



NEWSLETTER - October 2011

Uganda Concern UK mission statement: the prevention & relief of poverty in Uganda, in particular by supporting Uganda Women Concern Ministry, a Christian charity working in communities around Mbale in the east of the country.

Mudslides

On 29th August, two rural communities on the slopes of Mt Elgon were devastated by mudslides following heavy rains. More than 40 people were killed and over 1,500 households affected; one UWCM staff member lost 3 relatives and the family home was destroyed. Food crops were also destroyed. The disaster happened in an area where UWCM already work to alleviate poverty through local community volunteer teams. The most urgent needs are for shelters, food, drugs and children's school uniforms/ exercise books. UWCM would like to assist 200 families with these basic needs at a cost of £270 per household.



Many thanks to all who have already helped us to raise over £1,500 towards this appeal.

Please pray for the people affected and if you would like to assist financially, either send a cheque payable to Uganda Concern UK or donate on line via <http://www.everyclick.com/mudslideappeal>

Paper bead jewellery

Wabukhasa Women's Group has 30 members who have learnt to make paper bead jewellery and the small income they raise contributes towards their children's school fees and household necessities. The beads are made by tightly rolling strips of paper around thick wire and dipping them in varnish. The ladies then create beautiful necklaces, bracelets, earrings, belts and even bags. Their greatest challenge is to find regular markets for their crafts.

We are grateful to Elizabeth Swarbrick, a long-standing friend of UWCM, who has sold a large number of items through personal contacts and when she talks at Mother's Union meetings. If you are interested in selling these crafts, please contact one of the trustees.



How UWCM is transforming lives.....

Agnes Mutobo of Bududa Womens' Group shares her story:

"I am grateful to UWCM. At first we women were full of self-pity. I used to sit at home and meeting with others was trouble for me. But when UWCM trained us, I saw the need to meet with others to share ideas and even encourage those with challenges in their homes. After the training, I started making pancakes and sold them to school children. At the end of the term I had 100,000 shillings (approx. £30) I used this money to buy 5 turkeys and 5 hens. The hens produced and I sold the chicks and bought 4 piglets. Now the pigs have grown and about to conceive. I hope to buy a cow when my pigs conceive and produce. From this group I have learned to plan ahead and I feel happy within me because now I own some property."

Another lady says: "working together with UWCM has helped me and my family achieve a lot. UWCM came to our community in 2008 and taught us on womens' rights to health, education, ownership and HIV issues. After training, I bought 4 hens which produced 17 chicks. All the chicks grew up and I sold them and bought 2 goats. The mother hen laid another 20 eggs and I sold this second batch of chicks to pay school fees. The hens now lay eggs and sometimes I sell them to buy books and pens, and soap and salt. This has stopped arguments with my husband and he is happy with my contribution to the family and has started being supportive in buying feed for the hens."



Ashford 10K Run

On Sunday 9th October, Keith and Heather Ketchum and Gillian Withell completed a 10 kilometre run around Ashford, Kent and raised an amazing £1,800 in sponsorship. We are very grateful to the team for their commitment and for the generosity of their sponsors. The money will go towards the 2012 Children's Conference in Mbale next January and families in need.



CHRISTMAS CARDS

10 cards
for £5



All proceeds from the sale of these Christmas cards will go to support the work of **Uganda Women Concern Ministry**



Images are taken from traditional African batiks and banana fibre nativity scenes.

To order, please see the contacts below or visit the website www.ugandaconcern.com

The Trustees of UCUK would like to wish all our supporters a joyful and peaceful Christmas & New Year!

Change of leadership

In July this year we were informed that Lois Wamutu stepped down as Executive Director of UWCM and the Board of Directors appointed Janet Soobi, a long-standing member of the Board, as an interim Executive Director for 2 years. Janet has worked for a national charity in Uganda and will bring many valuable skills to the organisation.



UCUK

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If you would like your details to be removed from our mailing list, please contact one of the Trustees.

EBENEZER VILLAGE ACCOMMODATION

We are very pleased to report that during our visit in January we had the privilege of being the first guests to stay in the 'village huts'. There are 6 huts completed and available to hire to individuals and groups. Each is fitted with a double bed, table, chair, wardrobe, & ensuite cold shower, wc and washbasin. There is a large, separate communal room for eating/relaxing with basic cooking facilities. UWCM are hoping to hire these out to visitors to their offices to provide additional income. See website for more details.



EDITH'S BIOGRAPHY

Margaret Spivey now has copies of her book *Small Feet, High Mountain* at a reduced price of £9.50. It tells the life of Edith Wakumire, and how she came to establish the work that is now helping thousands of needy neighbours in Uganda. To date approx. 500 copies have been sold and these have gone as far afield as Australia, USA, Canada, Uganda and France. Margaret has very generously donated all profits from the sale of these books (nearly £600) to UWCM and Edith herself for which we are extremely grateful.

A copy of the book would make a good Christmas present for your family and friends. To place your order. Please e-mail:

margaretspivey1@tiscali.co.uk

Uganda Concern UK is registered with Everyclick.com which allows people to donate online by credit/debit card and is also useful for sponsorship events. **NOTE: Every time you search the web, trade on Ebay or shop on-line you will raise funds for Uganda Concern UK – please check out www.everyclick.com and enter 'Uganda Concern UK' as your chosen charity.**

Uganda Concern UK trustees would like to express sincere thanks to all our supporters for their support, prayers and gifts. Any donation is gratefully received and passed on **without deduction** to UWCM. Cheques should be made payable to '**Uganda Concern UK**' and gift aid forms can be obtained from one of the contacts/trustees below.

For regular donations, please request a standing order/gift aid form.

"Working to support Uganda Women Concern Ministry" - UK Charity Number 1133440

www.ugandaconcern.com