



# Riverlife News



Greetings from Uganda and a rather belated Happy New Year! As we have entered 2007 River of Life Church has entered its 14<sup>th</sup> year! It's amazing to think how far God has brought us since we first began back in 1993. This past year has had its ups and downs but we are looking forward to what God has got in store for 2007. We have been absolutely bowled over by everyone's response to our appeal to move the boys - thank you all! - and have been encouraged to launch the building appeal for 2007... read on!

## The Story of 2006...

Any of you with experience of missionary work will no doubt know that the road is not always a smooth one! The life of a missionary involves a variety of emotions from great joy to deep sadness. This has certainly been true for us over the years and 2006 was no exception.

The first half of 2006 was in fact, a very hard time. During this period we parted ways with some long standing friends and a key member of staff due to some disagreements. It was a very difficult and sad time for us.

However, in the midst of all that, the Lord has been working in many wonderful ways throughout this past year and has given us many successes and restored our peace. Here are just some of the highlights!

- Mary was healed of ME (Chronic Fatigue Syndrome) in January.
- Although our vanilla farms were set back by the severe drought of 2005, we've had a lot of rain in 2006 and expect our first vanilla harvest on LWAP farm in July 2007. The piggery has been doing very well and is the first port of call anytime we are planning a feast!



- A very close friend of ours gave us money to buy a car and we now have a good second hand Toyota Corona.
- Ruth (Girl's Project Co-ordinator), Rhona (Church Secretary) and Julius all started University courses in Masaka. Ruth and Julius are among our very first children that we started looking after in 1993.



- In September, Tim Crow (Timmo as we like to call him!) started to work with us full time. He has proved his weight in gold already!
- At last we have planted our first strawberries, mint, dill etc and have started levelling our garden and planting good grass. Our plan is that once it's finished the kids will come up and camp!



- The standard of our financial records in the UK has improved dramatically thanks to Ian Drake becoming our treasurer.
- Rob (a trustee) and Kat Davies visited us in October and did a lot of good work.
- As usual Margaret Poulter has recently been with us (Jan 2007) and has done many great things including taking the kids to the lake where they feasted on one of our pigs!



## ..and Plans For 2007.

We are very much looking forward to 2007 and already some fantastic things have taken place (see the note from Timmo!)

3 of the main plans for 2007 include:

- 1) Completion of the boys' home



- 2) Starting a farm of 60 ducks given to us by Judith Gregory.
- 3) The first harvest of LWAP vanilla in July.

Romans 8:28 says that all things work together for the good of those that love God, to them that are called according to His purpose. We have seen that happen in our individual lives and the life of the church in 2006 and trust that God will continue working through us in 2007.

We thank you very much for all your prayers and giving during the past year. May the Lord bless you abundantly.

*Duncan & Mary Kibonyo*

# The White Eagle Project - Seven Years on and Still Going Strong!

It is now 7 years since the White Eagle Project began. This last year has seen a number of developments in the White Eagle Children's Project one of the biggest of which has been the moving of the 13 younger boys into a new temporary home. Mary had been concerned for some time that the W.E. boys, whilst having bedrooms, only had the church building in which to eat, relax and do homework.

In November we started renting the first floor of the house where the girls are living which has now given them a proper home with living room/dining room, bathroom and toilet as well as a fantastic compound to play in. We now feel that the children's home no longer seems like a hostel but a proper home with one big happy family! A glance at the children portrays much about the great joy inside their once troubled hearts.



The Whole Mob!

The staff have played an important part in this but we must also thank everybody who gave gifts in response to the emergency appeal, which made this possible and for the ongoing support of all our sponsors. This new home is only a temporary solution as the upstairs can only be rented for 1 year. We are therefore praying that God will provide the finances we need to complete the building of the boy's home next to the church.

This year has seen the arrival of 1 new boy and 1 new girl into the project, Ivan aged 7, and Teddy aged 6. Both have settled in very well and we are now looking for sponsors for them. We also need co-sponsors for some of the other children who are not fully supported. If you can help please contact Margaret Poulter through the address at the bottom.

There has been a tremendous improvement in the children's behaviour and academic performance. We are especially happy that one of the boys, Morris, has just passed his primary leaving exams.

The children have had some wonderful times with various visitors. Rob and Kat Davies were here in October and treated the kids to a day out at Lake Nabugabo. When I asked one of the children,

Emmanuel, about the day, he simply stared at me with a great big smile, his whole face glowing! Margaret has also just been here and done all sorts of exciting things with the kids including another trip to the lake where we feasted on pork and rice (the kids favourite!).

To all those who have supported us, we are extremely grateful and it's our prayer that God will bless you abundantly in 2007. You are a sparkle of light in the eyes of these children!

Emily Kabafunzaki

White Eagle Project Manager



## A Note From Timmo...

Hi everyone! Since arriving in September it's been pretty hectic! I'm here basically as a "Jack of all trades" helping with whatever needs doing! This has involved such things as "daddy" at the boys home, sorting out the youth work, teaching guitar, admin and of course, football, football and more FOOTBALL!

Football is certainly a passion I share with almost all the boys here and one of the things I've done in previous years is football training and organising tournaments. This year was no exception as 20 teams and over 300 players, divided into a junior and senior section, took to the field at the beginning of January 2007.

After 2 weeks of silky skills, glorious goals, and a fair few injuries both of the White Eagle teams had made their way to their respective finals.

The Juniors lost out in extra time 2-1, but the senior team (including my good-self!) won 3-0 to win the trophy and the prize of all prizes - Nigel the cow, whom we feasted on the following day! Lovely Jubley!



## PRAYER POINTS

- ☉ Mary's Health - continued healing;
- ☉ God's provision in order to build the rest of the Boy's home;
- ☉ For protection over the relationships between all those related to the work of ROL;
- ☉ Protection over our family, Maria, Charlotte, Edin and Mukisa;
- ☉ Our son Mukisa who recently got engaged! Please pray that all the preparations would go well.
- ☉ Protection and blessings over all our sponsors.

For more information or to support us then contact:  
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