

JUNE 2014

An update on Kasese, Uganda



Kasese floods in 2013

On 1 May 2013, Nyamwamba river in Kasese, Uganda, burst its banks and flooded the town. Emmanuel International (EI) responded with a relief appeal (see the May 2013 issue of Down to Earth) and was able to send some funds to Pastor Alfonse Bwambale, with whom we have a long-standing relationship. Alfonse runs the ACM (Alpha Children Ministry), a registered Community Based Organisation. We asked him for an update on the situation and this is what he said...

Houses were swept away by the floods. Water (drinking water) was a big problem because the water that we were drinking from the river was not good. Children and the elderly got sick.

And because of the floods many children left school and ended up on the street.

But I worked with some of them to see that we could resettle them, which was not easy. We did a small project by digging together to plant tomatoes, onions and other greens so they could get an income to go back to relatives. Food became expensive and the small project for the street children helped them to stand on their own instead of becoming a problem in town.

Different organisations came to the rescue distributing food, medication, shelter (tarpaulin) plus bedding (a blanket to cover themselves, mainly the children). Life was very hard.

Special thank goes to EI for the support, sending money to help the people in need. The distribution of this humanitarian aid for the victims of the flooding here in Kasese served 220 families. Giving each family two cooking



Distribution of relief goods in 2013

pots, one basin, a mosquito net, one jerrycan, four cups and 4 kilograms of *posho* (maize meal) helped them start a new life. The distribution was witnessed by the Government officials, whereby they gave security when giving the Aid.

Unfortunately the last year's rebuilding has been washed away again. In May 2014 three rivers (Nyamwamba, Nyamugasani and Mubuku) burst their banks following heavy rains, causing floods.

Celebrating the Labour Day, again floods came and destroyed! People had started resettling and doing some small farming, but floods have swept away all that they had after one year. This has become a challenge and most of the people have lost hope.

Kilembe Mines Hospital is closed and the sick people were transferred to a different dispensary due to the floods. You cannot imagine how the floods have destroyed it because it was too much. I have children in the ACM who used to get medicine in that hospital and some of them are HIV positive. It is hard work to see how I can get help; it is like starting again.



Kilembe Mine earlier this month

I witnessed 800 children (under 13 years of age) who have moved from Kilembe down to Kasese, being registered by the Red Cross - but the number was still increasing.

After last year's flood, seeds were given to households by BMS, which they planted. It was said that we had started life again and the seeds were going to help very much; it was a good beginning. All was done by pumping water from the river using the hand pumps. But it was swept away by the second flood.

We are going to start on zero again with the project for the street children and we need your prayers because I do not want these children back on the street. But the conditions we are in again is going to let them go back - which is a shame to me. Pray for me during this hard time because I need to find a way in which to feed them; they need to stay close to me because I am their parent.



“Seasons have changed and we don't know how we shall live”, Biri Peter (a local resident) said after his land was taken by the floods. “And I have a large family of 6 children.” “What next...?” asked Fatuma Gorret and Pelusi Vumi (also local residents). It is the question I hear most.



The people of Kasese are resilient. They have started to make a living for themselves, even after losing everything for a second time.



This is an old woman who is trying to work by herself to see how she can survive. She is selling firewood for the income that she can get. She used to live off her land. "All my land is gone. See my house where I live."



This is in a place called Congo Quarters, where the Congolese stayed for a long time. It is a small slum area with a population of 338 people. The majority are children staying there. Even the smallest house has 7 children and they have failed to go to school due to the situation they are in. Two families are staying together in a small house after the floods and they are trying to resettle.



People have come in to reassure this widow who has 7 children, all the children are HIV positive. They are Muslim and being helped by the Christians.



Beginning life after the floods, we thank God for the situation we are passing in. Life is not easy. We trust one day we shall be okay. God knows we trust in him. We have learnt a lesson on how to trust in God because he will never leave us alone in spite of all that we are passing through. Keep on praying for these people in the situations they are living in. We are reaching them with the Gospel to help them know the love of God. God will help in all what we are passing through. Floods have been coming at any time.

At home!

John and Christine Raby



John and Christine are home from Malawi for a couple of weeks. They attended their son's wedding in the USA and then returned home to the UK. John will

return to Malawi to help with the financial closure of several projects, but Christine is staying behind for another 2 weeks to attend their granddaughter's dedication.

John and Belinda Naudé

John, Belinda and Samuel are returning to the UK on 8 July for about 6 weeks. They will visit family but will also connect with churches and supporters, as many as they can during their stay. **They have need of a vehicle for the duration of their stay.**



If you can help, even for just part of the time, please contact us on 01243 537040 or info@eiuk.org.uk.

Andy and Angela Sharpe



Andy and Angela are on furlough from 11 July. They will return to Tanzania in October, after celebrating their son's wedding. They will also visit family, church

and supporters.

John, Belinda, Samuel, Andy and Angela are all hoping to be at the Garden Party. Alan and Cheryl Parrett (our previous Ugandan Country Representatives) will also be there. Come and meet up with them and hear their latest news!

Maria Baquiran



Maria is a student in Year 12 at St Philip Howard 6th Form. She spent 2 weeks with us in the office as a work experience student. She is keen to pursue a career in international aid and development, with a particular interest in working with children. She would love to work for UNICEF in the future. She has been a super help during her time with us in the office.

Last Reminder!!

EIUK Annual Garden Party

**Saturday the 12th of July
from 11 till 4,
in David and Jenny Bendell's
garden.**

It will be the last garden party in the Bendell's garden. It would be so good to see you there and celebrate with them the fun and information we've shared in their garden over the years.

