



THE VIEW

Christian Partners in Africa | Spring 2018



**THE PINK
COFFEE
TABLE**

**LET
GIRLS
LEARN!**

**HUMAN
TRAFFICKING**

**ST PAUL'S
PROJECT
FAMILIES**

CPA News

Office News

In January we said a **very sad farewell to Susie** who has been part of the CPA team for over 18 years. We would like to thank Susie for her amazing contribution over the years and wish her well in the future.

In March we welcomed **Rose Williams**. She has settled straight in and been doing a wonderful job. If you haven't heard from her yet I am sure you will soon.

Also, many congratulations to our media volunteer **Jemma** who has given birth to baby Elijah.

Sefi Beret Famine Update

You may remember our appeal to help feed the school children at Sefi Beret during the severe drought in Ethiopia. Rosey and Chris visited the school in November and are pleased to report that the rains have arrived and the children are well. **Huge thanks go to everyone who contributed.**

Kathryn and Lameck are Married!

Congratulations to the happy pair who were married in Malawi in December and came back to the UK in April for a church blessing and further celebrations with family and friends. **We wish you every happiness in the future.**

The Face in the Place

Social Worker at Komamboga Children's Home

Shivan Ainembabazi

I was born in a humble Christian home in the Rukungiri district with eleven other children and I am the last born.

My parents were old and could hardly earn any money, **but fortunately my big brothers and sisters supported the young ones**, including me, through our education.

"I grew up with a passion for children and I always felt bad seeing anyone suffer"

That's why **I longed to do social work**. I graduated in 2011 at Kabale University.

In early 2013 I was employed at **St Paul's Primary School as a social worker**. It was fun working with the children and their caregivers and I learned a lot from Martin, the other social worker who had seven years' previous experience.

I always felt challenged in the community because the project children's **homes were so deficient in terms of shelter, food and other**



Shivan and Lucian

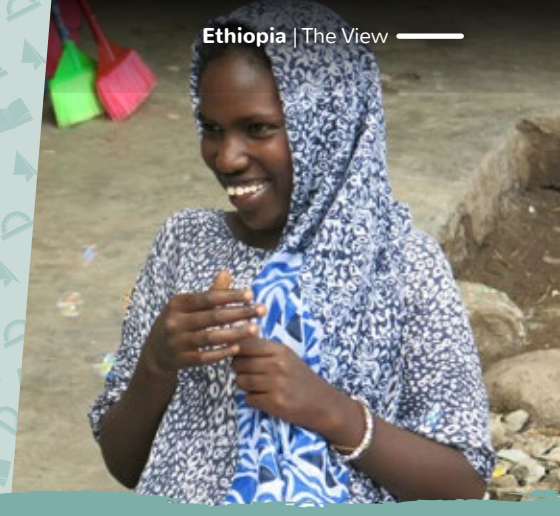
necessities for life, yet we couldn't help everyone. So we set up caregiver groups, encouraging those who had some **life skills to teach others** so that they could earn a living.

In September 2016 I married Luke and moved to Kampala after giving birth to our baby boy, Lucian.

By God's grace, I was employed by **Komamboga Children's Home** last November as a **social worker** and was **very excited at the chance to work with children again**.

I am thankful to God for CPA because of the role they play in our country Uganda and Africa as a whole, to protect and provide for children and keep children off the streets. I pray that God provides for you in abundance for your generous hearts.





'let your girls go to school!'

The Afar girls, Ethiopia

Rosey Shelbourne



We visited the Afar girls in Ethiopia on the 'International day of the girl'. It made Malala Yousafzai's tweet of the day particularly poignant. She wrote:

“ 5 years ago, I was shot in an attempt to stop me from speaking out for girls' education. Today, I attend my first lectures at Oxford. ”

The Afar tribe consists of approximately 1.65 million nomadic people who live in the Danakil area covering 72,000 sq. km. **Literacy rates are shockingly low** with 62% of boys and 73% of girls receiving no education at all. 20 years ago there were no schools in the Afar region of Komame. Today there is a Kindergarten, an Elementary school and a Senior school, all facilitated by our partner Beletew.

There are 65 girls at the Senior school, 40 of whom are part of the Afar girls project.

The project provides **safe accommodation, support and extra tuition for the girls, who all come from challenging home situations.** The aim is to give these girls a good education, and for some, access to university, which is free in Ethiopia if you reach the grade.

The head teacher expressed her frustration as she explained that pupils have to leave at grade 10 (age 16) and don't have the opportunity to study for the national exam and university entrance at 18. **Further education means moving to another area with a different language, alphabet and tradition** – a huge challenge to any 16 year old, especially from the Afar region.



The Afar regional government has invited CPA to work in partnership with them to provide the school with a sixth form block. The building cost for CPA will be **£45,000**, whilst the government will furnish the classrooms and provide the teachers. This facility would **allow the girls to continue their study in the safety of their own compound** and would also provide a vital amenity for all young people in the community.

Over the past seven years, only 10 Afar girls have overcome the many challenges and qualified for university. **We would love to give more girls the opportunity** by building these classrooms, where they can study and also grow in confidence and courage for the years ahead.

Beletew recently facilitated a meeting of 40 religious, clan and local council leaders, police and women's

educationalists. The local Education Officer, a well-versed Islamic scholar, challenged the group to pin point where in the Quran it states that girls shouldn't be educated. After much debate they agreed that there was no evidence and he responded,

“ You have no excuse, let your girls go to school. ”

These are the kind of useful meetings that educate and challenge communities and **act as a catalyst for social change.**

The 40 Afar girls are typical teenagers, albeit challenged by their circumstances. They are very beautiful with shining eyes, smiling faces and aspirations to make a better life. **Given the right opportunity, who knows where their education will take them.**



Afar Senior School

Let Girls Learn – Afar School Project

“ We cannot all succeed when half of us are held back. We call upon our sisters around the world to be brave – to embrace the strength within themselves and realise their full potential. ”

- Malala Yousafzai

The Afar region has **the lowest school attendance rate in Ethiopia** and this is particularly acute among girls. Lack of education puts a brake on progress and development in the region and allows harmful cultural practices against girls to continue.

CPA has been given the opportunity to do something about it and we are keen to take up the challenge.

The regional Afar government has formally invited CPA to build **two classroom blocks** at Komame to enable students to complete their final two years of schooling and give them the **opportunity to go on to university**. It will be an investment in the lives of young Afar people, including girls, both now and in the future.

The total cost is £45,000. Construction has begun on the first block. **We still need to raise £22,500 to complete the final three classrooms.**

We would like to ask you to consider giving towards this project. We are convinced it will be a **major stepping-stone for education in this part of**



New 6th Form Development

Afar; an opportunity for young people, especially girls, to be empowered to shape their own future.

It's also exciting to think that people in this forgotten corner of Ethiopia may become the writers, poets, artists, engineers, doctors and scientists of the future, to the benefit of the whole country – **and it's exciting to think that we can play a part.**

“ The ability to read, write, analyse; the confidence to stand up and demand justice and equality; the qualifications and connections to get your foot in that door and take your seat at that table – all of that starts with education. ”

- Michelle Obama, 'Let Girls Learn' speech, International Women's Day 2016

How to donate

Direct banking: 10002353
Sort code: 16-33-32
www.mydonate.bt.com

Cheque: 15 Newland,
Lincoln LN1 1XG

Thank you



Senayt and Kassaye

The Pink Coffee Table Sefi Beret, Ethiopia

Rosey Shelbourne

As I met Kassaye, one of the founding fathers of the Sefi Beret church, my thoughts returned to our first meeting in 1998. Million had taken us to Sefi Beret because the **3,000 people living there had no water**. They had to walk 14 miles to collect it and wouldn't resettle because their ancestors were buried there. Later, CPA was able to facilitate a small reservoir, funded by Tear Fund, which collected water from the hillside during the rainy season, **helping to provide water for the community**.

It was my first visit to Pastor Kassaye's small home and I will never forget the coffee table, made from a cardboard box with a nylon umbrella-top for a tablecloth. Although this was ingenious, **I remember being shocked at the level of poverty**. Apart from that, the room was empty except for a homemade bench. However, Kassaye and his wife Senayt

exuded the love of God and **they shared with us everything they had** – a little injera and coffee.

Now, as we enter Kassaye's new flat in Addis **his face still shines and his eyes twinkle** as he welcomes us. We talk about family and the changes in the country and reflect on the positive developments in Sefi Beret; a village water tap, electricity and a primary school.

I glance at the coffee table and notice that it is a **pink double decker with a glass top**. I reflect that things have come a long way since our first meeting and it makes me **appreciate our friendship**, the journey that we have all walked together and the **positive things that have come out of it**. I leave feeling so happy to have met this truly lovely man, his family and the community at Sefi Beret and feel glad that we have been able to do something worthwhile together.



Rassa Goba

The Tragedy of Human Trafficking

Chris Shelbourne

The thought that slavery is a thing of the past is sadly mistaken. We have probably all seen reports of modern slavery right here on our own doorstep. **In Africa, ancient slave routes have been replaced by modern ones**, which traffic an extraordinary number of (mainly) young people, especially girls, out of their countries to foreign lands.

In Ethiopia we have first-hand accounts of this happening in communities we work with. Families have spoken of 'brokers' coming to visit them, **promising gainful employment for their daughters** in the Middle East where they can continue their education and earn enough money to help the whole family.

Such promises are usually empty and often result in abusive and prison-

like conditions for the unsuspecting teenagers. Even getting to these countries is hazardous and many deaths in transit have been reported.

Of course, it's not a straightforward matter to resolve. Families who are **struggling with food shortages and lack of income** are vulnerable to promises of riches. We have to be careful not to criticise without first understanding the circumstances these families find themselves in.

At first sight **it seems an almost impossible task to deal with** - the scale of the problem is enormous - but we are speaking to organisations involved in tackling modern slavery, like Hope for Justice. In the coming months we are looking to put together a strategy so we can at least make a start, however small. Over the years we have seen that **even a small start can eventually lead to big change**.

St Paul's School Project Families

Moses Muhoozi

Most of the CPA project children's families are improving their economic, social and spiritual standards. The children get involved in house chores after classes, during the weekend, and holidays. They participate in activities like fetching water, cooking, sweeping, mopping, digging, and washing utensils.

Most of the care givers depend on rain fed farming to get food for their families and we thank God for giving us rainfall this planting season. The general crop yield was good and the families have food unlike the previous season.

More families are being encouraged to engage in some income generating activities that will be of some help when their children join higher institutions of learning. Some projects include coffee, bananas, fruits and vegetables, goat rearing and piggery.



Every member of our community contributes to the child protection policy which gives children security and a clear environment to learn and keep safe from being affected by social injustices

Great thanks go to you CPA Family for the passion and commitment to this project

The school held a school mission to equip children for the long holiday. It was a great time in the presence of God. Under the theme you're the salt of the earth from Matthew 5:13



ABC

SPONSORS NEEDED



In 2017 the CPA scholarship programme supported 144 children through primary education. St Paul's is recognised as a flagship school at a national level and its number of pupils continues to increase.

If you, or someone you know, would like to provide a scholarship for a child at St Paul's, please contact the CPA office at office@cpafrica.org.uk or telephone on 01522 544830.



1+3=4



“There is so much potential to bring much needed support to the Afar people”



The Final Word

United We Stand

Wendy Brett



I can't believe I've been working with Christian Partners in Africa for nearly nine months already! It has been an interesting and challenging time and I am sure it will continue to be so.

I have supported CPA personally since its conception. In fact, **I remember sitting with a group of people when Chris shared his vision for CPA for the first time.** I listened to what was said and really wanted to be involved, but didn't have any relevant skills to offer at that time. **Little did I know that over twenty years later I would end up working for CPA as Office Manager!**

The office has seen many changes throughout the years. People have come and gone, each bringing their own specific skillset and leaving their own personal mark, and **all have shaped the course of CPA's journey.** As I look to the future, I hope that I can contribute something that will add to the valuable work of CPA.

Last October when Chris and Rosey returned from Ethiopia, having visited the Afar project, Chris said that he **felt the same level of excitement that he did in the beginning.** This inspired me because I feel it too. There is so much potential to bring much needed support to the Afar people, and to draw on the wealth of experience that CPA has gained over the years.

I can't wait to see what the future holds.

Wendy





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