



# Afrinspire Newsletter

September 2005

Africa has entered the main stream of the British public's awareness during 2005. More newspaper copy space and television airtime has been given to African stories, culture and news than ever before. Prominence was achieved by the Make Poverty History Campaign and Live8 who delivered political pressure and a mandate to the G8 governments to make the financial, trade and aid changes to give Africa a chance. While this campaign goes on, Afrinspire is equally determined to make a difference directly at grass roots level in Africa. We hope you will have your imagination stirred to see what can so easily be done.

You may have recognised Lake Bunyoni and Bugagali Falls on our previous front pages. In this issue we feature the mighty Nile River at Karuma Falls. An Afrinspire team accompanied by a Ugandan soldier and with the permission of the local Ugandan Army commander visited the Falls briefly in April after a day spent with a community in the Masindi district. It was a hot day and we had sat down for the first time with this community to meet, listen and share our lives together. After two years of email and postal contact with The United Family Enterprises Africa (TUFÉ), we met the people who had formed this self-help group. The women told us about their lives, the poverty, the illnesses caused by poor quality water from the one borehole which was not enough, and the daily struggle of many in the community. We also heard how they had decided they were stronger together, by helping each other hoe their fields when one was sick or to work together to create bee hives, new crops and a heiffer project. They were making handicrafts to generate income. The young men aspired to train as carpenters and an older expert thatcher, who was from the community but worked thatching prestigious buildings in Kampala, offered to employ them once trained. We were able to promise and later send some carpentry kits. We were also able to support a proposed poultry project and to help a local doctor. Masindi is a district full of many ethnic groups who have settled as refugees from other places. There are links from this community to Sudanese who have returned and in our visit we had to restrict people from coming to see us. We were told by this community that we "had been the first team to visit rural Kiyogoma village since time immemorial". The Afrinspire team on the day was made up of four from UK and three from Uganda. We were humbled by our visit, we appreciated the welcome, we respect what TUFÉ is doing and we remain mindful that a new second borehole is needed. They wrote later to say that our visit had inspired the community to work much harder than before!



the one borehole which was not enough, and the daily struggle of many in the community. We also heard how they had decided they were stronger together, by helping each other hoe their fields when one was sick or to work together to create bee hives, new crops and a heiffer project. They were making handicrafts to generate income. The young men aspired to train as carpenters and an older expert thatcher, who was from the community but worked thatching prestigious buildings in Kampala, offered to employ them once trained. We were able to promise and later send some carpentry kits. We were also able to support a proposed poultry project and to help a local doctor. Masindi is a district full of many ethnic groups who have settled as refugees from other places. There are links from this community to Sudanese who have returned and in our visit we had to restrict people from coming to see us. We were told by this community that we "had been the first team to visit rural Kiyogoma village since time immemorial". The Afrinspire team on the day was made up of four from UK and three from Uganda. We were humbled by our visit, we appreciated the welcome, we respect what TUFÉ is doing and we remain mindful that a new second borehole is needed. They wrote later to say that our visit had inspired the community to work much harder than before!

For eight years Afrinspire has been making visits to Uganda, forming friendships, shipping computers and books to many recipients, and sponsoring development and education. The result is a fairly extensive network of partners and friends in Africa, who are themselves meeting and interacting. This is producing benefit for everyone. Our newsletter is full of the information flowing from these partners and in this issue we devote the centre pages to a compelling autobiography from a young Ugandan lady in her twenties. If any item in this newsletter fires your imagination, please capture that response immediately and take action.

Chairman of AFRINSPIRE