



THE VIEW

Christian Partners in Africa | Winter 2018

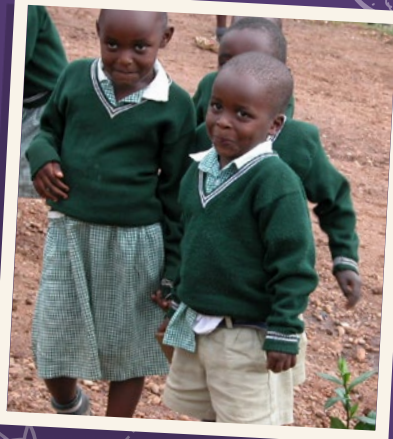


**PROUD AND
LOUD AT
SEFI BERET**

**MODERN
DAY
SLAVERY**

**GRASS
TO
GRACE**

**CHRISTMAS
APPEAL
2018**



CPA News

Scottish Team en route to St Paul's School

In November a team of eight from Scotland will be travelling to St Paul's. They will be running some sports activities for the children and helping out with some maintenance painting around the school. This year they will there for Parent's Day, which is a great occasion at St Paul's; there will be lots of singing, dancing and the children will be presented with their end of year certificates!

Watch out on social media for video and photo updates.

Office News

A warm welcome to Aimee who has joined us to manage our Social Media and Communications. Aimee hopes to give our website a much-needed facelift, and also to give us a louder voice across social media drawing attention to the plight of those we are working with in Africa.

We are on the move!

After many years at Newland, we are relocating. Until our new office is ready, we're back to where it all began at The Bothy in Branston. However, please continue to send any post to **15 Newland, Lincoln, LN1 1XG** until further notice. Our phone number remains the same **01522 544830**.

The Face in the Place

Girls Boarding Coordinator for the Afar Girls

Roman Tafese

I was born in 1984 in the Oromia region of Ethiopia and the youngest of 10, however I have lost my father and two of my sisters.

After school I graduated as a teacher and I taught near my hometown and in Addis. From there God guided me to move to Komame where I joined VWDO* as a teacher and girls boarding coordinator. I think that is my call from God; I am happy doing it and satisfied when I see the results. Actually social concern is one of the purposes of the church and I am going to fulfil it until the end of my life.

“As a woman, a teacher and a Christian and the one living in the rural country, I know all the challenges of women.”

In Afar the challenge is worse. They live in remote areas, come

* Voice in the Wilderness Development Organisation



from illiterate families and harmful traditional practices are rampant.

Afar girls are engaged in marriage at an early age by default, even without their consent. Therefore most girls do not have access to education. Helping these girls to get access to education liberates them from this cultural bondage. **Being part of this liberation is really a great privilege for me.**

One big challenge associated with the community, is that they are illiterate and they do not believe in education. They especially have a negative attitude towards girl's education. **I think that is the root cause for every problem** and I intend to do much work on changing the mindset of the community.



Changes are afoot at Komamboga

Mel Smith

Although I have travelled a lot on my own over the years, I must admit my first visit to Africa felt a little daunting.

I was meeting Paul Quincey in Addis Ababa airport, as he was visiting Ethiopia first. I made a quick decision not to read any reviews of the airport

and just enjoy the adventure. More importantly, I wondered where I was going to be able to watch the World Cup final if England got through, as this was the day I flew. As it happened I had nothing to worry about, the journey and airport were good and England went out in the semi-finals, so no worries there!

Flying over Lake Victoria, we landed in the evening at Entebbe airport. **The journey from here to Kampala was a crazy cacophony of noise and vehicles.** There were bikes, little taxis crammed with as many people as possible, and more shops and stalls than you can imagine. **I've never seen so many mannequins along the side of the road in my life!** I saw motorbikes carrying what looked like the contents of someone's home on the back, another carrying a car bonnet, and more with so many people and children. How did they all fit on?



The reason for my visit was to follow up on the government's recent initiative in Uganda to resettle children living in Children's Homes with surviving relatives or extended family*. As my day job for many years has been in social work and managing a team who assess and support kinship carers, it was the perfect opportunity to be able to share some of my knowledge. Also, and more importantly, to ensure that any decisions made about the children entrusted into the care of Komamboga Children's Home were made in the children's best interests.

It was fascinating to see how similar Ugandan and UK law are concerning children. **The immediate challenge however, seems to be the lack of training available to staff and the practicalities and follow up on the ground.**

We had a busy week at Komamboga, meeting social workers from other organisations and going on field trips with the Director, Tom, and Social Worker, Shivan to see some options for the Komamboga children. For me, as a Social Worker, **it was great to**

be able to share different ways of working and new tools for helping with the placement of children.

The week passed far too quickly and it was time to say our goodbyes but I believe we achieved a lot of things in the short time that we had.

***Recently the Ugandan government revised its care policy because of serious failings by some institutions. Their policy is to place all children in need of care with families. CPA is working with Tom and Shivan to find suitable families for all the Komamboga children. This will take time and CPA will continue to support the Home to provide a safe environment until every child is happily settled and has completed their education.**





Facing up to Modern Day Slavery

Paul Quincey

What choices have you made today? Maybe, how to spend your time? What to eat? Which style of coffee to drink; cappuccino, flat white, espresso? We make a myriad of choices every day and we take the freedom for granted, even if sometimes we have to make difficult choices. **But how does it feel to have no choice at all?**

Imagine for a moment what it must be like to face a situation where due to drought or famine you feel you have no choice but to move geographically or ask a family member to do so. Imagine if that family member is a young person, a child possibly as

young as eight years of age.

This was the scenario that the community in Sefi Beret faced in 2016 after the famine.

This practise of migrating to either a large city or foreign country has become common place in Ethiopia, particularly among poor communities.

“ The belief that you can better yourself has attracted people to relocate to improve their own lives or that of their families. ”

During periods of famine or drought the need to take action understandably increases and this was the case in the Sefi Beret area.



However, **a need to act does not always come without risk** and can leave families vulnerable to exploitation. We have evidence that during this period 'brokers' were arranging migrations. Indeed, I spoke with a mother who explained that her three daughters had left Sefi Beret to work as domestics in Saudi Arabia and she had only heard from one of them.

While visiting Ethiopia for the 50th anniversary of the Sefi Beret church, I met with Lynn Kay, the Ethiopia Country Director of Retrak, which is part of the Hope for Justice family, who have a proven record in targeting trafficking and modern-day slavery. As a result, **CPA has commissioned Retrak to undertake an independent review** of the situation so that we can make an informed decision on what action to take to help these young people and families.

The most likely outcome will be the implementation of a poverty reduction programme, working closely with families, so that at times of increased pressure they have the resources

to resist migrating. Women and especially mothers will be encouraged to save and set up small businesses through self-help groups and also given awareness training.

We expect to receive the results of the review in November and we will keep you informed of the findings and how you can get involved.





Sefi Beret church celebrates 50 years – Proud and Loud!

Paul Elliott

The air was hot and still. It was 4am and pitch black. The town dogs had stopped barking and the donkeys were silent. Nothing disturbed the hot air in the house apart from the rats under our bed and Paul Quincey's gentle snoring... Then... **"Good Morning Sefi Beret"**! The Muslim call to prayer blasted out across the town at ear shattering volume. PQ was no longer snoring! An hour later it was the

turn of the Orthodox Christians, who continued until 7am. A brief moment of quiet and then it was the turn of the Mulu Wongel (full Gospel) Church to sing and preach until dusk.

Thus the dusty town of Sefi Beret welcomed the third day of celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of its church.

The church compound, surrounded by a corrugated iron fence and large gates was the size of a football pitch. To the left was a large temporary canvas, to shelter from the sun the thousands of faithful who had travelled for this special event. Dry grass was spread on the ground as a carpet and plastic chairs placed in regimental rows.

The congregation, in a variety of



brightly coloured Sunday best clothes, enthusiastically swayed and clapped to the worship songs **led by a local chap who had learned to play the keyboard from YouTube**. Speakers connecting right back to the founding of the church gave earnest messages celebrating their heritage and their hopes for the future. PQ spoke, bringing greetings from CPA who have been associated with this community for over 20 years.

All present were fed breakfast, lunch, and supper and were accommodated for the full three-day event. Countless goats and oxen were slaughtered to feed the thousands, along with endless supplies of injera made by ladies from the Sefi Beret church; **a celebration feast of Biblical proportions.**

The event culminated in the opening of a new concrete church with a tin roof, which had been built by the community over several years. PQ was invited to accompany a little girl who carried scissors on a pink cushion, to cut the ribbon (to whoops of joy) and to declare the new church open; a great honour for CPA. Immediately everyone crowded in and the young people spontaneously danced and sang.

The old men and women, who had founded the church and had suffered persecution under the communist dirge, **now stood weather beaten and scarred with their hands raised**. They prayed over the younger generation that they would continue to be a light in the community and that God willing, they would be back in another 50 years to celebrate both the golden jubilee of the new church and the centenary of the church in Sefi Beret.



Meeting Bob

Mel Smith

Kevin and I have been supporters of CPA for over twenty years and on my first visit to Uganda, one of the things I had hoped for was that I might have opportunity to meet Bob Trubish who was the first 'child' we supported many years ago, when he was living with his siblings at Komamboga Children's Home.

One of the things we've loved to be involved with is the sponsorship initiative. It has always been great to support and watch a child blossom into adulthood and know that in a small way you have been a part of their journey. Although we have and will continue to support different children, Bob was our first, **so the opportunity to meet him was always going to be a bit special.**

Over the years we have loved watching Bob achieve so much and **we were so proud when he completed University and went on to have a successful career.** So I was really excited when I had



“ It has always been great to support and watch a child blossom into adulthood and know that in a small way you have been a part of their journey. ”

the opportunity to meet him at his home in Kampala. It was wonderful to talk about our lives, to reminisce and to chat about what he is doing now. Sadly, I could not persuade Bob that he had chosen the wrong football team all those years ago and there was no swapping him from Chelsea to Manchester United!

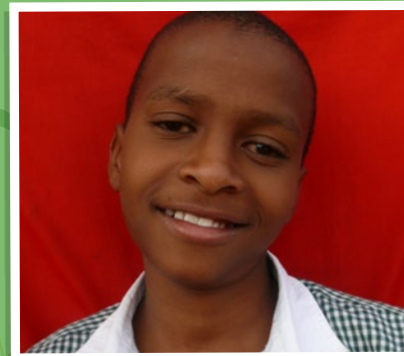
From Grass to Grace

We love getting updates from the children we've helped to support through education. This latest news from Agaba Mike, who joined St Paul's in 2010 was lovely to read.

Agaba Mike was the second of four children born into a poor home in the Rukungiri district.

When his parents were unable to continue raising the fees to pay for his education, Mike was given the opportunity to join the CPA project at St Paul's Community Primary School.

He joined the school in P4 and enjoyed working hard, eventually scoring 7 in the Primary Leavers Exam*. **This was remarkable** and made him eligible to be admitted to Mbarara High School, which is one of the best schools in



the district. Therefore, **because of his exceptional ability**, CPA decided, together with his parents, to continue to support him through senior school.

Having achieved good results in his A Levels (maths, economics, and art), Mike is now a day student at Makerere University in Kampala studying for a Bachelor of Commerce.

Mike refers to CPA as his second family, and praises God Almighty for all the love and support. He says, "God sent me a chance which has raised me from grass to grace."

*The Primary Leavers exam is taken in the final year of primary school. Your score determines which school you can attend next.

LET THEM LEARN

Afar School Project

Christmas Appeal 2018



- There are 1.65 million Afar People
- Literacy rates are shockingly low
- 70% of children receive no formal education
- Girls are particularly affected
- There is no Sixth Form in the region

CPA has been 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.

“Helping girls to access education, liberates them.”

– Roman Tafese, Boarding Coordinator

Please help us to continue to empower the young people in the Afar region to shape their own futures.

TARGET: £25,000

To donate visit www.mydonate.bt.com or use the bank details below:

Sort code: 16-23-32
Account No: 10002353

Thank you!



gifts of love

Give your friends and family gifts that unwrap hope and dignity for children living in poverty in Africa.



For **£5**
you can buy a family a set of **Gardening tools**

For **£10**
you can buy a family a **Water Tank**

For **£15**
you can buy a family a **Mattress** of their own

St Paul's School
Rukungiri, Uganda

For **£5**
you can buy a school girl a **blanket** to keep her warm

For **£10**
you can buy a school girl a **personal care kit**



Girls from Afar, Ethiopia

To order your gift visit:
www.cpafrica.org.uk/giftsoflove

Last orders Monday 10th December

Walking to school in Sefi Beret, Ethiopia carrying books and stool on head.



The Final Word

The Value of Education

Rosey Shelbourne



I have always been passionate about the value of education. Trained as a primary school teacher, I see the value in good foundations, creative thought and expression, sharing stories, and a love of learning. The thing about education, in its widest sense, is that you can never take it away from someone.

Of course, buildings are vital too, especially in some circumstances. The Afar sixth form block will open up new opportunities for the next generation of Afar students to access further education. But for those who are always on the move (often a symptom of poverty) **what you have learned and the desire to find out more, travels with you for your whole life.**

What a joy to hear from Mike who, having been given the chance of a free scholarship at St Paul's Primary School, has now enrolled at university and has a life of opportunity ahead of him. Then there is the story of Bob Trubish, and many more from Komamboga, who have forged out good careers and now have their own families and children.

This is why CPA gives education a special place and focus. The Afar girls in particular need our support to help them continue their studies. This hopefully will empower them to **challenge the old ways and model a new way forward that brings with it opportunity, dignity and gives girls a voice.**

Maybe this chance of a further education could be key in breaking the cycle of poverty and reduce the risk of vulnerable exploitation.





Rosey

Rosey



Cover images: St Paul's School Rukungiri
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