



Christian **Partners** in Africa

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Winter 2015

the View

In this issue

The Faces in the Places

- celebrating 20 years





The Faces in the Places



CPA 'Office' Faces

I'm a home-bird! I get itchy if I've been away from home for more than a week... tops! That's why I love that I have friends who are adventurers, who dare to see the world from a braver perspective and who choose to do something about the things they see. Over the years my friends at CPA have helped me (and you too, I hope) see that **we are not powerless, that we can make a difference**, that we have a choice to do something. I am blessed to have seen this being outworked by my colleagues here in the UK and in Africa, and by you, our generous-hearted supporters, in the 16 years I have had the privilege of working in the CPA office. Later this year I will be traveling out to Uganda to meet some of our partners for the first time... but just for a week! ;)

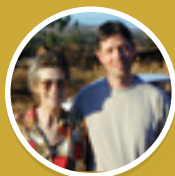
Susie Williamson

I had been 'aware' of the work of CPA for many years, I had heard the stories and been amazed by what the charity had achieved, and then I became involved... me, hands on, heart and soul involved, and what an amazing journey the last (almost) 3 years has been! I have met some of the best people, laughed with, cared for, walked with, loved and visited my new African friends. We may see the same world from different perspectives, yet somehow there is a unity and an understanding that surpasses cultures and communities. The strength of a smile and a hug full of kindness is never misunderstood! **Being 'aware'** and **being 'involved'** are two very different things and I'm pleased I made the decision to get involved – my life is certainly richer!

Ruth Cook



● An Extraordinary Day: Special Memories and New Beginnings



St Paul's Community School, Rukungiri
Chris Shelbourne

The day, like any other day, began with blue sky and the sounds of Africa. However, today was to be the **official opening** of the new nursery centre at St Paul's. The school was proud of this superb facility and wanted to name it in memory of my mum, Muriel Shelbourne. She had been a missionary in Africa and a primary teacher but had passed away in 2011. Rosey and I felt privileged to take part in the ceremony with our friend and colleague **Canon Ephraim Gensi**. Parents and guardians had all been invited to come along.

During the morning tables and chairs were moved into place, food and drinks arrived, and sound equipment



The Muriel Centre - Grand Opening!



St Paul's Community School, Rukungiri

was set up. When things got started, the brass band led the procession, children danced and sang, speeches were given. It was wonderful, **a joyous celebration of something good in the heart of a community** that has seen so many difficult times. We were invited to unveil a plaque with Ephraim, commemorating the opening of the "Muriel Centre", a deeply personal moment for us.

A few months on I find myself reflecting on this, having just received news that our dear friend Ephraim has died. On one hand, I feel overcome with sadness: Ephraim was a person who filled the space around him with joy, hope, a deep faith and an eternally optimistic view of the world. On the other hand I think of the many wonderful times we have shared, of which the opening of **the Muriel Centre** was one of the most memorable.



Chris and Ephraim

The Faces in the Places

● Diane Dexter

Administrator: 1999-2004

I will never forget working for CPA and the trips I made to Uganda and Ethiopia. I still talk about them today.

Conversations with the children in the Home, made such an impact: Moses asking, "What will CPA do when we are all grown up?"; Bob's in-depth discussions about the political situation in Northern Ireland because he listened to the BBC World Service!; Deborah, who got up at 5am every morning to study, saying, "If you don't get up your friends will say 'When your children are begging for bread on the street, will you say you were too lazy to get up and study?'" I'll never forget that!; Million, in Ethiopia, getting up before dawn every day to pray. He was so concerned that my husband would chuck me out as I was then childless! He rejoiced when Jonny was born 10 years later, and the Aunties at KCH sent me cards asking "How is our son Jonathan?"

And of course working with Susie in the office was pure joy!!! I mean that.

I am now in Rotherham with my husband Adrian and son Jonny. Adrian is the Pastor of Liberty Church and I work as the Administrator.



Saba and Diane

Diane and Jonny

● Francis Ward

UK Project Co-ordinator: 1998-2004

Descending over Addis Ababa in 1995 was an incredible 'first' for me, leading to many years of challenging, fulfilling, sobering, heart wrenching and fun involvement with CPA.

Later I was to become the UK projects co-ordinator, liaising between our partners in Ethiopia, Uganda, Malawi and Mozambique and UK partners, funders, CPA friends and our supporters. Ten years on, my time being split between CPA and my business, it soon became clear that I could not do justice to both. However, a direct legacy of CPA is that all of us have a passion for the world's poor and want to end our days serving them in some way or another.

There are so many highlights: Million 'discovering' 4th gear, to a round of applause from the team; and desperately hoping for a hotel, because I hated toileting outdoors. A picture that remains, from our first visit, is when Chris was seriously ill our new friend Amsalu, walked for many hours from Bello, and wept as he prayed for Chris to be healed ... and we thought 'we' went there to give!!

Today, married and with 3 children, I run my own engineering consultancy business, which has taken me to many parts of the world.



Francis and Mr Jeri

LOTS OF FUNNY INCIDENTS. LOTS OF MOVING MOMENTS. LOTS OF PAINFUL POTHOLE. LOTS OF HUMBLING SIGHTS, SCENES AND STORIES. RAIN, SUN, DUST, STARRY SKIES LOTS OF BOTTLES OF SPRING WATER AND 7UP. MANY BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE, WITH GENEROUS GREETINGS AND OPEN SOULS. THE SMALL SHAFTS OF LIGHT THAT SHINE OUT THROUGH THE MAKESHIFT-PERMANENT HOMES OF EVERYDAY PEOPLE. HUMBLING PEOPLE TOUCHED BY THE GRACIOUS HAND OF A LOVING GOD. MAN-MADE POVERTY HEAVENLY CRAFTED HOPE AND SALVATION CARRIED BY ANGELIC MESSENGERS SUCH AS SABA OUR PROJECT WORKER. SIGHTS, SOUNDS, SMELLS, GESTURES. THE SHOUT OF UNSPOKEN REQUESTS, SO LOUD YET UNHEARD. THE SOUND OF AN ARMY OF OUR BROKEN BROTHERS AND SISTERS... VISIBLE YET UNNOTICED. A LEGION OF INDUSTRIOUS MOTHERS, SISTERS, DAUGHTERS CARRYING THE BURDEN OF THE NEXT MEAL ON THEIR SHOULDERS. UP ROCKY HILLSIDES AND DOWN TREACHEROUS MUDSLIDE PATHS. THESE, AND MANY MORE, ARE THE IMAGES STILL RATTLING ROUND MY FINITE MIND. THE RESOLVE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE STRENGTHENED. THE FIRE OF THE 'FULL GOSPEL' FUELLED.

Dale, Ethiopia May 1999 (following his first trip to Africa)



● Dale Newman

Real World: 1998-2001

I can't believe it's 20 years since my young peers passionately launched a new exciting initiative, inviting many of us to share life with some of Africa's most vulnerable people. The lessons learned and core values gained working for CPA still influence my practice today at the charity 'Safe Families for Children'.

Over 3 years at CPA I established 'Real World' and have a plethora of precious memories: special friendships with African partners and families; the responses on faces in the UK to our stories; the smell, sights and sounds of Africa and warmth on my shoulders; the poem I wrote after my first trip to Ethiopia. However, the memory that always makes me smile is of my dear friend Morrison in Malawi! His big hands and over enthusiastic (and often crushing) hugs, his passion for the people, his terrible driving, his deep voice always filled with laughter and his constant mispronunciation of my name - Dell!

CPA, I am deeply grateful for your impact on my life and faith. I thank God for the lives of individuals and communities that have been saved, restored and transformed over those 20 years. Here's to the next twenty!



Dale and Morrison



● Beletew Mengesha

Executive Director, Voice in the Wilderness Development Organisations (VWDO), Ethiopia

This is the story of CPA and VWDO Ethiopia.

When I met CPA staff for the first time, I introduced the Asgefen children's situation and they responded compassionately.

Asgefen is a small rural kebele found in the Afar region of Ethiopia. The Afar community is nomadic, geographically disadvantaged with no infrastructure or school. On top of that in 2002 a civil war broke out between the neighbouring Afar and Amhara communities. Due to the war 30 innocent Afar mothers were killed and as a result of this inhuman and cruel mass-killing, nearly 90 children became orphans. **The first organisation that intervened in this situation was CPA by constructing a school** and covering running costs for five consecutive years.

In addition to this, CPA also constructed a school with the church in the Amhara region.

Currently the Asgefen School reaches up to sixth grade and there are 250 students in the school. The Asgefen School is still run by VWDO.

The relationship that binds us with CPA is the unconditional love, the family spirit; not like donor and acceptor. While they are with us they eat what we eat, sleep with us like a family and relatives and that means we can communicate with them freely.

An unforgettable story is of a child who

Pastor Kassaye, Paul and Beletew

was among those orphans during the conflict and who was unable to speak. This child is still in the school and he is now in the fourth grade. God used CPA as an instrument to help such a child. We will not forget what CPA has done for this child in particular and for the Afar community at large and for the whole nation.

I remember **a funny moment**: The Asgefen community had never seen white people before and when the CPA members arrived for the first time and entered the class, one of the students from the back bench started to cry and the next moment all the students were crying and running out of the class!

Now everything has changed and the community accepts the colour difference.

VWDO is still working in the area, running Kommame Kindergarten, and girls boarding.



Asgefen Kindergarten

This year VWDO has started to construct the Hope Centre for disability that can be used as a rehabilitation centre for 150 disabled in the area.



Day Trip to Kavumba Park

● A Family Day Out!

Komamboga Children's Home
Rosey Shelbourne

Everyone was excited, including Chris and I, who had tumbled out of bed rather bleary eyed, following a late arrival on a flight from London the night before. It was to be the **Komamboga outing** to Kavumba Park.

After hugs and greetings and crammed into two mini buses, we bumped down the track to buy provisions from the local shop with each child's snack choice carefully listed. **It reminded me of family days out.** We always started the snacks before we had even left Lincoln: a very important part of a good day out!

The park was lovely and we ventured to the small zoo. Accompanied by the zookeeper, (which was the nearest we got to Health and Safety!) we approached the crocodile pit. The zookeeper leapt over the low wall and

tapped the enormous crocodile between the eyes with a stick.

The snap of its jaws was so loud it echoed round the park and my feet left the floor as I jumped out of my skin. Fortunately the zookeeper survived, but I'm not sure how.

Next came the snakes; in fact, we were told, one of every type of poisonous snake in Uganda (a little too much information for me!!) There were many excited giggles and nervous laughs from the children as we peered through the glass at 3m long pythons and cobras. In an act of bravado, the zookeeper opened a cage to display a particularly large snake on a pole for the children to see. **The snake decided to make its escape** and we made a hasty retreat. It was caught eventually and returned!

There were many other animals including monkeys, tigers, birds; all the usual in fact. The children had lots of fun and survived to tell the tale.



Next came the swimming pool, a favourite with everyone. **I noticed how kind and caring the children were** with little Marion, the latest addition to the family. For her everything was a new experience; the animals, the water, play park and the bikes that we borrowed later in the day. It made me smile as I reflected on how wonderful it was that children from such terrible circumstances

could become **part of such a lovely family** and be given the chance not only to make something of their lives, but to enjoy their childhood and share it with brothers and sisters.

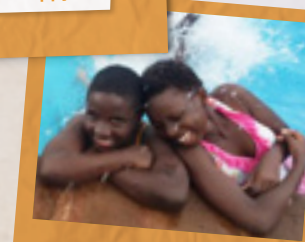
I felt so full of admiration for Julius and the mothers. I know that it involves a lot of hard work and dedication to create such a secure and happy environment for these children.

Enormous platefuls of chicken and chips were devoured with gusto for lunch, leaving clean shiny plates. Marion's portion was so huge I couldn't work out how there was physically room for it all in her tiny stomach, but she finished every scrap... with ketchup!

Thanks to all who generously give to the KCH Fun Fund, to make days like this happen. I can honestly say we had 'Fun'... in the extreme.



Mr Snappy



● Dave Schellingerhout

You cannot return from Africa unchanged. The passion fruit growing project in Busheyini, Uganda, followed by the micro finance scheme with which I was involved, showed the potential Ugandan people have, given the tools that we take for granted, like training and finance. CPA supporters generously provided these. To see them succeed, to see lives changed, to see people empowered, was great.

It was such a privilege to become good friends with those farmers and traders; to be welcomed into their homes and share what little they had; to live in their community. I always felt that I came home with so much more than I had taken.

Through CPA God continues to change lives.



● Dave Parker

Now living in Hampshire, it seems only yesterday that I first visited Ethiopia back in the early 1990s. I was invited with the task of capturing pictures for a fledgling charity: those images have stayed as vivid in my mind as the day I was there.

My highlight was attending the wedding of Tarik, one of the Bahir Dar girls, I had met on that very first trip. It was such a privilege to be there with our great friend Million, an amazing man who has watched over the lives of the girls for many years – a real servant of God and a constant blessing to all.



Dave at Tarik's wedding



Million & the Bahir Dar Girls 2002

● Nigel Woodcock

I am a Director of Acts Trust, a charity working with those in poverty in Lincoln.

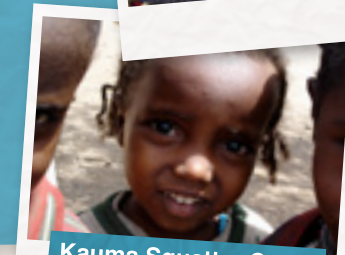
In 2003, I helped oversee the projects in Kauma squatter camp, in Malawi, providing community health education, adult literacy courses and supporting traditional birth attendants.

I formed my strongest relationship with Morrison, our project leader, who oozed enthusiasm and passion for those in need. It made real differences to people's lives: for instance enabling people to read and write; and reducing the risk of disease and birth complications in the community.

My involvement with CPA has inspired me to work with those in poverty locally.



Nigel and Morrison



Kauma Squatter Camp

● The Faces in the Places



● Mandy Hunter

1996 onwards

20 years ago CPA introduced me to Africa, radically changing my life. Having spent 10 years in missionary work and setting up a small charity with my friend, Mel, called Charis Ministries Mozambique, I now work with 'Mozambique Aglow' in bush areas bringing bible teaching, health training and practical help to the poorest of the poor.

I first went to Uganda with CPA in 1996. Annual trips for the next 5 years followed, to Ethiopia, Malawi and Mozambique training birth attendants, village health workers and to simply be **"The hands and feet of Jesus" to some of the poorest people in Africa.**

My fondest memories are of a wonderful, godly man called Million in Ethiopia. He taught me how sitting with people in the dirt, sharing in their suffering and showing God's love in word and deed can bring hope into otherwise hopeless lives... and here I am 20 years on still doing that!!

Thank you CPA - God bless.



● Joseph Hardwick

Director and Project Manager: 2005 - 2013

I am currently working in Sierra Leone as part of the Ebola Response. I guess my journey started in 2005, when I first visited Africa with Paul Quincey and his daughter Lauren. We stayed in a small village in Ethiopia with a pastor and his family, who gave us goat for dinner and eggs for breakfast. And lots of strong black coffee. They were generous hosts, giving us what little they had.

I have been to many other places in Africa since and have seen the same generous spirit - not only towards me, but also towards vulnerable children and those affected by poverty. Our African partners have taught me what it means to love my neighbours and have inspired me to do the same. CPA has changed many lives in Africa, but it has also changed mine.



● Helen Harrington

Administrator: 1996 - 1999

I have such fond memories of my time as CPA Office Administrator and trips to visit projects in Ethiopia and Uganda. I particularly remember the 12 Bahir Dar girls, orphaned in the late 1980's. We still keep in touch with Sinteyhu, the girl we sponsored, and treasure our relationship with her. I also loved building a play park at the Komamboga Children's Home and still recall the joy of the children and Aunties there.



Bob and Helen at KCH

I now live in Vancouver, Canada and run my own Bookkeeping business, but the involvement my husband Andy and I had with CPA, instilled in us a love for the people of Africa.

We are now involved with the Wellspring Foundation for Education; a Canadian based NGO that works into Rwanda. It is headed up by Andy.



Million



Spring Cap - Bello 1996

● Million Belihu ... One in a million!

**Wow it has been twenty years?
How time flies? I feel like it was just
yesterday.**

It was the Good Lord's guidance that brought us together. It was Him who spoke to Chris Shelbourne one afternoon about doing something in Africa. Thank God he obeyed because many lives have been positively impacted by that obedience. **Relationships have been established** between Ferenjis (foreigners) and Habashas; between Europeans and Africans and between Christian Churches. I think God has been glorified by that relationship because as a result many lives of poor people were saved from the impact of malaria in Bello.

Oh the twelve poor **girls of Bahir Dar**; they have also been impacted! They were just innocent little souls who needed encouragement, friendship and probably some help. The Good Lord guided us to them also.



Bello

Now all of them have grown up and almost all of them have their own families and children. Some, like Tarik and Sinteyhu are helping other poor children. Sinteyhu, Yeshareg, Yamirot, and Guday sometimes visit me at my home or call me and ask how I am doing. They have really been an encouragement to me. This is the Lord's hand.

Mamitu (now Lydia) is in the States. She has one daughter and she goes to an Ethiopian Community Church in North

Carolina with her family. I think all twelve of them attend churches wherever they are. Some of them like Yamirot are married to pastors and serving the Lord. Yeshareg and her husband have their own flourishing business. When our son had a car accident last September many of these girls came and visited him at our home. I really glorify the Lord for what he has done in these girl's lives.

Occasionally I call **Tadele** (CPA's old project worker in Bello). Tadele sometimes visits Bello and I get an update from him. There is a Church



The Health Clinic completed in 2014

planted there and the clinic is still helping the community.

What else? **Zewdie**, who used to work with **Selamawit in Debre Markos** (CPA's child sponsorship programme) now works for the Ethiopian Full Gospel Believers' Church Development office in Addis. I contact him whenever I get a chance. He has now married.

I hear **Beletew's project** has grown and is impacting Afar. Schools have been built and many Afar girls are getting rare chances of going to school. All these programmes are not CPAs, but it was CPA who first went to Sefi Beret. The churches at Rasa and Abayater have also been impacted by CPA; all glory be to God!

God Bless CPA and the Ferenji brothers and sisters there!

My best regards to ALL of them!

Million

● Christmas Appeal

This year's Christmas Appeal will raise funds for the local community surrounding St Paul's School, Rukungiri

Following recent discussions with our trusted partners, we have identified the need for a **'Community Emergency Fund'**.

In cases of dire need, where food or medical intervention is crucial for survival, the fund will provide **emergency support** to local families.

Many hands, near and far, can work together to support a community in need of love, generosity and understanding.

"IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A CHILD."

- African Proverb

HOW YOU CAN DONATE

Internet:
www.justgiving.com/christianpartnersinafrica

Direct Banking: 10045257
Sort Code: 16-23-32

Cheque: 15 Newland, Lincoln, LN1 1XG
Thank you

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GIFTS OF LOVE are gifts that unwrap hope and dignity for children living in poverty in Africa.

Go to www.cpafrica.org.uk/gifts-of-love/

Last order date for Christmas delivery: 17 December 2015





CPA IS 20 YEARS OLD!

You are invited to an
EVENING OF CELEBRATION!

on Saturday 21 November 2015

6.30pm – 9.00pm

Main Hall, Branston Academy,
Branston, Lincoln, LN4 1LH

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Please join us for a time of thanksgiving
and storytelling as we honour our
supporters, partners and friends. We
would love to see you there!

.....

RSVP by 7th November

office@cpafrica.org.uk



W W W . C P A F R I C A . O R G . U K

Front Cover Photo: Project Child at St Paul's School, Rukungiri, Uganda
Back Cover Photo: The Faces in the Places

ChristianPartnersinAfrica

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