

April

HOPE 2013 FEBRUARY



Daniella lives in a child led home and attends HOPE Complex School in Bunia, DRC

INSIDE:

HOPE TEAM FEB '13 VISITED BUNIA...

We report on their visit to our partner projects with 'HOPE & Care for Little Souls' in Bunia, DR Congo.

AND NAKIVALE REFUGEE CAMP...

Swamped with hundreds of eager HOPE School students and hundreds more children waiting at the school gate to be accepted... Our buildings are bursting!

RWC PARTNER WILLY TUMWINE

Australian visit opens world of Aussie farming ideas. Also inside, Malaria stalks our village children.

And more!

BUNIA HOPE WOMEN'S GROUP



97% of proceeds from artifacts sales are returned to the group for restoring dignity and hope. Widows can also be sponsored individually.



This newly formed women's group meets in the HOPE Community Training Centre, Bunia for war and AIDS widows in Bunia, DRC.

Initiated by Sephora Kile (top left) the group has a newly appointed manager to ensure ongoing progress and the production of quality saleable crafts and artifacts.

Our HOPE Team brought the first fruits of their work back to Australia and we have them on sale in Jambo Sana in Nairne.



**From
Devastation
to Dignity**



In her element.

Kibogo HOPE Primary School is getting a boost as we write thanks to a timely visit from Adelaide teacher Danielle Clinton.

On her second visit to Uganda, and accompanied by Bron Lang of Mbarara, Danielle is well prepared and armed with home made play dough, to introduce some new ways of nurturing children in a positive learning experience at school.

These deep village children have advanced in leaps and bounds since the school started several years ago and Danielle's input will commence a new phase of giving our teachers a chance to learn more of education methods in Australia.

Kyabyoma HOPE Nursery School will also flow with these workshops and be encouraged by Danielle's sharing ideas.



Combatting Africa's biggest killer of preschool children.

Maranatha Health conduct mobile clinics for 500 HOPE School children in western Uganda. Over the Christmas holiday season, malaria affected scores of our children with several hospitalised for several days while the parasite was brought under control. Gratefully no children died from this mosquito born disease this season.

South Australian couple Dr Michael Findlay and his wife Kim who is trained in Community Health, are a major blessing to our projects. Their efforts have seen a change in the health status of the whole village region.

But this year's first dry season was particularly bad for malaria and caught us all by surprise. We are just thankful Maranatha Health has a 20 bed hospital in Kamwenge, 2 hours

from **Kibogo Village**, and 5 minutes from our other Nursery School in **Kyabyoma**.

We are now planning to use Kim's skills in the field, and determine how the need and use of treated mosquito nets can be successfully conveyed and more broadly accepted by the general communities around.

Treating these children and staff from the 2 HOPE Schools in the area is costing over a thousand dollars a school term, but we are determined to reverse the trend where 1 in 4 children in the Kamwenge region die of malaria before school age.

Congratulations to Maranatha Health for their great work among the poor and needy in this vulnerable region.



NAKIVALE'S BEAUTIFUL REFUGEE CHILDREN



In 2012 we concreted the floors, now we need to double the buildings!

Jiggers (a sand flea that burrows into the flesh of feet and hands) is no longer a problem in the Nakivale HOPE School thanks to new concrete floors in all classrooms.

One problem fixed, another challenge created!

In a school designed for 300 children we now have well over 700 due to the growing positive reputation of the school, and, new arrivals to the camp from regions in neighbouring nations where war and famine exist.

And just to add to the demands on HOPE for a brighter future for these children, we have Primary 7 students graduating with very little hope of a secondary education unless we provide such a facility.

These refugee children have experienced the worst things in life and now they are very determined for the best things. Our proposal is to build a Vocational Secondary School to provide a way for these eager students to fulfill their education dreams.

We have 7 acres of land ready at the present school site, now we want the opportunity to provide further education for these children that will equip them with practical skills for life.

Alternatives to education for an African child...

1. Sex work, prostitution
2. Child soldier recruitment by rebel group
3. House servant vulnerable to abuse and discrimination
4. Stealing and crime
5. Begging on the streets
6. Disease, malnutrition and starvation
7. Child labour exploitation
8. Beatings and imprisonment
9. Poor nutrition, drug use and premature death



Sandra Ken conducting a teachers workshop in Nakivale.



Sandra sponsors these 3 nursery teachers who have over 300 students.



Natalie receives a joyful welcome from the refugee children.

Mozart Kile busy with development projects on all fronts in Congo.

A child sponsorship plan, 3 building projects, emergency care for vulnerable children and widows keeps our HCLS partner very busy.



Mave, first child sponsored in Bunia.

Mozart deserves a medal! From fleeing a war in his home town in 2003, completing university in Nairobi to masters level, to caring for 400+ war orphans in 3 HOPE Schools, the dust in Bunia never gets time to settle!

The nursery and primary school have won the 'Best School in Bunia' award twice with academic results 30% higher than other

schools. The real miracle of this progress is that 80% of the children have lost one or both parents to war or AIDS. Many have been rescued from the streets and now are thriving in the classes with deeply committed teachers.

The secondary school situated on 10 acres several kms out of Bunia, has 6 classrooms, a girl's dormitory and a boys dorm under construction. Eventually 150 students will live at the school.

The community training/school assembly hall which seats 1,000 is nearing completion, as is a house base for the Kile family and vulnerable children and widows.

We have just started a fund for providing a dormitory for vulnerable HOPE primary school girls. There is always more money to raise and more to do!

Several members of our HOPE Team Feb 13 spent a week in February in Bunia with Mozart and Sephora. Sandra Ken and Bethany Hersey spent time in the classrooms, somehow overcoming the language barrier to interact with teachers and students.

Our long awaited container with 20 tons of aid has finally arrived and items are being distributed to many schools, orphanages and street kid projects. 95 laptop computers were also delivered which will equip staff and provide a computer laboratory at the schools.

HOPE COMES



Secondary boys with soccer inspirations from Australia

Finding the Bantu Pygmies was both joyful and haunting

A PEOPLE OF MYSTERY, TRAGEDY AND HOPE

After some research, HOPE Liaison Officer Bron Lang reports that the pygmies we met in the jungle are most likely the 'Efe', one of 3 groups, collectively called the 'BaMbuti' and speak the Lese language originated in Central Sudan

Our HOPE Team Feb 13 found the trek in a challenge (at least for those over 65!) but greatly rewarding to meet these ancient people sitting in their clearing of leafy huts as they have for thousands of years.

As we sat with the chief, gave balloons to the children, prayed for the sick and enjoyed the moment, the feeling of 'there's a lot more to know here' aroused our curiosity. And sure enough, it seemed the stories surrounding these people were endless, enchanting and sad.

The glimpses of nervous fear on many faces are well justified. In the Congo war 1998 to 2004, the pygmies were hunted down by rebels, killed and eaten. They were nothing more than game for others more cruel and dominating to survive. And this scene has been repeated for hundreds of years.

But today, those close to the encroaching roads are finding their way into the edge of townships where they are welcome, to trade and sometimes work.

But the ancient discrimination against them has made them shy and wise. No-one has really embraced them as friends and related to them as equals until now. The church Mozart is associated with is the first church or group to successfully attach acceptance and equality with them. This church has placed a Congolese missionary among this tribe and things are progressing well. There is even a pygmy choir!

The signs of witchcraft and fear still pervade their camp, but they are very open to a new way of love that could well herald their long term survival in a modern and changing world.

As I gazed back over miles of jungle, we saw the rising smoke of Pygmy campfires as far as I could see. Mozart and I (Bill) agreed that one day we will venture in for 3 days and share good news with these amazing open people! Time will tell, but before I'm 65!

Thanks Mozart for this adventure in the Orientale Province of Congo!



Please note:

Donations to the Pygmy Outreach are NOT tax deductible



The Orphanage...



In Bunia, DR Congo, there is a humble Catholic Orphanage with a great history.

Founded by a nun in her 20's in 1946, this amazing lady remained at her post her entire life. Only when war threatened did she leave Bunia, the last time in the Great War of Congo which took 5.4 million lives.

But unlike other NGO's she did not leave alone. Somehow she made her way to Goma hundreds of kms south with all the babies, and returned to Bunia in 2006 with every child safe.



Babies were rescued from rubbish pits, wars scenes, and taken from the very bodies of dead parents or AIDS victims.

Our HOPE Team arrived at this orphanage in February the very day the nun was to be buried in the orphanage yard. She died at 93 years of age, and from 2006 alone, she had rescued, and eventually found a home, for 500 babies.

We can not help but honor a life such as hers.



Willy Tumwine gets a feel for Aussie farms...

Last October, Willy Tumwine spent 4.5 weeks in South Australia and apart from a well earned rest and sharing in many churches, he gained much firsthand information about South Australian farming methods. He found this very helpful because until you see something, it is often hard to grasp and be confident to apply new things at home base.

During his time here, he visited one of Australia's largest piggeries, the ins and outs of an apple orchard with Gaye Stoodley, a herringbone and a rotating dairy, a beef farm and the forestry projects near Mt Gambier.

HOPE has 2 farming blocks totaling 200 acres and the more our partners understand farming concepts that go beyond digging with a hoe the better. Willy is keen to learn and try new things, particularly with trees and forestry.

Until we have capital and expertise to efficiently work our blocks of land, we have dozens of landless widows digging a small plot each for food supply for their families.

We have moved to...



Following a need to move office we have relocated to 72 Main Rd Nairne SA. The premises we rent have a shop front which is now proudly offering our range of artifacts, HOPE Gift cards and African art for sale. 97% of proceeds return to Africa to benefit the widows in our women's associations, and other projects.

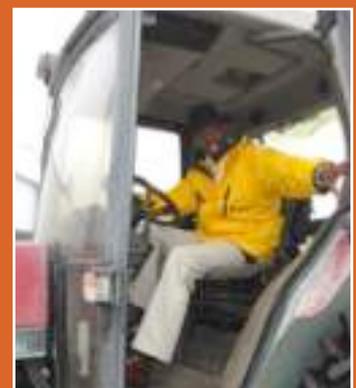
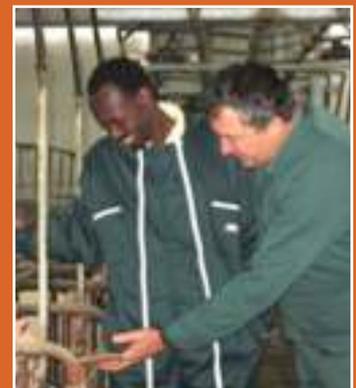
Lawrence Kyambade is offering African Drumming Lessons using our authentic cow hide and Boa skin drums.

We also serve delicious African tea, coffee and sumptuous desserts with samosas our speciality!

So... call in some time and enjoy!

Open Wed - Fri 10 - 4pm, Sat 10 - 2pm

Volunteers invited to enquire.



Helping
Others
Possess
Empowerment

THE DAY THE REBELS CAME...

“I love my work because I know what these children have been through, and I can help them”

I had the privilege of interviewing on camera, this humble man who is Principal at the new HOPE Secondary School in Bunia.

“What happened that day?”

‘There was gunfire all day in Bunia and rebels were killing and looting everywhere. I ran away to hide elsewhere while my family, 12 who were in the house, stayed and hid there. Hiding there was my grandmother, aunty, 2 sisters and 6 cousins. We all shared this house together.

I heard shooting all day and when it quietened I went back to our house. There I found my family had all been taken outside and shot, they all died there that day, but I was left alive.’

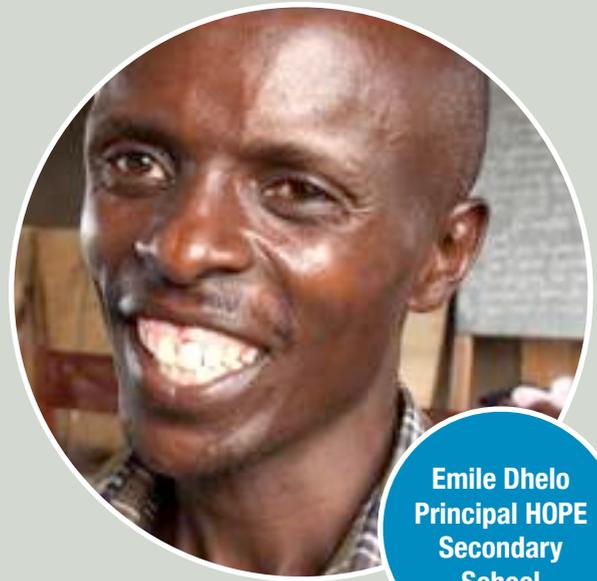
“How old were you when this day unfolded?”

‘I was about 25 or 26, I am 35 now.’

“Were you a Christian then, and what happened to your faith that day?”

‘Yes, I was a believer then and I still am, very much. I was fearing and terrorized that day, but it was God’s love that kept me strong through it all. I did not blame God for losing my family to the war, but thank him for his great Love that sustained me.’

“Do you have memories of finding your family murdered that way, and does it affect your work here at the school?”



**Emile Dhelo
Principal HOPE
Secondary
School**

Yes, but it is like I have forgotten, and my joy is that I know what these children here have gone through, and I can understand and help them well, because I lost my family also.”

“Who is your family now?”

‘I have a beautiful wife and one small daughter’



HOPE Team Feb 13

This wonderful team contributed to HOPE Schools in teachers workshops, ministered to the sick, were special guests at 3 open air outreaches, visited a game park and a pygmy camp, and more, over 4.5 weeks in February.

The teachers workshops were ground breaking and have initiated a great interest in Australian teaching methods in our HOPE Schools. It was great to be joined by Jono Osborne at the beginning and end of our trip, giving him time to recover from an unwelcome bout of malaria.

Sandra Ken’s 45 years of teaching experience in the Pitjantjatjara Lands in South Australia provided interest and discussion with our remote HOPE Schools such as Nakivale. Joshua’s guitar and songs proved that muzungu can sing after all and the music items were enjoyed by our thousands of African friends.

HOPE faces many challenges to finish schools and start more secondary schools, and this team will be great advocates for our goals as they share their adventures and experiences in Australia..

About donations...

This newsletter primarily covers the news from our HOPE Development Projects through our partners in Uganda and DR Congo.

Unless otherwise stated, donations and sponsorships to these projects are tax deductible

Please visit the ‘Donate’ page of our website www.ahi.org.au for more information

Current Needs...

- School desks and curriculum
- Concrete floors for classrooms
- Glass for class windows
- Water bores for each school
- More classrooms
- 3 new HOPE Secondary Schools

Sponsorship...

Please visit our website ‘Sponsorship’ page for information on how you can sponsor a child, a widow, or a school class

HOPE NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2013

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