uganda and the role that St Paul's could take in this.

Thanks to all at CPA for their support and for encouraging the

research partnerships to further promote Uganda's educational opportunities for young children.'

It was a hugely memorable trip and we hope to make a return visit to Uganda and St Paul's very soon.



Mukono Microfinance Initiative, Uganda

Rosey Shelbourne

In August 2015 Five Talents and CPA agreed to assist the Mukono Anglican Diocese start up a new branch of its microfinance initiative.

Bishop James, founder of the initiative, is dynamic, forward thinking and full of life. His vision is to help people improve their lives by encouraging them to help themselves. This fledgling branch simultaneously



supports individuals, groups and larger development projects within the Diocese. It has now become operationally sustainable, giving over 226 individuals, groups and organisations access to finance.

Importantly CPA did not provide any direct capital for the new branch; that has come entirely from the people themselves.

Ours has been a supporting role, providing finance to cover office salaries, rent and training costs, allowing the drive for change to come from the community itself. In fact, members can't borrow until they have accumulated some savings, so that everyone contributes. Some of the poorest members, generally women, join in groups to pool funds. Stephen, a farmer who grows passion fruit and vegetables says, "I used to spend all my excess money, but now I run to the SACCO to save it."

People who find themselves ensnared in the cycle of poverty would give anything to improve their lives. Like all of us they want the basics in life; to be able to feed and provide for their

families, send their children to school and to be able to pay medical costs if they fall ill. For families who find themselves trapped, this microfinance scheme opens a door of opportunity, to get people up on their feet. Of course, it's not easy and requires a lot of effort. There are downs as well as ups but the scheme gives families the opportunity to make some changes for the better and a foundation on which to build and hopefully thrive. The training provides support and guidance, giving people focus and ownership. The dignity and enthusiasm that comes with that have a knock-on effect in the community, showing that change is possible and inspiring others to do likewise.



DESTINY PRIMARY SCHOOL

The school is in a very remote area and opened in response to the need of the poorest families who couldn't afford transport costs to send their children to the nearest Government schools. It is very basic; the earth walls of the three classrooms only reach to hip height leaving a gap between the mud bricks and the tin roof. The tin roof was built using a loan (£270) and has already been repaid using the school fees. The school can now operate all year round and the headmaster hopes to borrow a second loan to finish construction. The knock-on effect of this loan has been to directly benefit an extra 200 children and families.

WOMEN'S GROUP

Seven farmers working together make floor mats to sell. They meet weekly to save, making deposits monthly. Most spent their first loan (£35 - £114) on school fees and their businesses and their second loans to buy more land and materials to make more mats. One woman used her loan to re-roof her deceased son's home, so she could rent it out, using the income for her orphan grandchildren's schooling. The group wrote their own constitution saying that women must commit to: HIV testing; access to family planning;

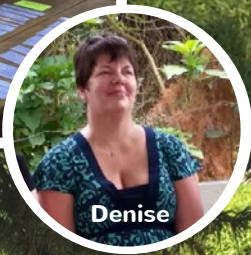


educating their children; Bible teaching; and improving their homes. They said they are grateful because the SACCO accepts them as they are, listens and gives advice.



MIDWIFERY SCHOOL (DIOCESAN PROJECT)

Its aim is to train girls who have dropped out of school at Senior 4 (aged 16) and in so doing to help meet a shortage of nurses and midwives. They used their loan for a new dormitory to enable 64 extra students to join the school. The loan is currently being repaid using the increased fees the school can now generate.



Denise



St Paul's School



Julius, Juliet, Cate and Harriet at KCH

SAFETY - FIRST!

Denise Niel

Back in Uganda, Rosey and I are excited to be amongst the familiar sights and smells of Africa.

Up early, waking to a scorching hot day with just the odd wispy cloud in a gorgeous blue sky, we arrive at Komamboga Children's Home in time for chai and tiny sweet bananas. Julius, the director, greets us like long lost sisters, as does Harriet, the senior mother at the Home. We meet the two new aunts, Juliet who has previously worked as a nursing assistant in a local clinic, and Cate, who has worked in a nursery school.

Our task is to run a 'Safeguarding' workshop for the staff at the Home; as a refresher for Julius and Harriet and as an introduction for Juliet and Cate. The undoubted love that this local team has for the children, both present and previous, shows that this truly is a fabulous family home for them all, and keeping these children safe takes high priority.

The workshop is based on the very best guidelines of the United Nations, the Ugandan Government and God's own word. It is fashioned to fit with the local culture and is full of fun activities and discussions.

The team's thirst for knowledge is evident as we

work through the training material. This 'fantastic four', who care for these children on a daily basis, have great wisdom and their ideas and questions come flooding out. Having been hesitant at first, they begin to adapt the training to this family of children.



Maya Angelou

By the end of three intense sessions, we are confident that the team are firmly committed to putting their new ideas into practice, to make this a magnificent and 'safe' place for children. Holding tightly onto their Certificates of Achievement, with big smiles, they bid us a fond farewell!

Later, we travel west for eight hours to Rukungiri. Clearly there are signs of poverty in this small town, but there are also some encouraging new signs of development. St Paul's Community Primary School is no longer the only three-storey building, but it still shines out like a beacon on the outskirts of town.

Our task here is to run refresher workshops for the senior staff of the School and Nursery on 'Safeguarding Children'. The challenges of protecting school pupils are largely countrywide and we discuss and wrangle with some of these issues during the three sessions. What is obvious is the passion of the senior team for the safety of the youngsters in their care, both day pupils and boarders.

We are delighted to welcome two school Board members to the 'Safeguarding Adults at Risk' workshop; a great endorsement of CPA's relationship with the whole school. The aim of the workshop is to help social workers and school staff become fully aware of the effects that abuse can have on vulnerable parents and guardians, within the school community, and in turn on children in their care. We suggest that whilst it isn't their job to 'sort it', they can support families by pointing adults towards those who can help, and in doing so safeguard both the adult and the child at St Paul's.

A fistful of certificates later, we feel a sense of achievement that, as partners, we have been able to help make this school a 'Place of Safety'.



Life on the Margins in Sefi Beret, Ethiopia

Chris Shelbourne

I'm sure you will have seen the consequences of severe drought in the Horn of Africa, South Sudan and parts of Nigeria. Although this didn't hit our national news until March, you may remember from previous articles that this is not something new; severe drought affected many parts of Ethiopia in 2015 resulting in a disastrous harvest for rural communities, including Sefi Beret, where CPA has a long standing relationship.

Thank you to those of you who contributed to CPA's food relief appeal for 770 primary school children in the community. Local government approved the initiative and monitored it, along with a local committee, head teacher and local church representatives. As a result, the worst effects of the crop failure were avoided and many children continued attending school throughout 2016, taking their exams and graduating to the next year group.

In addition, CPA undertook a seed distribution programme to help the 700 poorest households in the community plant seeds for the 2016 harvest. Government officials and local

leaders made sure that this was done fairly and, despite the shortage of rain, most families managed to reap a harvest. The school and families have asked us to pass on their appreciation for helping them in their time of need.

The rains last year were not as good as hoped for, so the community and surrounding area still have on-going challenges of significant food shortages and loss of livestock. We plan to visit in May, but for now, we still have some relief funding earmarked for the feeding programme which can be used to provide food for the school children over the coming months.

All of this makes me realise how precarious life is when living on the margins, where there is no buffer to fall back on and where factors, completely outside of your control, can dominate your life. We have much to be thankful for and in being thankful, let's continue to think and pray for the Sefi Beret community.

Choose Your Challenge

We need your help!

Why not fundraise for CPA this summer? With your help we could provide amazing opportunities for children living in Uganda. There's loads of ways you can raise money to help support projects in Africa

Wish you were here!



Don't forget to give Tim £5 for sponsored hike!



YOU ARE INVITED TO AN...

AFTERNOON TEA PARTY

TO RAISE MONEY FOR CHRISTIAN PARTNERS IN AFRICA

2.00PM ON SATURDAY 12TH JUNE
1 ROSEMARY LANE

- Buy Milk ✓
- Send Mum's card ✓
- Fundraise for CPA
- Wash car this weekend!!



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2013

The Bank
Pay: Christian Partners in Africa
Date: 12th June
Cheque Number: 002319
Sort Code: 40 24 32
Account No: 1659312

Raising just £240 could support a child for a year at Komamboga Children's Home

Decided on your event?

Just give us a call on 01522 544830 or email office@cpafrica.org.uk and we can send lots of resources to support you.

Why not set up a fundraising page on Just Giving or MyDonate and spread the word online!





The Final Word

Together We Are Stronger

Ruth Cook



I don't know about you, but having read through the articles I have been blown away by the success of our African partners over the last few months; the sense of achievement is great and I'm feeling inspired.

I know you probably think I'm biased (and I may be a little) but these real life stories are packed full of **encouragement, support, community, family** and the sense of **walking together**.

Den's article refers to the '**fantastic four**' at Komamboga that are selflessly and successfully running a loving and safe children's home in Uganda. We've heard about the financial success in Mukono, with over 226 individuals having access to financial support: turning their lives around with dignity and optimism; **breaking the cycle of poverty** and claiming a better future for themselves and their families.

Hearing about the '**city of refuge**' that the Afar Girls are experiencing brought a lump to my throat and a swell of pride as I realised that we are making a difference to these amazing young women on the other side of the world. But more than that, I realised that it's about something bigger than you and me; it's about being part of a **united movement of passion**. It begins wherever we find ourselves, living our day-to-day lives, but having a willingness to **seek out the extra-ordinary**.

By working together we can forge a future full of hope and wellbeing, and through encouragement and guidance, we can see our friends and partners flourish.

Together we are stronger.

Ruth



Front Cover: Komamboga Children's Home, Uganda





Back Cover: Sefi Beret, Ethiopia

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