



Christian **Partners** in Africa

WWW.CPAFRICA.ORG.UK

Winter 2014

the View

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Love People Love Life



I CAME TO
LIVE OUT LOUD



Émile Zola

● Living a Generous Life

Chris Shelbourne



“Ship me somewhere East of Suez,
where the best is like the worst, Where
there aren’t no Ten Commandments an’
a man can raise a thirst”

So wrote Rudyard Kipling in his poem, ‘On the Road to Mandalay’. It could easily be applied to **life in Africa**, where people can experience the **highs and lows** of life in its rawest form, where sometimes anything goes.

Over the 20 years we have been **involved with Africa** the continent has changed dramatically. Modern Africa is full of mobile phones, vibrant cities, vehicles, educated young people, business people from all parts of the world; it’s a far cry from Conrad’s ‘Heart of Darkness’.

In Africa, **life can be fulfilling, joyful and full of possibilities** and, at the same time, precarious, unpredictable and violent. Many people still go short. How can we, in the UK, relate to people who experience life like this?

In my view, simply by **demonstrating that we care**. In caring we show that we **love people**; in loving people we show that we **embrace life**, even when it is difficult.

This appetite for life is expressed in Zola’s sentiment **“I came to live out loud”** which echoes a familiar passage from John’s Gospel where Jesus said **“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full”**.

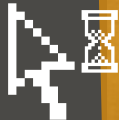
Shortly after CPA was formed, a friend of ours came up with the strap line **“Love People Love Life”**. We loved it straight away as it captured, in four words, everything we wanted CPA to be in those early years. Amazingly, it still does.

Chris



If we don't already
have your email
address

email us at
office@cpafrica.org.uk



● CPA 20th Anniversary

January 2015 marks **20 years** since CPA officially registered as a charity! Since 1995, CPA has joined hands with many partners in Africa, working together on a whole variety of projects along the way, building friendships and seeing change for the good.

We will be hosting some **exciting events** in the New Year to celebrate our 'Big Birthday' and will be asking you to get involved! Sign up to our eNews to keep up to date with all the latest news and future plans by emailing office@cpafrica.org.uk

● White Nile

White Nile is a company with a conscience. Not only does it sell **beautiful jewellery**, but in doing so **changes lives**, gives opportunity to the poorest of the poor and ploughs its profits back into communities in Africa.

CPA has been busy raising the profile of White Nile at a few local events, the most recent being a **women's networking** event hosted by the Clydesdale Bank and the Duncan Topliss GP Practice Manager's Seminar. The beads proved popular and many purses were opened!

Visit www.whitenilestore.com to take a peek at the **colourful loveliness** of White Nile beads and make a start on those Christmas purchases!

● Gambella Ethiopia

Bishop Grant and his wife, Doctor Wendy, are working in Gambella alongside **local tribal communities** and refugees, overseeing about **70 churches** in the **Anglican Diocese**. CPA is pleased to report that we have been able to send funds to supply textbooks, reference books and a contribution towards salaries and training for the Librarian and Assistant Librarian at the **Anglican Church Centre**. This library is a **vital resource** for the training and equipping of local clergy who work into the scattered tribal and refugee communities, teaching **reconciliation** and **peace**. Please contact the office if you are interested in supporting the work of this amazing, courageous couple!

See the Christmas Appeal on page 15.

● Alec Vickerson Hangs Up His Intern Cap!

We often say, "**everything happens for a reason**", and I couldn't agree more. How I came to be at CPA, and my experience, is nothing short of **God's reason**. Before I started at CPA, I had a **passion to travel to Africa** and do whatever I could to help relieve poverty, but I wasn't exactly sure how to do that. However, my time at CPA has helped me discover what I believe to be the most loving, empowering and **sustainable way of working**. This charity doesn't just jump in and give hand-outs to the people it serves, those involved, actually get alongside people in poverty and **walk with them** to find a way out that works. Now that my time has come to an end, **I can't thank the team enough** for their incredible example, but look forward to being involved in the work of CPA in other ways!

• A Journey to Success

Denise Niel

It was with great excitement that Mark and I recently made our way to Oxford to meet Deborah Nanoozi.

I first met Deborah in 1998 at Komamboga Children's Home in Kampala. She was 16, still at school preparing for her O' Levels and **full of hope** for the future.

Deborah was one of the original children brought into the Home. She and her sister were abandoned during the civil war. In 1994 the Home tried to trace her parents through radio announcements and her father came forward. He had been fighting in the war as a soldier and was delighted to find Deborah alive. Because of his poor living conditions, he and the court decided to leave Deborah at KCH to finish her education.

Deborah's **love for God** and her **KCH family** was so evident. Despite her past, she shone with love and grace. She led devotions with great skill and enthusiasm, tended to the younger children, and generally operated like a junior 'Auntie' around the Home. Her lessons with the local Sunday school class were

awesome and she was clearly adored by the children.

One night, I felt that God was speaking to Deborah and saying that she would be a **leader amongst women**; that she would show, through His love, that there was a different way to being a woman, wife and mother. I believed that God would also use Deborah in many ways to cut through cultural and spiritual boundaries that bind many women in Uganda, showing that **respect, faithfulness and greatness** could also be theirs.

I am humbled to know that Deborah still keeps the scrap of paper on which I wrote it down, in the back of her Bible and she shows it to me every time we meet.

Although Deborah initially wanted to be a nurse, her exam results took her into teaching. In 2003 after qualifying, Deborah took up her first teaching position at St Paul's School, in Rukungiri.

She was fabulous; a **natural teacher** with much to say and give to the orphaned scholarship children there. But Deborah was homesick; a city girl, not used to a quiet rural setting. A year later, she moved back to Kampala to join an educational theatre company, travelling all over east Africa. Eventually Deborah started work in a Kampala school. She quickly rose through the ranks and is now **Principal of the school**, at 30 years of age!

And so to Oxford... Deborah's school in Kampala has had a long association with a small school in rural Oxfordshire! Teachers from both schools have enjoyed exchange visits on a programme run by the British Council. What an opportunity!

So, back in July, it was surreal to see Deborah across the car park and hear her shout out my name. We chatted and caught up as much as possible, until her hosts whisked her off home.

Afterwards Deborah wrote:

I must say meeting you in the UK was another moment in my life that will go down into the memory lane forever.

For me, it was a **moment that I never imagined** could happen; but we know that God is working miracles in the lives of many of the 'children' of Komamboga.



Deborah with her husband Henry



Who's Helping Who?

Ruth Cook

Sometimes you visit a place that changes you on the inside, changes how you value things and your perspective... that's what happened to me and the team of volunteers who visited St Paul's School earlier this year.

From the moment we arrived, we were greeted with **smiling faces**, warm handshakes, meaningful conversations, **friendship** and **generosity**. It was impossible to come away unchanged.

The days found a natural routine: amazing breakfast of fresh fruit and coffee; mornings with the children in classes or on the field; lunch with the staff and children in the spacious eating shelter; and the afternoons... well they were spent **covered in paint, dust and sweat** as we renovated three large rooms for the boys' new dormitories.

As ten strangers soon became friends, bonding into a strong, caring team, we opened ourselves up to a **wonderful adventure!**

The children were unique in every way – **polite, inquisitive and humble**, each of them welcoming us with a beaming smile and a 'high five'.

Mornings included 'craft' activities involving coloured pens, stickers, feathers and glue. I'm sure I terrorised some girls when I put stickers all over my face. They thought it was black magic, but soon fell about laughing when they tried it themselves!

Sports activities were very energetic, even in the beating sun. The staff joined us for beanbag races, football skills and **parachute games**. This was new for the children and they laughed and enjoyed themselves. Quite a few were very competitive! We happily left the sports equipment so they could continue working on their new skills.

The dormitories were totally transformed with the team sweeping, washing, painting, glossing and stitching curtains every evening. We kept the boys out until it was complete and seeing their **delighted faces** made all the hard work worthwhile.

We took a supply of reading glasses and had a fabulous afternoon with staff and children, helping those who had need. The staff wore their **new spectacles** with pride and commented that it was much easier to see their work.

It was a true honour to visit some of the children's homes. Meeting relations and guardians was very moving. Seeing their

incredibly basic homes enabled us to have a better understanding of their daily struggles. It was **humbling, inspiring and challenging**.

A team member writes: "I often think of the time I was there and the difficult circumstances in which people live and the good work of the staff at the school. I would repeat it all again, every minute!"

It's so hard to put into words all that you experience on a team trip. Our volunteers go out to help and support our African friends, and whilst they manage this, often they are the ones who come home changed, inspired and better equipped for life's journey.

I have heard it said many times that when you visit Africa, you leave a bit of your heart behind; I've certainly found this to be true.



● The Value of Women

Guest Writer Joy Blundell



“If you change the prospects of an adolescent girl on a big enough scale you will transform societies

~ Mark Lowcock DfID”

I love the story of Deborah, who was rescued from the streets of Kampala, placed into Komamboga Children's Home, and has now become a significant leader in education. I love the story because it shows the power of **'the girl effect'**, where the intrinsic value of a girl is recognised and an investment is made in her with **love and education** to see her become all she was created to be.

Deborah is my age so it's easy to compare our lives; I was born, a girl, into a middle class British family to two working professionals. My mum, a **fantastic role model**, balanced motherhood with a successful career and provided opportunity and choice for me as her daughter. My 'value' was always protected

and my gifting, nurtured and developed. As a result I have been able to flourish and pursue my potential.

Deborah, at her most vulnerable, had nothing! But, against the odds, because someone valued her, pushed through and broke the cycle of poverty. Deborah was given an opportunity through love and education, unlike many girls in the developing world.

In the west, with equal access to food, education and health care there are more women alive than men. In the developing world it's a different story. There are an estimated **60 to 100 million missing females** in the current population. When resources are scarce it's the girls who suffer.

One in seven girls in the developing world will marry before the age of 15. If nothing changes, there will be 142 million child marriages between now and 2020; that's 37,000 girls a day.

When a young girl marries and becomes pregnant her education is curtailed. Whilst childbirth in the west is a celebrated life stage, it can be fatal for girls elsewhere. Medical complications from pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death among girls aged 15-19 worldwide. A woman dies every minute- and- a -half in childbirth. For every woman that dies there are 20 survivors with injuries that leave them incontinent, shunned by their community and vulnerable to death.

Often, the most significant determiner of life is gender. Girls are more likely to be aborted, uneducated, abused, raped, trafficked. Due to their devaluation they are more likely than boys to die prematurely from malnutrition, violence, reproductive problems and poverty.

Today there are currently 21 million women and little girls living as sex slaves who have been trafficked and sold as a disposable commodity. **The greatest moral challenge of the 21st century is the oppression and inequity of women and girls.**

This is a global problem of massive proportions. Part of the solution is recognising the real value of women and girls and giving them an opportunity.

Over population is the most persistent cause of poverty but research shows that when a girl is properly educated she has significantly fewer children. She is also empowered to make positive health choices, has greater economic opportunity, and her children are more likely to be educated.

CPA and their partners at Komamboga Children's Home believed in the **value** and potential of Deborah and their **investment** in her will provide a return over and over

again. Not only has Deborah found a way out of poverty and made a life for herself, but also **the gift of an education for her will be multiplied** as she in turn imparts her **knowledge**, skills and understanding to others.

Recognising the value of women and girls is the key to our future. We must work together to raise awareness, to **empower** woman and to **educate** cultures and society on the true **value of women** in the world.

WHAT EXACTLY IS 'THE GIRL EFFECT'?

“**'The girl effect'** is a movement. It's about leveraging the unique potential of adolescent girls to end poverty for themselves, their families, their communities, their countries and the world. It's about making girls visible and changing their social and economic dynamics by providing them with specific, powerful and relevant resources.

Created by the Nike Foundation, NoVo Foundation, United Nations and Coalition for Adolescent Girls, **'the girl effect'** is fuelled by hundreds of thousands of girl champions who recognise the untapped potential of adolescent girls living in poverty.

www.girleffect.org”



• Hard graft and a lot of fun

Laura Brown & Murray McMillan

We had been fundraising and planning our trip for months and finally it was time to head out to Uganda to Komamboga Children's Home.



The team had two main objectives – to **renovate** the living room in the top house and to **upgrade** the water system, which was no mean feat. The living room had not been decorated for 18 years so we got stuck in by gutting the room. With input from the mothers and Alice, we made sure sentimental items were included in the new scheme to make it still **feel like home**. We applied new paint, replaced the old furniture, and added new curtains.

5-year-old Elijah really enjoyed helping us with the cleaning and painting each day when he got back from Nursery school.

A smoke detector system was also installed. Julius, the Home Director, gathered the children and explained how it worked and that they would have their first fire practice that week.



What actually happened was so funny!!

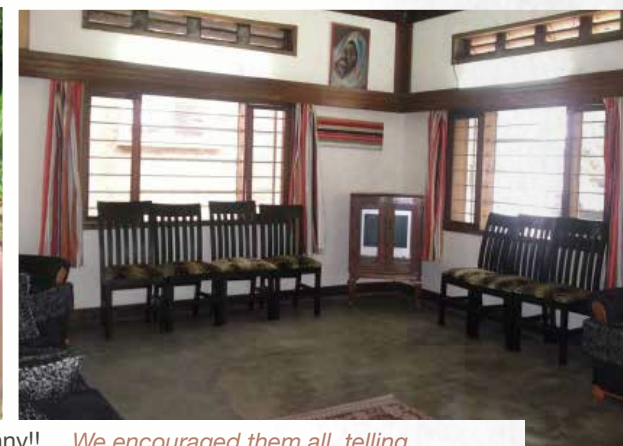
Murray writes:

"Alistair and myself were tasked with installing smoke detectors around the home. Julius gathered the children together and we explained about the smoke detectors and talked about what to do if there ever was a fire at the home.

It was explained that no one should run, scream, shout or take any belongings with them, but just leave the building calmly and gather in the agreed area.

*Everyone went to their rooms waiting for the alarm. When it went off I can only describe what I saw as **absolute pandemonium!** The children burst out screaming and sprinting to the exits.*

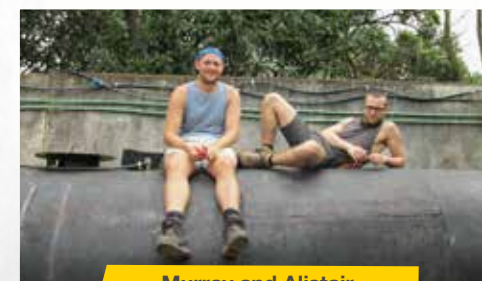
*The boys came running from their block with what I can only presume were the **entire contents of their room** loaded into suitcases and backpacks, some so heavy they actually fell over trying to run with them!*



We encouraged them all, telling them they had done a great job, but suggested that maybe a few more practices would be a good idea!"

On the day the living room was finished I don't think there was a dry eye in the house. The staff were the first to see it and they **sang, danced and celebrated** until the children came home from school. The children were equally excited.

It was a great trip, a very positive experience and shared with amazing people. The most rewarding thing was seeing what a difference a bit of paint and some hard graft can make in just a few days – that and spending time with our wonderful Ugandan friends!



Murray and Alistair

GiftsOfLove

Gift Cards



Gifts of Love - Gifts of Life



Gifts of Love - Gifts of Life



Gifts of Love - Gifts of Life

Gifts range from £6 to £50

Go to

www.cpafrica.org.uk

to order your gifts

CPA will arrange for your gift to be delivered to children & families in Africa. Give your friends and family gifts that unwrap hope and dignity for children living in poverty in Africa.



Christmas Appeal

There's so much going on across the globe that needs our attention, sometimes it's hard to know where to begin...

This year we are highlighting the courageous work of Bishop Grant and Doctor Wendy, of the Anglican Church, who are living alongside and making a real difference to the lives of thousands of individuals including many refugees in **Gambella, Ethiopia.** **They need your help!**

Donate in one of the following ways:

Justgiving: www.justgiving.com/christianpartnersinafrica

Online: CPA Account Number 10045257 | Sort Code 16-23-32

Cheque: Christian Partners in Africa, 15 Newland, Lincoln, LN1 1XG

You can find more information on the work of Bishop Grant and Doctor Wendy by visiting their website : www.grantandwendy.com



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Reg charity No. 1043695. Directors: CJ and RJ Shelbourne, RL Evans, P Quincey, RJ Lambert

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Front Cover Photo: Deborah Nanoozi, Komamboga Children's Home, Uganda

Back Cover Photo: Nursery Children at St Paul's School, Rukungiri, Uganda | Design by creativehopestudio.com