



Christian **Partners** in Africa

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the **View**

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IF WE ARE EVER TO ENJOY
LIFE, NOW IS THE TIME, NOT
TOMORROW OR NEXT YEAR ...
TODAY SHOULD ALWAYS BE
OUR MOST WONDERFUL DAY. ”

Thomas Dreier

● Living a Generous Life



Raymond Evans

I had to smile to myself when asked to write an article on ‘living a generous life’, because in reality, at times life can be a challenge!

Here in the UK we are finally approaching spring, with the light and warmth of day developing. As bud and flower emerge, I am reminded of God’s continuous cycle of **generosity**.

I have always **delighted** in giving of my time, energy, finances, possessions etc. and reaped the benefits of an expanding joy, sense of well-being, calling and satisfaction; but the greyness of winter, family circumstances and disappointments have left me feeling quite introspective. I am then reminded that **life** and its cycles have **seasons**, which we are wise to embrace.

Ecclesiastes 3v1 explains, **there is a time for everything and a season for every activity under Heaven.**

In my experience, people ‘die’ how they lived. If closed off,

stingy and self-promoting, then they may die bitter, empty handed and alone. If perpetuating a flow of **love, grace, generosity** of spirit and **understanding**, then the opposite can be true.

Giving generously helps deal with a selfishness that can blight our lives and stunt our potential.

Jesus came to demonstrate a life of **fullness** and unselfishness. He lived out an ‘**it is better to give than receive**’ life. So, what does ‘**life in all its fullness**’ mean? I am beginning to see it as **embracing** the full spectrum of pain and joy, the happy and sad, the ups and downs, the disappointments and achievements. **Living a generous life** is a powerful way to share the love of a Father who gives his ALL ... unreservedly.



● Five Talents Uganda

In partnership with CPA

'Fighting poverty, creating jobs, transforming lives' reads the Five Talents Uganda signpost on the roadside in Kampala.

Their mission is to **empower** the active poor by making available small loans, whilst giving **training and support** to enable people to set up small businesses. They work in four parts of the country, choosing areas where it is particularly hard to scrape together a living.

Each branch has a Manager, a Loans Officer and an Accountant. A Branch Loans Committee, chaired by the Branch Manager, allocates loans to the local people.

Loans are given to the **whole family**, enabling them collectively to **learn to handle money** and experience the benefits of the scheme. For instance, children at school can help with reading, where parents are illiterate, and family members can pull together if someone is sick. They are also encouraged to join **local savings groups** to help with unforeseen circumstances, such as burials.

CPA is partnering with Five Talents to develop a microfinance scheme like this in Kisoro, western Uganda, and aims to kick

start up to 1,200 small businesses over time.

Interestingly enough, priorities for the families come in this order:

- educating children
- food security
- shelter
- investment (by acquiring more land or cattle).

Education matters so much because it improves family status. Educated children create more security for families because they can **provide in the future**; they earn respect from the community, reducing the likelihood of families being hassled; and they have better marriage prospects.

By providing a small loan, Five Talents give families the opportunity to fulfil all this.

If you would like to support this project please get in touch.



● KCH, We are Family!

The siblings sit down and sup together

Rosey Shelbourne

Back (L-R): Yan, John, Stephen, Julius, Tom Front: Fairy, Deborah, Rosemary, Alice, John, Moses, Franco

It was such a pleasure to meet up with the young adults from Komamboga and share a pizza, soda and a lot of banter.

They were so happy to be together; laughing, teasing and just being family.

Before long they started recounting stories of 'the old days' whilst growing up in the Home. Rachel, the director, was very strict about cleanliness and one of the children, wanting to avoid washing, sprayed himself all over with 'Doom' [fly killer], thinking he would smell nice and that she wouldn't notice...

We laughed so much we nearly cried!

Mostly they are doing **remarkably well**: Deborah, a headteacher, Bob, HR manager at Centenary Bank, responsible for 1,900 people, Asha, providing legal and management support for a global oil company, Fairy, training in Travel and Tourism, Rosemary, hairdressing, Tom employed by a roofing contractor, Alice, Nursery teacher training, Stephen, with Scripture Union, Franco, a musician, Charles, in the army and so the list goes on.

I asked if there was any stigma attached to growing up in a children's home. 'No', they replied, looking surprised at the question.

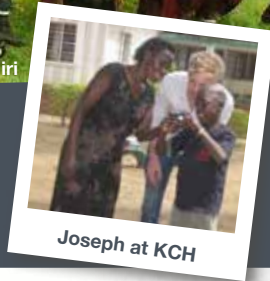
"We are so proud to be part of the KCH family. As brothers and sisters we can go to each other for help and support at any time.

We love the way Komamboga is built around 'family' values;

In fact that is the best part about it. It will **always be 'family' and 'home' to us.**"



Project families, St Paul's, Rukungiri



Joseph at KCH

● Living a Generous Life

Guest Writer Joseph Hardwick

“the foundations of generous living are in good relationships and a strong sense of community.”

For thousands of years, philosophers have explored the question, ‘What does it mean to live a good life?’ And rightly, the debate has often focussed on **justice** and the importance of human dignity. There is something fundamentally good about respecting and defending the **rights** of others, especially when they are prevented from doing so themselves.

Arguably, the same question can be posed for **generosity**: what does it mean to live a generous life?

When we think about generosity, our first thoughts might be concerned with finances and material possessions. To be

generous is to give away some of what **we have** to those who **have not**. And this is undoubtedly an important part of generosity. Over the years, we have all seen the impact that finances can make on desperate situations, not least through the work of CPA and its partners in Africa.

Some of us have also **experienced** generosity first hand. I can think of many times when friends, family, and strangers have blessed me with their resources, either with a well-timed and considered gift or simply with cash through my front door. I am deeply grateful for those moments.



But there is a sense in which material giving is only a small part of the picture. To make a donation or to give somebody a gift is an **act** of generosity. But what does it mean to **live** a generous life? How do we foster a culture of generosity in all aspects of our lives - to include our time, thoughts, emotions, and relationships?

I would suggest that the foundations of generous living are in good relationships and a strong sense of **community**. Only when we understand ourselves as part of humanity can we begin to empathise with others and to feel compelled to meet their needs, whether material, emotional, or otherwise.

But this is not always easy in a Western culture, where we no longer **need** the help of our neighbours to survive. To some extent our culture of community has been replaced by one of **hyper individualism** in which insurance, pensions, and saving accounts are our modern day safety nets. We rely on institutions, rather than our neighbours, to help in difficult times.

One could also argue that our sense of **personal duty** has been eroded in the West, where our governments are, for example, expected to provide food and shelter for the homeless and to provide free healthcare, paid for through the tax system. In this way, our governments have become the primary **duty bearers**, which is good for our welfare on the whole, but which has weakened our sense of duty towards each other.

In **developing countries**, where the governments may not have the resources or political will to meet the needs of their people, the picture is altogether different. You do not have to look far in Uganda, for example, to find strong communities, where people are living generously.

Perhaps the best examples of this are the **guardians** at St Paul's School in Rukungiri - all of whom have adopted children from desperate circumstances. In some cases, the children were literally found in the bush

and taken in by the guardian. In others, children are cared for by grandparents as their own parents have passed away.

There is an element of duty for the guardians, especially for the grandparents, but there is also a clear sense of **compassion, community**, and generous living. In all cases, the guardians are prepared to make room in their lives, in their homes, for the needs of another.

This is just one example of generous living, but from it we can learn that generosity is fundamentally **inclusive** and **relational**. It is based on a different world view, which believes that we are all connected by our shared humanity. There is little room for individualism in this view.

This is perhaps best expressed by the biblical proverb, ‘The world of the generous gets **larger and larger**, [while] the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller.’ Which is certainly the case in Rukungiri, where those small homes are growing with the sound of children's laughter, once abandoned in the bush.

So, what does it mean to live a generous life? For me the answer is as simple as it is **challenging**. To live a generous life is to let go of our self-serving culture of individualism and to make room for others in our lives, to empathise with others, and to foster a culture of community which is concerned with the needs of our neighbours, not just in our local towns, but also in our global community. We are **global citizens** after all.





• Ethiopian Encounters

Paul Quincey, Paul Elliot and Sue Deacon



‘In essentials, **unity**; in non-essentials, **liberty**; in all things, **charity**’ St Augustine of Hippo

In the autumn of 2013 I had a **chance meeting** with Bishop Grant LeMarquand, the Area Bishop for the Horn of Africa, when he was visiting London for a conference. This meeting was a **springboard of opportunity** for us to engage with a **new project!**

Bishop Grant and his wife, Dr Wendy, originally from Canada, have been **living in Ethiopia** since 2012. They work with the local **Anglican Church, Mothers’ Unions and schools**. As we talked, I was stirred to organise a small team to visit the area; this consisted of Paul Elliott, Sue Deacon and myself.

The Anglican Centre, from which Bishop Grant and Wendy operate, sits on the **outskirts of Gambella**; a small town in the west of Ethiopia, on the border of South Sudan. The Centre is based between two **tribal** groups: the **Anuak** people and the **Nuer** people. There are 70 churches in the Gambella region, which are overseen by 16 priests.

We were able to visit the small town of Itang, a community typical of the

area, with a church capable of seating around 100 people. The ladies of the Mothers’ Union welcomed us, wearing their distinctive white long dresses and blue sash. They washed and dried our feet as we arrived: a very moving and humbling experience. Although it was Saturday, the church members gathered to hold a service with much singing and clapping! Bishop Grant gave a brief sermon, teaching on **reconciliation and encouraging friendship between different tribal groups**. Our close proximity to the war zone gave special gravity to the sermon.

We then travelled northeast to **Sefi Beret** and **Abayater**, along with our **old friends** Pastor Kassaye and Beletew Mengesha. It was great to see how things have developed over recent years and to see the work that World Vision are doing alongside the Compassion International sponsorship programme, using the infrastructure built from funds raised by CPA supporters. Back in Addis Ababa we were also able to spend some time with **Million Belihu**, who was one of the first

people we worked with in Ethiopia and whose friendship is very dear to us.

Sue Deacon’s Trip Experience:

I am in my fourth year of ministry training in the Church of England and I was required to carry out a placement in a church of a different persuasion. I bumped into Paul, who said he had just the place... the Anglican Church... in Ethiopia! All the other students on my course were so jealous!

The trip has had such an impact on me. For 66 years, **I have been totally unaware of people living in such conditions. The shock that I could have lived out my days oblivious to what’s happening makes me sad.**

My trip highlight was visiting the school in Sefi Beret. When we arrived all the children hid! I had taken my recorder, so I sat under a tree and started to play. Slowly the children crept out from their hiding places and it wasn’t long before I was teaching them ‘Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes!’ - A truly precious moment.

I feel so privileged to have gone on this trip and can’t thank CPA enough for the experience. My life will never be the same again.



Paul Elliott’s Trip Experience:

I have supported and admired the work of CPA for over 20 years and gladly accepted an invitation to go to Ethiopia with Paul Quincey - my closest friend - to visit existing projects and to explore an opportunity to make a difference in an area new to CPA.

My skills lie in evidence gathering and report writing, so I was able to record details of our visit to the Anglican mission in Gambella and produce a factual report, highlighting need and potential projects which could be supported by CPA in the future.

This was my first trip to Africa, so it will have a lasting impact. My previous experience of encountering extreme poverty has been through my work with Romanian Aid Distribution and interestingly I found there were many parallels - especially the contrast between very rich and very poor. I was struck by several things; meeting two young Nuer men who were literally willing to lay their life on the line to protect a Dinka pastor whose life had been threatened because of tribal conflict, associated with the war in nearby South Sudan. **This was the first time I had ever met anyone who really was willing to lay down their life for another - Angels in disguise I am sure.** Another lasting memory is seeing solid, faithful and effective Christian missionaries in action in Gambella, making a real difference in very difficult circumstances - Saints in waiting!

Sharing a double bed with Paul, a lady vicar, a rat and several large spiders, in a traditional mud hut, was certainly memorable! But my highlight was perhaps experiencing ‘church’ Ethiopian style - always exuberant, loud, with lots of drums, swaying choirs and strident singing (to our western ears); wonderfully sincere and deeply moving.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to visit Africa with CPA and remain excited about any future collaboration with the church in Gambella.

Raising Children... Facing The Challenges Together

St. Paul's School, Rukungiri, Uganda
Rosey Shelbourne

“Children have the right to be with their family or those who will care for them best”

~ UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

The **head boy** and **head girl** stand up proud and tall as we are introduced to them. As it happens this year they are **both project children**, chosen from the 600 pupils in the school. Last year, quite remarkably, it was a project child who scored the highest mark in the school for the P7 national exams. This kind of news makes it all worthwhile! Since 2001, through sponsorship, **CPA** has been **funding 150 free scholarships** for needy and **orphaned children**, who would otherwise not have the opportunity to go to a school like St Paul's.

Recently, St Paul's have appointed two **social workers**, Martin and Shivan, to give **extra support** to the **project children** and their **guardians**, both at school and in the community. There is still a great deal of poverty in Rukungiri and the school welcomes the expertise of social workers to **visit homes** and **empower** guardians and families. Martin and Shivan travel by motorbike around the vast area from which children come to school. To make

accessibility easier, families gather regularly in six areas, in local churches. The idea is to **bring families together** for mutual **support, encouragement** and **training** on things like parenting. Local churches can also provide pastoral support if necessary.

The challenges are many, but the social workers are trying to **address issues** such as lack of mosquito nets, drinking unboiled water from wells, food shortage, families unable to earn enough money to get by, and the scars of **emotional trauma** caused by poverty, HIV/AIDS, deceased parents, divorce or even abuse.

Martin told us *“We have done our best to encourage them to find a local church family that is loving and caring and can help them to heal and grow”*, and some guardians, who have also been given goats or coffee seedlings through the CPA **‘Gifts of love’** scheme, are already harvesting coffee.

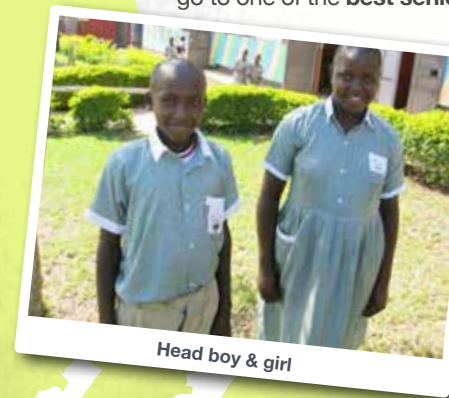
Finally, Moses, the project director told us this story. On Parent's Day last year, it was

decided that the **best performing student** should be given a **prize**. It happened to be one of the project girls. The school chose to reward her with a **mattress** to take with her to senior school. The girl burst into tears and Moses said they were unable to understand why. It turned out that her guardians couldn't afford to send her to school so she had to remain at home, her education over at 12. Somehow, someone from the community found the money to pay for her to go to one of the **best senior**

schools in Rukungiri, where we are told, she came **top of her year** last year, out of 300 pupils.

St Paul's is doing a **remarkable job** in Rukungiri, fulfilling its vision to see these children given the opportunity to have a good education and **going the extra mile** to reach out to families, who in turn have reached out to children in their own community.

If you would like to support a child at St Paul's please get in touch.



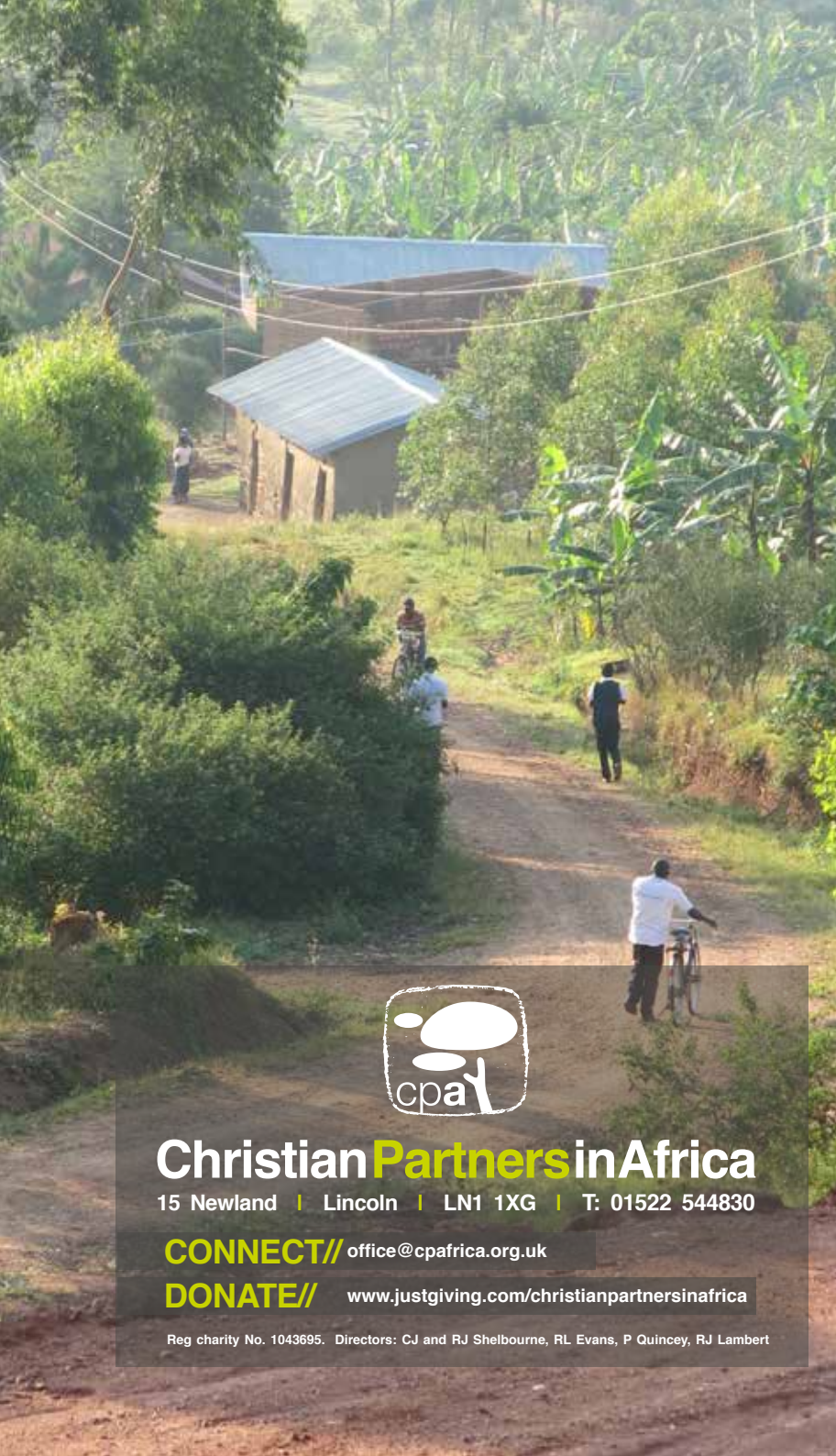
Head boy & girl



Social workers

WE HAVE DONE OUR BEST TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO FIND A LOCAL CHURCH FAMILY THAT IS LOVING AND CARING AND CAN HELP THEM TO HEAL AND GROW

Martin



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