



NEWSLETTER - April 2013

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.

UWCM Children's Conference: 14-19 January 2013



60 children (aged about 10-14 years) took part in this year's 5 day residential conference which was held at a school near UWCM offices which has boarding facilities. Children came from Prayer and Porridge Projects, Community

Mobilization Teams (CMTs), staff members and from within other communities of UWCM operations. UCUK Trustees Bridget & Steve Withell, together with Barbara Mitchell & Margaret Field, supporters of UWCM, led sessions on loss & bereavement and assisted with games and craft sessions. The conference theme was: **'Be Strong and Courageous'** based on Joshua 1:9. The children were taught that they should not be afraid of the many challenges they face but instead to trust in God and know that He can lead them through that situation. Many of the children took the opportunity to 'tell their story' about family members who had died and to talk about some of the difficulties they currently face. They also had sessions on self-esteem, HIV/AIDS, family relations and there was also lots of music which is another important part of the conference: Ugandan children love singing and have wonderful voices. Each child went home with a blanket, 12 exercise books and a pen plus many happy memories of all they had learned and the new friendships they had formed. Once again, we thank God for the opportunity of reaching so many vulnerable children, ensuring that they know that they are loved and valued despite what they may have already endured during their young lives.



Supporting Children through UWCM's PRAYER & PORRIDGE Project

A group of 8 people from Christchurch, Clevedon visited the Sakiya Prayer & Porridge project in February and were

able to meet Pastor Matiya and other members from the church who run this amazing project. There are 200 children in Sunday School and out of these, they have identified 100 of the most vulnerable who attend the project on Saturdays, as well as on Wednesdays during the holidays. Many of these children are orphans or HIV+, many are abused physically and mentally and most are destitute. As a church, the members feel responsible to reach out to these children and provide counselling, Bible teaching & worship, prayer and activities eg football, netball. Through our support, they also provide scholastic material and pay school fees where possible. They have seen huge improvements in the lives of the children eg a noticeable change of attitude and many are beginning to grow in self-esteem and confidence. They are encouraged to go back to school and are much more positive about their futures.

Last year we met several young men and women who have gone on to become nurses, drivers, mechanics and plumbers and they are all certain that they wouldn't have been able to achieve all they have without the support from Prayer & Porridge—it REALLY does make a difference in young peoples' lives.

Challenges & future plans: UWCM would like to see many more children attending school & continuing their education so that they can acquire the necessary skills to be self supportive but the major challenge is lack of funding.

It costs a minimum of £100 per month to support 100 children in this project—*that's just £1 per child per month.*



UCUK are the sole funders of this very worthwhile project and we are committed to sending out more than the minimum amount to ensure that as many children as possible benefit from the provision of scholastic materials, school fees, medical support and start up tools for vocational courses.

If you would like to commit £5, £10 or other amount per month to support this project, please contact one of the trustees (details overleaf) who will be pleased to send you a leaflet.

Community Managed Micro Finance

This is a very successful scheme that UWCM have set up whereby members are encouraged to save a small, regular amount which is then pooled and loaned out to members in the group. Each member is encouraged to have a vision of what they want to achieve before joining the group so that they have an incentive to save and



many of them have found that this has enabled them to raise their standard of living.

Luzzi Church Women's Group (formed in Jan 2011 with 30 members) Extract from their report to UCUK: Activities: we save & give credit; work as a team to

reduce poverty & disease by keeping homes clean; attend workshops to increase knowledge; share our knowledge with other groups; grow crops on a small scale for food security & to sell for savings; now able to save to send our children to school.

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

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Sarah's Shelters

Uganda Women Concern Ministry are privileged to be supported by Tom and Pam Gibson, who give a generous donation each year in memory of their remarkable daughter Sarah.

Sarah died with courage and dignity in November 2004 at the age of 33 years, from a brain tumour. She was a highly intelligent young lady, having completed an English degree and later a law degree. She undertook a variety of jobs and also volunteered as a Samaritan because she wanted "to make a difference" in the lives of others.

Despite their sorrow and grief, Tom and Pam are perpetuating Sarah's concern for other people who endure great difficulties in their lives. Their annual gift is now allocated to a fund to enable UWCM's community volunteer groups to assist vulnerable families (usually a mother with children) to buy a small plot of land and construct a traditional home. Last year, three families (which included 17 children) were assisted in this way. One mother, called Sarah, has AIDS and cancer of the cervix. Despite having periods of very poor health, she and her 7 children have managed to complete the inside of their new home with smooth mud and are making mud bricks to construct a cooking hut. The new home has helped the family to become independent again as they are able to grow some food and breed chicken.

After visiting Sarah's home in January this year and realising what a difference this assistance had made to the family, it seemed fitting to call the fund 'Sarah's Shelters'.

Sarah Gibson



One of the homes in Uganda built in memory of Sarah



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Our support REALLY is making a difference in people's lives:

A male beneficiary of Khomoto CMT: *We appreciate you, we lacked knowledge and appreciate UWCM for sending us some funds. I am a farmer and used funds to buy insecticide for my tomatoes and got profit from the tomatoes and bought a heifer. Now I have looked after it so well it is now breeding. Pray that God continues to bless you as you bless us.*

A member of a Teenage Mother's Group: *When my parents realised I was pregnant, my father was very rough and could have killed me so I ran away from home. I stayed in villages – I lived very rough & was very miserable. I met a CMT member and he encouraged me to join the group and persuaded my father to take me back. I began digging and planting tomatoes and I began a small stall selling tomatoes and some small things. UWCM gave me a goat and now that has had 2 babies. In 2011 I had 2 goats – I now have 5. On my stall I made a profit and bought a small plot of land and bought 2 x iron sheets and an old sewing machine so I am planning to build a small house – have my sewing machine and support myself. I appreciate the support from UWCM. I have been praying and working hard to get money to build my house. God is great. I have learned how to sew and out of that I am able to support my child. God who blessed you with love, bless others.*



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Every time you search the web, trade on Ebay or shop on-line (Give as you Live) you will raise funds for Uganda Concern UK.

SINCE 2010, WE HAVE RAISED OVER £200 IN THIS WAY

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.

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

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