



THE VIEW

Christian Partners in Africa | Spring 2019



**MOVING
HOME**

**SEFI BERET
LIBRARY**

**HUMAN
TRAFFICKING**

**LET THEM
LEARN**



CPA News

New office!

We kicked off 2019 by moving into our new office. It didn't take long to get everything unpacked and Rose and Aimee are now happily settled at **Commerce House, Carlton Boulevard, Lincoln, LN2 4WJ**. Our new phone number is **01522 846 934**.

New team member

We are pleased to welcome another new face to the CPA office team. **Beryl joins us as Partner Support and Development Officer**. She will be working closely with the Directors and our partners in Africa and the UK. If you haven't already heard from Beryl, I'm sure you soon will.

Changes to online giving

On 30th June 2019 the **MyDonate** giving site **will be closing**, but don't worry we've found a replacement! With immediate effect you can make any online donations via **give.net/20027462**. If you have any questions just get in contact with the office via email or our new phone number.



The nursery block

The Face in the Place

Bamwesiga Justus, Head teacher at **St Paul's School, Rukungiri, Uganda**



I was born in Buhasha village in the Bushenyi District on 1st May 1958.

I'm second born out of eleven children and I got married to Dinah in 1986. We have five children; three girls and two boys. My father died in 2002, my mother is still alive but very old.

When I was young in primary school, I wanted to be a doctor. I went to Kampala for secondary school, but after O' Levels my parents were unable to send me for A' Levels so I decided to do a teaching certificate. I joined the local primary teachers' college at Bushenyi and **started in the field of teaching in 1984**, working in government schools. In 2000, I studied for a diploma in Primary Education and **in 2009 I joined St Paul's Community Primary School as the Head teacher**.

St Paul's is a busier school than the government schools, but I enjoy this, and **it has made me who I am today**. I enjoy being a recognised member of the community and my own children have been able to go to school too.

“it has made me who I am today.”

I have seen a lot of changes in the school since I came: school enrolment has increased from under 586 to over 730 children; **children's performance has improved steadily** and a stable staff has been maintained; the compound has greatly improved and a lot more classrooms and structures have been built.

I love my job because it was a call from God.



Before



Back in a Heartbeat

Team trip to St Paul's School, Rukungiri

In November, a team from Scotland travelled to St Paul's School. They had a fun, action-packed few days with the children, attending Parent's Day, where they saw lots of singing and dancing and the children being presented with their end of year certificates!

While they were there, some of the team organised gymnastics and sports activities with the children, whilst others worked on some general maintenance around the school.



One task included re roofing the home of one of the project children, where a leaking roof was making the house uninhabitable. The team worked with community members to help this family. St Paul's consider this kind of project to be part of their outreach and support for the families of the project children.

Alan, Jacqueline and Rachel (Mum and daughter) were part of the team. Alan was on his fourth trip to Uganda and Jacqueline and Rachel were on their first. Rachel is in her first year at Senior school.

They kindly shared their experiences with us:

Why did you want to go?

A: I wanted to go back to St Paul's, as I haven't visited since 2011.

J: After a year of poor health, from which I have recovered, I thought life is short, so decided to give it a go, even though I was nervous.

R: I was excited to go with my Mum.

Were you nervous before your trip?

A: No. Since my first trip I have always felt comfortable in Uganda, and I enjoy making friends there.

J&R: Yes. It was our first time in Uganda.

Did anything differ from your expectations?

J&R: The Ugandan people were so generous and very hospitable. Even though they didn't have very much, what they did with it was amazing. Also, we didn't expect the country to be so green.

What was your role?

J: Rachel and I did gymnastics with the children and ran the sports afternoon. We also helped with the dismantling of the house roof and helped clear it out.

A: I was involved with repairing the leaking roof amongst other things.



What was the strangest thing you ate?!

A: It had to be grasshopper, very tasty!

J: Fried grasshopper!! Quite proud of myself.

R: A brown dough bread called Kalo or millet bread, and Matoke, which is made from green savoury bananas.

What was most challenging?

R: Driving past people who were very poor, and only helping one family fix their home.

What lasting impression will you take away with you?

J: It was overwhelming to see how thankful everyone was.

A: The amazing school band at St Paul's.

Were you inspired to make any changes to your everyday life?

A: Since my first visit I have continued to be aware of how best to use my time, the gifts which God has blessed me with, and my energy to encourage

others to do the same.

J: Definitely to appreciate what we have back home, and it inspired me to stop moaning about silly things that don't really matter.

What advice would you give to people who are thinking of visiting Africa?

R: If you decide to go you will have an amazing experience.

A: Don't hesitate, don't be afraid and if you have the opportunity, take it. God is there too.

J: Don't drink their coffee at 8pm, it's so strong you won't sleep! (Although their coffee is amazing.)

Do you think it's important for people to visit our projects? If so, why?

A: A lasting consideration from all my trips is how loved these children are and how well they are educated and cared for. Yet well-meaning people at home think the solution would be to bring them all to Britain. If people could see the projects in action it may help their understanding.



J: Yes. There is obviously a lot of need in the community. To see it in the flesh opens your mind and it helped me to understand and grasp it better and see how to potentially get involved.

Was there anyone who inspired you?

A: The two Social Workers at St Paul's were, in my mind, very aware of the needs and requirements of the children in their charge, and not afraid to roll up their sleeves when required.

R: I met a girl called Susan and we were the same age. Susan loved to carry on and to play netball and chuck beanbags. We had lots of fun together, even though our daily lives are so different. One day Susan hopes to come to Scotland.

Has this trip impacted your faith in any way?

J: Yes, it did impact my faith – to be more thankful and grateful for what we have. The people there thanked God continuously for everything. It's funny how quickly you can forget to be thankful.

A: Being in a small district church in

Kampala one Sunday and in the King's Church in Scotland the next. I took a moment to talk with God and was overwhelmed by the feeling of being covered by His love wherever I am in the world.

Tell us your favourite memory...

J: Helping the family with their house. It was a practical day helping and then the family performed a song and dance for us.

Sum up your trip in less than 5 words!

J&R: Blessed.

A: Back in a heartbeat.





Moving Home – the Komamboga children

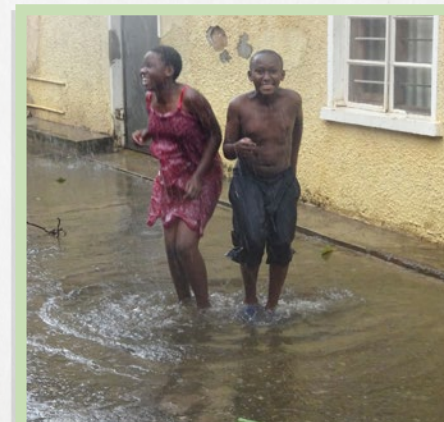
Chris Shelbourne

The history of Uganda, following its independence from Britain, is a messy one. It finally emerged from years of military dictatorship and civil war in 1986 with fractured infrastructures for all to see. As if that wasn't difficult enough, the 1980s saw the AIDS epidemic begin to take a stranglehold on the country.

It is into this context that Komamboga Children's Home was first established. The ethos of the Home right from the beginning was to create a family

atmosphere where all children would be safe, cared for and where they could develop their full potential. **This is an ethos we have done our best to preserve since we became involved in 1995.** Over the years there have been many happy moments and some sad moments, but the Home has stood firm in its principles and the lives of many children have been helped and guided, with many of them now having families of their own.

Society's values and priorities change over the years and the Ugandan Government has developed new policies and directives concerning the care of children and the use of Children's Homes. **The Government is now determined to see all children placed into families** and has set about



ensuring this happens as soon as possible. **Although Komamboga has always been seen by the Government as a model home for children,** they nonetheless expect the Home to follow the new policy.

While we understand the reasons for the change in policy, implementing it well is not an easy task. We know that fostering and adoption is a complex process and many safeguards are needed to do the job properly. Our challenge has been to provide **a smooth transition for the children from the settled family environment they have known at Komamboga to a new family, where they can continue to feel secure and thrive.**

Recognising this complexity, CPA **recruited a social worker** to join the Komamboga team and also **linked up with a Ugandan organisation, Retrak,** which has a wealth of experience in resettling children.

A considerable effort has gone into tracing wider family for the children and this has thrown up **some interesting connections.** There are a number of cases where blood relatives, although once very young or without the capacity

to care for the children, are now in a position to provide a home. Over the past year the children have been able to spend some time with these relatives to get used to the idea of moving.

For some of the children it has not been possible to find any relatives. In these cases, Retrak has been assisting with looking for foster families. One exciting development has been that **some of those who previously grew up at the Home have offered to be the 'permanent' foster parents.**

Partnering with Retrak, CPA will continue to oversee the children's welfare until they reach independence. This will be done by the Retrak resettlement team, who will have regular contact with the children and families, and will include Shivan, KCH's social worker. They will also provide additional support to the wider families if required.

We continue to pray that the children will flourish in their new homes and, as the Gospel of John says (ch 10 v 10), "that they may have life, and have it abundantly"



LET THEM LEARN

An update on our Christmas Appeal

Aimee Horton

Although we take education for granted, in the Afar region 70% of children receive no formal education, and even for those who do go to school, there is no sixth form.

CPA was invited by the Regional Afar Government to build two classroom blocks at Komame Senior School to enable students to complete their final two years of schooling and **give them the chance to apply for university.**

In the lead up to Christmas we asked for your help, and the good news is, that thanks to your generosity, **the first block is open and work on the second block has begun.**

We also asked for your help to enable us to continue to empower and support the young people in the Afar region:

CPA is now supporting 40 girls through education. 22 are boarding at the project centre, being looked after by Roman, who acts as a 'mother' to the girls, while they are boarding, ensuring they are kept safe and do their homework on time! **13 of these girls are in grade eleven and have already started studying in the new block.**

CPA also funded another **three-day conference**, which included government officials, clan leaders from 12 Kebeles* and local teachers. The two subjects discussed were **FGM and Girl's Education.**

Our Ethiopian Partner Beletew said... **"Our enlightened Prime Minister Dr Abiy Ahmed is a woman from Afar, and she inspired the girls to attend the meeting from the girl's dormitory."** We are told that **"the girls were able to talk about the importance of their education and that their conduct was highly appreciated."**

At the end of the conference, the clan leaders promised to send their children, **especially girls**, to school; the Government Officials promised to put a fence around the Senior School and appoint appropriate teachers; and the girls were **very motivated having been given the opportunity to attend.**

Thank you. What a difference your generosity has made!

*Neighbourhood.



A new Library in Sefi Beret

When Chris and Rosey visited Sefi Beret in October 2017, the community talked about wanting to put together a library for children who came to visit the church compound. They wanted to do something to inspire children to learn.

Thanks to a generous donation, a total of 249 books have been purchased. These comprise of Bible stories in Amharic (the local language), which are suitable for children; children's academic books in English, Maths, Science, Chemistry and Physics; as well as plenty of story books.

We look forward to hearing all about it!





The Cost of Human Trafficking

Paul Quincey

In the winter edition of 'The View' we shared our concerns about the migration of young people from Sefi Beret in Ethiopia to the Middle East. At that time, we were waiting for the results of a survey on Human Trafficking undertaken by Retak on our behalf.

Retrak have invaluable experience working with young people who have migrated from their communities. The resulting survey revealed that the situation was far more prevalent than initially suspected.

It appears that the migration route from Sefi Beret is through the Danakil desert over the Red Sea into Yemen and on to the Middle East. Many die during the sea crossing or passing through war ridden Yemen. Even if the traveller does make it, we have heard many stories confirming that mistreatment is common not only on the journey, but also on arrival.

To us, the very notion of sending young people to work in such situations seems unthinkable, however the risk of economic migration has been the norm for many years, with families looking to increase income by sending young people to work in the Middle East in the hope that they will send money home. For families with such limited options of income and opportunity this may feel like their only option.



During a recent conference in Addis Ababa discussing the issues around illegal migration and modern-day slavery, the evidence from the survey was presented by Retrak as initial findings of what is clearly a much wider issue and confirming to us that it is too great a problem for CPA to tackle on our own.

For the issue to be tackled effectively and adequately resourced, it will be necessary to have an approach that brings together many agencies with expertise in this field and also be fully supported by the Ethiopian authorities. It is our intention to continue to dialog with 'Hope for Justice' here in the UK and Retrak in Ethiopia to explore the possibility of a wider study over a larger geographical area. This piece of work will form the evidence that could then be used to seek funding for the much larger, multi-agency approach.

It is inevitable that such an undertaking will take some

considerable time and in the meantime many families will continue to resort to such desperate measures to provide for themselves. The human cost to individuals may never fully be known, we can only speculate.

Until such time as a full and coordinated answer to the issue can be found, we will continue to entrust the community to God and commit ourselves to continue to work towards a solution.





Chris with Ephraim Gensi; our dear friend, who was a great collaborator.

The Final Word

Collaboration – the way ahead

Chris Shelbourne



Sometimes we think we can go it alone in life, dealing with things that come across our path in our own way and working out our own solutions to life's problems. However, in our more reflective moments, we become aware of **the benefit of sharing thoughts and ideas with others in an attempt to get a better solution**. It's certainly a hot topic at the moment for us in the UK.

When it works, **collaboration means that we are greater than the sum of our parts**. We gain from the wisdom and experience of others and they, hopefully, benefit from our insights. This is certainly true of our work in Africa. Africa cannot be reduced to a simplistic set of problems and solutions; **it is a vast continent of many cultures and economic and social interdependencies which we cannot hope to fully understand**. Our partners in Africa have been a great help over the years, not least in helping us to understand some of the cultural complexities which have had a major effect on the way we've gone about our work.

There are also the specialists who have vast experience in specific areas of work. Over recent years the **microfinance projects** we

have set up in Uganda have benefited enormously from the expertise of the Five Talents organisation. Our current work in **resettling children from Komamboga into families** would not be possible without the help of Retrak.





St Paul, in his letter to the Corinthians, gave the helpful analogy of being many parts but one body. **All of us have a role to play; we just need to find out what it is and then get to work**, all the time realising that none of us can really be effective unless we are part of a bigger whole.

Chris



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