

Kate's Uganda Newsletter: May 2010.

Dear Friends and Family,

Well, this will be the last official newsletter I write before returning to the UK (on June 27th.) These last two months have been busier than ever and highlights include a visit from the Tees Valley Team (which was lengthened by almost a week thanks to the volcano in Iceland,) our family holiday to the camp and most recently the foreign staff retreat at a resort in Jinja.

It was so encouraging to have friends come and contribute to the work here (and bring English goodies such as Tetley tea bags, Trifle mix and Body Shop stuff!) One of their suitcases was stuffed full of cloth nappies which was a HUGE blessing. It will certainly cut down Hassan's expenses and we were also able to give some to Kakulu and Ivan along with some clothes that had been donated.

Kakulu has continued to visit at least once a week and Ivan, his Mum and uncle have been coming once a month. Last month, they turned up with two other children with disabilities and their 'carers' which was a bit of a surprise but somehow we managed to give everyone some posho and beans to eat for lunch. This whole group came again yesterday and I was able to share a little more about New Hope and our plans to help children in the area with disabilities as well as the reason why we wish to do so. The other two children are Nalubega who is about 5 and has cerebral palsy and epilepsy, and Moris who is 18 months old with global developmental delay (in other words he is very behind in everything.) He has been told by hospital staff that he has 'weak bones' and will never walk but I am taking him to see the Physio at Kiwoko hospital next week for a 2nd opinion!



LEFT: Ivan in Hassan's wheelchair in need of some fattening up!

RIGHT: Moris enjoying the 'ball pool'.



In my last month here I shall be busy working with these children, continuing to help with the P2 remedial group and attempting to write a budget for the special needs programme which we hope to start on my return (the end of August.) I shall be sending out some more information about the programme in the near future. If you, or any of your friends and family would like to sponsor the programme or make a contribution, we would be very happy to hear from you. I'd also love to hear from anyone who has any ideas about fund raising events or who knows of any organisations who I could apply to for grants or anything similar. At the end of June, I am going to a disability conference in Kampala lead by Joni and friends (the organisation started by Joni Errikson-Tada.) Another of our primary school teachers who also has an interest in 'special needs' will be accompanying me and

perhaps when we return, we will be able to share what we have learnt with other teachers/staff in general. I am also hoping that we will have the opportunity to make some useful contacts.

Hassan is doing well although the site around his gastrostomy tube has recently been infected which has required several trips to the hospital and Nurse Kate (ha ha!) changing the dressing twice a day. Thankfully this last week it has really cleared up! Unfortunately, one of his workers (Auntie Jordanna) has had to go into hospital for a hysterectomy this week. Sadly she has never been able to have children which is such a shame; she is so loving and kind with Hassan. She has sent a young girl from the village to replace her at work but obviously it is going to take time to train her and for me to feel confident leaving her alone with Hassan. Hence my work load is going to increase for at least the next few weeks.

Our David family holiday at the beginning of the month was a wonderful experience! We packed ourselves and all our 'luggage' onto the back of the lorry and set off on a very long, dusty and bumpy journey to Musana camp (owned by New Hope) in Mukono district. The camp is on a stunningly beautiful hillside which overlooks Lake Victoria. It was such a blessing to have time together as a family; walking, swimming in the lake (I hope none of us caught Bilharzia,) eating luxuries such as roasted goat meat and sitting around the camp fire in the evening worshipping God. Syd and Andrea Sparks, the couple who run the camp, organised a programme including all sorts of fun games and some short but effective talks/discussions based on the topic of 'Making Good Choices.'



David Family at Musana camp....can you spy me?



Some of the Tees Valley Team members teaching pre-school and P1 some songs.

Finally, I shall write a few lines about our 'Foreign Staff Retreat' in Jinja. It was a real blessing for us Muzungus to have some time away together to discuss cultural issues, to wait on God and to share with one another what God had been doing in our lives this past year.....as well as enjoying time by the pool and some good food!

Points for Praise and Prayer:

- I am so thankful for the Kasana community and particularly for Nancy who I live with and the Brown family (fellow Brits) who I eat dinner with at least once a week. Kathryn Brown has been my mentor this year and I have been so blessed and encouraged by her wisdom and words of encouragement.

- I am VERY excited and praise God that Stu and Sarah Dendy from Jubilee church in Four Marks will be coming out to join the work here at the end of June
- I praise God for enabling me to build relationships with some of the children in David family. Annet who is about 14 has been a particular blessing – she is so kind and helpful and has a real soft spot for Hassan and the other kids who come in.
- Please pray that God will give me peace as I prepare to come home. Strangely, I find it easier adapting to life out here than facing reverse culture shock back home!
- Please pray for the special needs programme; that we would be able to find funding for it and also the right staff for me to work with.
- Please pray for the new young lady working with Hassan – that God would fill her heart with love for Hassan and that she would quickly learn all she needs to.

I did aim to make this newsletter shorter but sadly I failed.....SORRY! There`s just too much to share and I`ve never been good at keeping quiet 😊

Once again, THANK YOU SO MUCH for your prayers and support. I want you to know that I am so aware that without you, I wouldn`t be able to be out here doing what I am....

Looking forward to seeing many of you back in the UK.

With much love from Kate xxxx