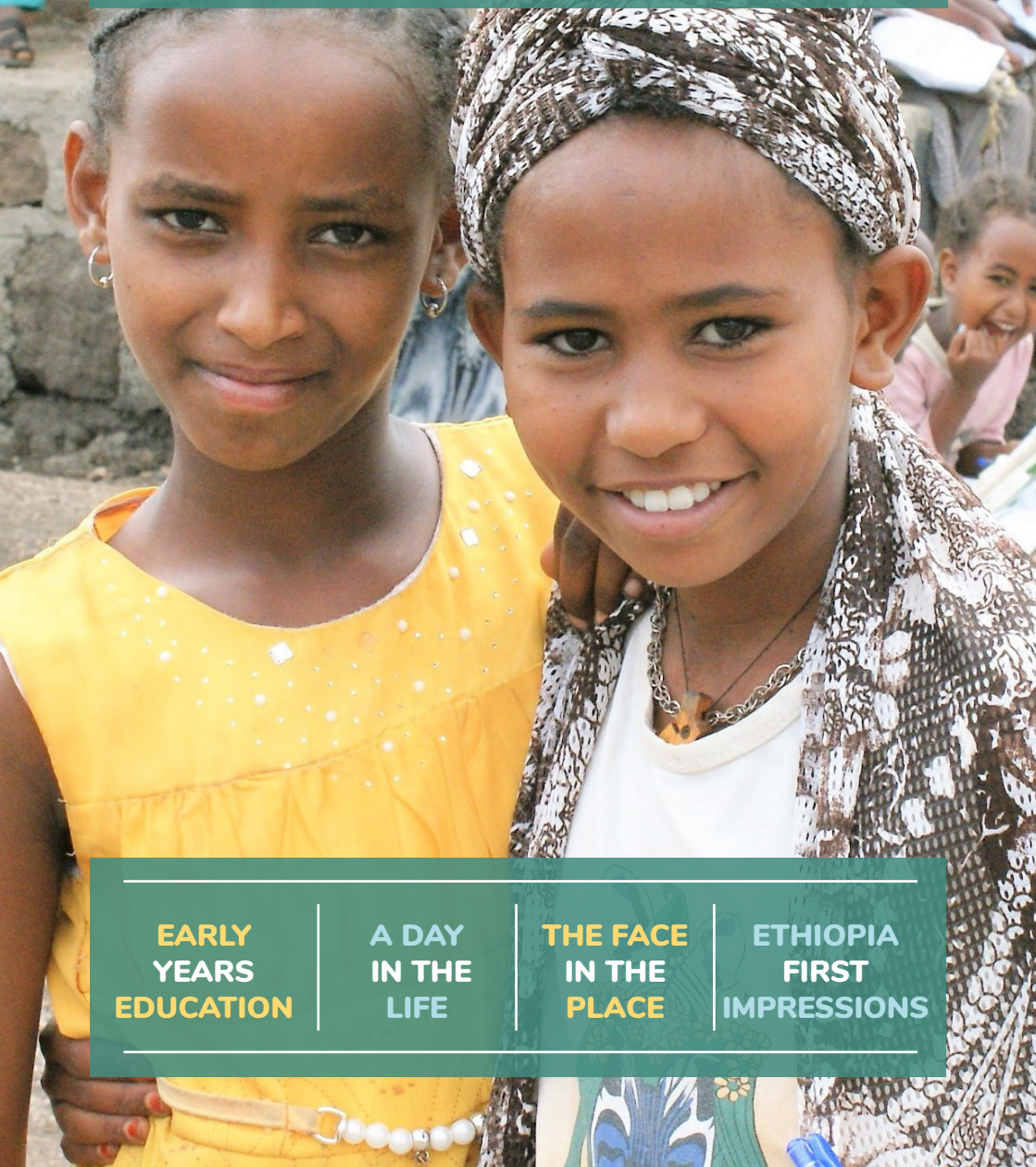




THE VIEW

Christian Partners in Africa | Winter 2017



**EARLY
YEARS
EDUCATION**

**A DAY
IN THE
LIFE**

**THE FACE
IN THE
PLACE**

**ETHIOPIA
FIRST
IMPRESSIONS**

CPA News



Wendy

Staff Changes

Late summer saw the departure of our beloved friend and work colleague **Ruth Cook** to pastures new, after four and a half years as CPA Office Manager. **We welcome Wendy Brett to the CPA office family**, as the new Office Manager. She is settling in well and bringing her own approach to the role.

It is with sadness we say goodbye to our faithful friend and partner, **Julius Ananura**, who has served as Director at Komamboga for many years. The staff and children are adjusting to this change and we all wish Julius the very best for the future.

KCH

Earlier this year great friends and long-time supporters of CPA, Bernard and Christine Loveday, made a donation enabling us to finance the **re-paving and rendering of the courtyard and kitchen area** at Komamboga Children's Home. This means that water no longer collects in puddles, reducing the amount of mosquitoes. Little bare feet are much less prone to cuts and scrapes and it has really smartened up the place! Thank you so much Bernard and Christine!

Fundraising

Our friends at **Stepping Stones Charity Shop** in Lincoln have outdone themselves. So far this year, they have **raised a total of £4,500** for Komamboga Children's Home; a massive £800 up on last year's giving to date! What a wonderful, dedicated and friendly crowd they are – we are inspired by their commitment to making a difference in their own community as well as to the work of CPA.

Five Talents

In July, CPA Directors Chris and Rosey were invited to a **Five Talents event** (a microfinance charity with whom we partner) in the Master's Garden, Magdalene College, Cambridge. It was hosted by former Archbishop Rowan Williams and was an opportunity to hear from one of their project workers from Kenya. It was very inspiring and a thrill for Chris to be back at Cambridge University for the first time in many years!



The Face in the Place

St Paul's Community Primary School,
Rukungiri, Uganda

Moses Muhoozi



By the grace of God I became a Christian in 1976 and have been able to serve God in many ways. Born into a poor family with 12 siblings, I struggled hard at my studies. I had no hope of becoming someone of value in the community. However, the grace of God is sufficient (Isaiah 49:3).

My late brother Rev. Canon Ephraim Gensi had an idea to **start a school** and we agreed to pray and wait for the Lord to respond. We believed education and Christian knowledge was the **only solution for such a poor community** with no hope for the future. In 2000, St Paul's School started as a full primary school and so, with my late wife Lilian, my job role began.

It's amazing how God acts; it was the same year when I met Chris and Rosey, CPA Directors, who came with good news that **CPA would sponsor 20 children**. Slowly the number of children increased to **150 sponsored today**. CPA's **'Gifts of Love'** have also benefited the project children's families with goats,

pigs, mattresses, blankets, lamps and water tanks... to mention a few!

My role is to ensure that the mission of the school is achieved; I oversee the administration and supervision of school activities and with the teachers and Board of Directors, **ensure the delivery of a high quality education** programme. I also link with churches when recruiting disadvantaged children.

Project children have enjoyed a life which they never thought possible through the scholarship programme; the letters and gifts received helping wipe away emotional trauma. During my time, it has been pleasing to see children growing, disciplined and performing well from Nursery through to P7 graduation. Our pupils are not only **academic giants** at local and national level, but gain valued Christian knowledge, not forgetting life skills. **This makes us a 'beacon' school.**

I am thankful to God for his blessings upon us all and thank you for your prayers and support over the years. May the Lord's name be glorified forever.



Tin shack now the tuck shop



Early Years Education in Uganda

Dr Pat Beckley

I was delighted to hear of Rosey's CPA involvement in Uganda as I'd completed my doctoral studies in 2012, based on a comparative study of literacy approaches in England and Norway and wondered how strategies for young children might differ in Uganda. In autumn 2014 I was thrilled to visit the early years provision at St Paul's. It was undergoing dynamic transformation from a 'tin shack' (sorry, but it was!) to an amazing early years facility. In 2014 the transformation had got underway with the ground floor for the 2-4 year olds nearly complete and plans for a first floor for 5-6 year olds underway.

The early years teachers were very welcoming. They kindly shared their ideas and approaches to the challenges of their role and what it entailed. There

were five classes of approximately 30 children each. The young children happily came to the nursery and eagerly participated in singing and dancing in the morning assembly.

It was a privilege to observe the expertise of the professionals involved in teaching. The carefully structured sessions ensured children gained a knowledge and understanding of core learning, including the ability to read and write English as a second language. This was underpinned by an awareness of the importance of promoting children's personal self-esteem and confidence by a willingness to celebrate success. Occasional chants with actions such as 'Myself, myself, I'm good, I'm good' affirmed this belief.

The team spirit of the extremely hard working staff ensured the children had a good start in their education. Staff



shared ideas about education and had incorporated independent outdoor activities into their everyday routines following earlier collaboration. Care for the children as individuals was clear.

Outcomes for children at St Paul's are exemplary and demonstrate a high performing school. This belies the significant challenges faced in the country to secure progress for children's learning. As stated in The Uganda Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy (2013) the Government of Uganda recognised the importance of Early Childhood Education (ECD) as one of the most important levers for accelerating the attainment of Education For All goals. Through these directives there was an obligation to expand and improve early years provision.

Despite Government efforts to ensure access to Early Childhood Education coverage remains low, particularly from disadvantaged families. It was reported

in 2012 that 38% of children in Uganda below the age of five suffered from moderate and severe under nutrition*. Vision Reporter (May 2012) noted 'The proportion of children in pre-school expressed as a percentage of the population aged three-five is 9% which translates into a gap of 91%.'

Staff at St Paul's continue to strive to address these challenges, with early years provision rapidly expanding. The work achieved at the nursery was highlighted in June 2017 at a British Educational Research conference at the University of Worcester and is to be incorporated into a discussion in Philosophy into Practice in the Early Years published by Routledge in Spring 2018.

*2006-2012, cited in Saber Country Report, 2012



Every Child has “The Right to an Education”

Paul Quincey

Whenever I visit Ethiopia I am reminded of how fortunate we are to have options and choices here at home. It's so easy to take for granted the freedoms we are afforded, whether that is to choose the leaders who govern us, the partners with whom we share our lives, access to medical facilities when we need them, the number of children we have, or the right to be educated.

Earlier this year I visited the Afar girls Project with Beth Harris and Joanna Howson. Eighteen months had passed since I had met with old friends at Sefi Beret and Beletew Mengesha, who leads the Afar community project.

Each visit I take reveals the advances being made among the community, largely due to **the valiant endeavours of the local people**, in partnership with



several agencies. Clean water is now pumped to within 2km of the village and electricity is available in many homes. This gives the option to charge your phone, gives light for work and reading, powers fridges to keep perishables longer and provides ice-lollies!!

Many people have smart phones; a full phone signal and Internet access are the norm across Ethiopia. The Afar girls, now in safe boarding accommodation and supported by CPA, live within 10km of Sefi Beret and also have access to such services. However, **they are still denied the basic rights and choices to an education**, when and who to marry, and access to medical services. Most girls will have experienced female genital mutilation when very young, many will be married by 12 years of age and none have had the opportunity of a secondary education.

“Each visit I take reveals the advances being made among the community, largely due to the valiant endeavours of the local people.”

Traditionally the Afar are nomadic but by **working with the local community**, teaching the value of education and providing safe boarding, the girls can now remain in the local vicinity and attend school.

These challenges are very difficult to deal with and take considerable time to address, but I firmly believe that by supporting the girls through secondary education, and hopefully in time university, we can empower them to make the necessary changes from within their communities. This is a long term strategy and will require sustained support for many years.

I am reminded of the UN Convention on the Rights of a Child, Article 28 that states: **‘Every child has the right to an education.** Primary education must be free and different forms of secondary education must be available to every child. Discipline in schools must respect children's dignity and their rights. **Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.’**

With this in mind let us choose to commit to see this fulfilled in the lives of the young women you see in these pictures.

See Christmas Appeal on Page 12



What's your Name and Where do you Come From?!

Joanna and Beth talk about their first visit to Ethiopia

As Cilla would say "What's your name and where do you come from?"

JH I'm Joanna and I'm from Scotland.

BH I'm Beth and I live in Lincoln.

Was this your first trip to Ethiopia?

JH Yes, but I have been to Uganda with CPA. Listening to my Dad's enthusiasm about the people he met on a CPA trip made me want to visit.

BH Yes, my first time visiting Africa. I wanted a new challenge, to see somewhere new and experience something different.



Was it as you expected?

JH I didn't expect to adapt so easily to the environment. However, the people were very welcoming and instantly put me at ease.

BH When we went to Sefi Beret I was expecting a small village but it was way more populated!

What was the strangest thing you ate?

JH Injera and extremely spicy goat at 7.30 in the morning!

BH I don't know... and I'd rather not know!!

What is your lasting impression from the trip?

JH Never take anything for granted, especially with something as basic as water; you never think twice to turn on the tap and there it is.



BH Hearing about young people leaving their villages to go to Saudi Arabia in search of jobs and a better way of life; knowing they had no protection or what would happen when they arrived - but thinking it would be better. Then meeting the parents who felt so desperate and seeing that they didn't realise the potential dangers.

What advice would you give to people who are thinking of a visit?

JH Do it! It helps to get a true understanding of the culture and people that CPA partner with. It also helps raise awareness back home as it becomes personal.

BH It's so different from the West, but in a good way - if you don't experience it you're missing out! Lots of Ethiopians told us that they were encouraged because we had visited them. That made it worthwhile.

Did you meet one significant person that challenged, changed or inspired your way of thinking?

JH Meseret: she knew her own mind, even if it was counter cultural. She used her initiative, utilising the limited resources available, to set up a small business with other ladies. She was such an inspiration.

BH Roman: housemother at the boarding school. She lived so simply: just one room with no fridge (in 35°) and in the middle of nowhere. She faced pretty extreme challenges everyday but she was full of joy and trusted God.

Tell us your favourite memory...

JH Tranquillity and complete stillness at the water collection pond. Also seeing monkeys in their natural habitat.

BH Visiting the Afar girls, letting them use my camera and laughing with them even though we didn't speak the same language!

And finally... sum up your trip in 5 words...

JH Humbling, inspirational, amazing, challenging, hot!

BH Hot, fun, hard-hitting, adventurous, eye-opening.



A Day in the Life of Sarah and Peace Komamboga Children's Home, Uganda



A day in the life of Sarah

I wake up at 5:00 am in the morning, I say a simple prayer, greet my parents lay my bed and do some house chores like cleaning the dining room, clean the washrooms when its my turn. I brush my teeth and take a bath, put on my uniform take my breakfast. We have our morning devotions together then pack our ectables later we go to school at around 6:00am

When I reach school, we have our morning devotions from 7:00am – 8:00am as form one¹ and form two². After we go in for our lessons which begin from 8:00am to 10:40am, then at 10:40am we begin our break time till 11:00 am.

After breaktime we go in for our mid day lesson 11:00am – 1:00pm. Then we go out for lunch, which is ever delicious in that I get satisfied. Around 2:00pm, we start off our evening lessons up to 5:20pm then we depart.

When I get home, I greet my parents as usual, I wash my uniform then I have something to eat like rice and beans. Then I do my chores like washing the utensils then have our evening devotions then do my homework or revise my books. Then I go to sleep.



A day in the life of Peace

When I wake up in the morning, I lay my bed, I greet my parents, I do some house work like sweeping my bedroom, sweeping the compound after I bathe and put on my uniform, We say our morning devotions then I go to school by 6:30AM.

At school, I have morning lessons from 8:00AM to 10:40AM then we approach break time by 11:00AM I have midday lessons upto lunch time 1:00PM 2:00PM, then we have evening lessons from 2:00PM - 5:20 PM, the time to go back home. But me as a senior three student, we usually have extra lessons from 5:20PM to 6:00 PM, And I get a happy time together with my friends. When I come back home, I greet my parents, I bathe myself, I eat food, rice, Irish potatoes, and beans, After dinner, we have evening devotions, I revise my books, I wash utensils then I go to bed by 9:00 PM.

CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2011



'City of refuge' Afar Girls, Ethiopia

'Every child has the right to an education'
UN convention of the rights of a child



In the Afar region of Ethiopia, education levels have historically been very low, especially among girls. CPA helps 40 Afar girls to go to the first senior school in the Afar region. Most board, cared for by Roman, a mentor and mother figure.

“The girls' boarding for me is 'the city of refuge' that provides me with everything that I need to continue my education.” - Koyna

Beletew (Project Partner) continues to petition for 'education for Afar girls' raising awareness with Afar communities, leaders and schools, about the transformative impact education can have on girls' lives.

“I firmly believe that by supporting the girls through secondary education and hopefully university, we can empower them to make the necessary changes needed from within their own communities.” - Paul Quincey

Please help us to continue supporting these girls,
who are passionate about learning.

GIFTS OF LOVE 2011



WHAT A GIRL WANTS...
WHAT A GIRL NEEDS...
DIGNITY!

The young ladies living in the Afar region of Ethiopia
desperately need sanitary items and soap.

Visit www.cpafrica.org.uk/giftoflove to buy a
hygiene kit for just £10 to help make their life easier.

See the CPA website for many more Gifts of Love and
give the gift that makes a difference this Christmas.



The Final Word

A single thread of hope is still a powerful thing

Rosey Shelbourne



I recently heard someone say about Africa, that if you look at statistics you feel depressed but if you look at the people **you feel hope**. That is most certainly my experience of Uganda.

Give people half a chance and there's no stopping them. **There is a buzz about the place**, lots of wheeling and dealing, entrepreneurial ideas, people always taking the opportunity to make something out of nothing.

Of course this is not the case for everyone and for some poverty is so extreme that simply feeding their children on a daily basis becomes an overwhelming challenge.

Reflecting on the good news stories in this issue of 'The View' **I feel inspired, and I hope you do too**, to press on to make many more opportunities available to those who will grasp them with both hands. It is such a joy to see the individual and creative ways in which people use an opportunity – certainly ways that we wouldn't have ever thought of; providing for their families, with **great determination and dignity**.

For those who have never been given a chance, or find themselves prisoners to life's circumstances or the elements, it is a privilege to come along side and **gently encourage**, giving support where needed, and help to those who are struggling to take the first step up.





Thanks to everyone for all you do in making this possible. In my experience, I have seen people make a little go a very long way, **usually with a big smile on their face**.

Rosey



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