



## Greetings from an Insanely Busy Mbale!

It's that time of year again: busy summer visitors' season, end of year accounts, new year budgets and work plans, NGO license renewal, new staff and projects beginning, and some of the Ugandan crew crashing England (for a certain person's wedding....)!

### CHEEKY NEWS UPDATE

We continue to grow and prosper in all we do and at a rate that we just about keep up with (it seems someone upstairs approves of the work we are doing)! Because of this, we have already outgrown the offices we moved into less than two years ago. We have had to empty our garage and fully renovate it to accommodate six new desks and the staff to fill the chairs! This is truly a miracle considering the ongoing economic difficulties in Uganda and the fact that we don't chase money, but

rather focus on loving and serving people and trusting God to provide.

Michael Otyang has been recruited and sponsored by Alpha International to oversee a secondary schools' education program targeting 150 schools and over 10,000 children in Mbale town. Mike's work with Alpha will be based in the JENGA office and he will continue to act as a JENGA employee. This blessing has enabled us to replace Mike with a new employee named Levy. He will take over all of Mike's previous work responsibilities. (2 for the price of 1!)

In the Children's Department, we have employed John, a former street child, to support the rapidly growing children's clubs, which now have close to 3,000 children attending.

Ronald has returned from his studies and will begin a new agricultural project called Farming God's Way, offering a more environmentally friendly and sustainable solution to the current way of farming.

Other new members joining JENGA include Kate, who will be working with the Women's Department to assist with JENGA's health work in the local hospital and in supporting people living with HIV/AIDS.

We have also added another cook to help prepare the lunches that are needed for our awesome Ugandan team as well as the many international visitors, teams and volunteers who pass through the JENGA doors.

We will soon be hiring an assistant for Maggie, JENGA's Operations and Office Manager, to support her rapidly growing responsibilities.

Finally, it is with great pleasure that we are able to announce that David Bishop, former Oxfam GB Program Effectiveness Advisor, will be taking over from Robby the management of all JENGA development projects. Not only is this Dave's desire, but it is also the most logical choice considering his expertise and success in this area. This transition will take the projects to a higher level of professionalism and efficiency, while relieving Robby of a responsibility that is not his strongsuit and enable him to focus on other areas.

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**MORE GOOD STUFF**



## TEAM NEWS

Vinnie & Grace Munyosi and Rose Opio successfully got their visas to travel to UK for Tiff's wedding, which will happen on August 22nd.

During this trip, the Ugandan team will be taking time to catch up with friends, supporters and partners of the work in Mbale. We are excited to see these three go out as they work so hard helping an army of people and deserve some good rest and fun.

On June 28th, our very own Grace Namulinda walked down the aisle to marry Richard Isanga! They had their traditional engagement ceremony last year and had been saving up for the big day. We wish them and their family all the very best. Congratulations Grace and Richard!

We have seen four beautiful new additions to the JENGA family, as staff members Aaron, Deborah, Annet and Andrew have all had new

## SOWING SEEDS FOR TOMORROW'S LEADERS

We were blessed to have a team visit from Trinity Church in Connecticut who ran a three-day conference to train bible club children on listening to God and praying for healing. Uganda is an overtly faith-based country and therefore the children were eager to receive this teaching. Over 300 of them were taught to pray for one another, with several testimonies of healing.

We also recently held two Children's Guidance and Counselling Days. More than 200 children attended and discussed the challenges they faced, including kidnapping, child labour, child sacrifice, rape, insecurity of accommodations and other prevalent issues. Local pastors talked the children through potential solutions and how to minimise their chances of being a victim. In addition to counseling, the children also received individual prayer and education from Ronald on Farming God's Way.

## IN FOR A PENNY, IN FOR A POUND

While the new van has addressed a huge need to transport people around town, our work required a more durable vehicle for moving resources around, particularly up the mountain and in the rainy season. Thanks to a very generous donor, we have been able to buy a second-hand Land Cruiser. An ex-UN vehicle, it is a bit of a beast with plenty of space for both resources and people. Because the Land Cruiser was purchased at a reasonable price (a steal, to be honest), we have funds remaining to enable a number of other needed areas, including the JENGA team's first weekend retreat. (Ugandans don't have money to "get away," so this was huge!)

We have also been able to finance a complete overhaul of our office IT system, including the purchase of a new server, many brand new laptops, and all the wiring needed to provide the staff with an international level of technology. With the new office setup, our small office can now swim with the big boys!

babies - respectively Samuel,  
Manwela, Given and  
Samantha! Grace Kibumba is  
due to deliver in the coming  
weeks, so stay tuned for  
gender and name!

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As we come to the close of our best year yet (and each year keeps getting better),  
we are humbled by and thankful to all those who contribute to support JENGA in Uganda.

The level of support we receive determines the level of help we can give.  
We kindly request you choose JENGA when considering a charity to support.

Many thanks and blessings!

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