

News from Sylvia Pinkney

November 2009

Dear Friends

Greeting from Scotland! Yes, it's newsletter time again and if you are like me, you will be wondering just where the last year has gone. I do hope that you have had a good year, and that you and your families are well and happy.

As usual it has been a very challenging time, not only in Uganda but in the UK too. You may all be aware that I am part of Youth With A Mission in Jinja; the main base for YWAM is 7 miles away in Wairaka village. My team is TORCH, "Together Restoring Community Hope," and my Child Education Sponsorship programme, CES, comes under that. This year I lost 12 sponsorships, 8 through bereavements, which were very sad, and others had seen their students through to the end of their studies. The students and I have been so blessed by their faithful support over many years, some of the students even started their sponsorship from Primary 1, so a very big thank you! Thankfully, a few more sponsors have come in and Kingscare have moved the children's money around, which resulted in not one student being out of schooling or higher education. Thank the Lord!

All fees have risen, with the universities putting their fees up by 40%. Consequently, lots of brilliant young people cannot even hope to go to university. I am in faith that I will never have to say "NO" there is not enough funding to continue. AMEN.

Last March I was called back to the UK as my dear cousin Betty was dying. It took 6 days to sort out the 2 flights to Scotland, then collect my winter clothes and travel 10½ hours by 3 trains to get to Yorkshire. I spent 8 days with Betty at the infirmary; I would like to think she knew I was there. It really does pull you apart when you want a loved one to get well and at the same time praying that the Lord would take them and release them from their awful suffering. This wasn't an easy time as the funeral had to be arranged and the church booked and the hymns chosen etc. So I thank friends who were a great help at that time, who helped and encouraged me. It was comforting to know that everything went so smoothly.

I travelled back to Scotland with family and within a few days I was back in Uganda. To say that things were traumatic is an understatement; I met one tragedy after another. James our guard who is married to Sarah lost 3 little girls and then the last was a baby boy of 5 months who died of breathing difficulties. I thank the Lord that they have Joshua, Faith and James but what heartache for that little family. Bless them.

More things happened, too numerous to mention, but what a lot of heartache. Then Juliet, one of my students, became pregnant (I didn't know) and her mum panicked and took her to another area for an abortion. The man, a doctor would you believe, operated on her in his own home, things went wrong and he rushed her to hospital. Sadly Juliet died. Parents in the past have complained to the police that their daughters have died, the doctor bribes the police and so nothing gets done. Isn't that wicked? Abortions are illegal in Uganda. Thank you to Juliet's sponsor who kindly transferred her sponsorship to one of my orphans.



Message of Hope Orphanage, Bulubande, Uganda

I hope you like the photo of Message of Hope orphanage, although not all the children are in the photo. Pastor Isaac and Pastor Irene Ouma, who are also in the picture, had the vision for this orphanage.

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A donation to the orphanage bought a sack of rice, bread, margarine and firewood. With donations I bought plots of land as they came up for sale, and all four plots join together. My vision is still to build another dormitory and equip it, I would like to put the boys in the new building and leave the girls in the original. We are seriously overcrowded, with two children to a bed. The sad thing is I cannot get a breakthrough with funding.

I gave a talk at a Worldwide Organisation club, they promised to fund a number of things after they had visited the orphanage, including replacing the fencing and putting in solar panels. They also agreed to build another much needed pit latrine, dig a pit for water, a pump could then be powered using the solar panels. They said they would also start a pig project for my other orphanage, Fresh Fire Orphanage in Wairaka. Now I'm told this particular club can't help. There is corruption within this club; 3 members have been given money for certain projects and they haven't carried out the work. I have arranged to meet the chairman of the projects committee in January to see if the problem has been sorted! I need your prayers please. Sadly I feel that I'm no further on regarding this orphanage.

However, I do thank people for donations which have paid for food and paid for school teachers. The headmistress gets the highest salary each month, which is around £6 per week. The others get less. Even children from around the area can't afford the school fees as the majority of these are orphans or living with a dying mammy. There is very



little money available, believe me, it is so frustrating at times and depressing if you are not careful.

This is Louis Najjuma, who graduated after doing a 3½ year certificate and diploma course in catering. She is now happily working in a hotel in Kampala in a managerial position.

I hope all the children's/students thank you letters, sent through Kingscare, arrived ok.

My first grandchild was born after I went into ministry full time; he has now gone to university. Well done Daniel!

Brother Jonathan has just started at college, studying drama and young brother Nathan is still in Primary school and loving every minute of it. Adam is doing GCSE's and he's a brilliant musician, playing trumpet and piano. My only granddaughter Sophie is now in two orchestras playing violin and she's a girl scout. I'm very proud of all grandchildren but don't see enough of them. This is the sacrifice one has to make if the Lord calls you to leave your family.

Many thanks to family and friends who sponsor some of my children privately, and also those who sponsor some of my Ugandan families which helps with food. Not forgetting people whom I have never met, but kindly send donations to be used wherever there is a need. Oh! Believe me, the needs are never ending for these poor people, apart from HIV Aids etc etc, there is poverty, and people in the villages have to sometimes decide to feed their children over getting medical treatment. I look round here, this club for slimming, that club for slimming, calorie counted that, etc, and here we are trying not to eat too much food. That is painful.



Fresh Fire Orphanage with Pastor Irene and house mummies, Rebecca and Betty. With the children sponsored through GES. (Except little James at the front who does not have a sponsor.)

As usual I could ramble on telling you story after story, but instead let me say 'thank you' again to George, Simon, Jessica and Elizabeth at Kingscare, sorting out the sponsorship donations and transferring them to Uganda to be used for my work in Child Education Sponsorship. This is among a million and one other things they do on my behalf. Bless you all.

A very Happy and Blessed Christmas and New Year,

With love in Jesus,

Sylvia Pinkney x x x



God's love in action...