



Afrinspire Newsletter

August 2006

What would you do if you returned back to your home after many years away, and found nothing there? The experience of returning Sudanese refugees is just that, starting all over again from scratch. This is Mr Masete beginning life again in Sudan. At least he has the skills to construct a simple house, make a bed frame and plant out some crops but the conditions are the most basic. There is a lot to be done to improve them. The problem for many family groups is that they comprise of women, children and teenage boys who



have missed out entirely on education. During the civil war people escaped to preserve their lives. Some migrated within Sudan and others went to Uganda. The returnees from Uganda often bring more with them to start over again, so they might have some simple tools. The others have nothing. *What each family needs is very simple; an African hoe, a panga, an axe and several kilos of seeds. The total cost is £6. From this a family can farm to feed themselves.*

Afrinspire partner, Pastor John Noah Komi writes. "There are signs of severe hunger in the present months due to the rain having been delayed. The rebels of the Lords Resistance Army have also displaced people again in some areas. Refugees are

returning voluntarily from the IDP (Internally Displaced Person) camps to their original homes. The north of Sudan is also returning southern people from Khartoum and other northern towns. This is causing population growth, particularly in towns. Therefore we are very concerned for the vulnerable groups like the widows, orphans, disabled and aged. We need money for food to help these people survive. Food is available in Arua in Uganda which we can bring here. We also need tools and seeds for returnees to resettle them.

We give thanks for the money Afrinspire gave to roof our small carpentry store. We now need to put in windows and doors. We could have done this with the money you sent, except that the prices in building materials has risen in Yei in the past two months because of the demand by all the returnees. We continue to make footballs and to repair shoes and train more youths in leather work. We very much appreciate the work

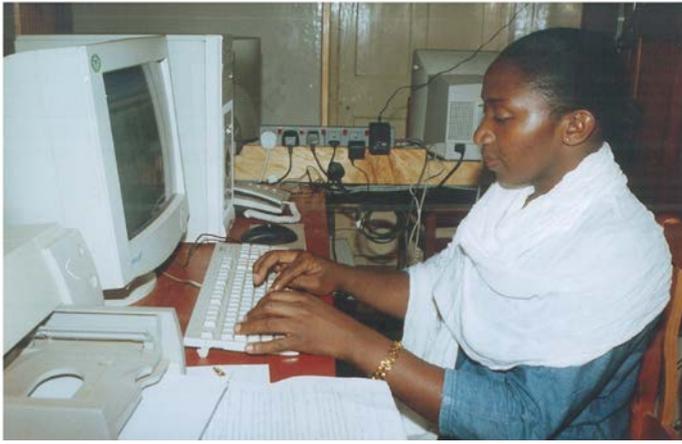


done by Afrinspire to support us. Afrinspire currently pays school fees for fourteen children, six of whom are orphans. We would like to propose that in the next year this number is moved up to thirty; that is twenty in primary school, ten in secondary school, and some short vocational courses such as driving for those older. We have five nursery schools and one primary school which Afrinspire has supported with materials. We plan to do more when we get further assistance for our re-settlement programme. We have over eight hundred pupils in primary and one hundred in each nursery school. We have also started adult literacy classes.

Through the assistance and support we get from Afrinspire people's lives have been improved. We send our thanks to all the Afrinspire contributors and donors. We pray that God shall provide more funds to Afrinspire to do more to help the people of South Sudan and other countries too."

Afrinspire is in partnership with Pastor John Noah Komi and the Sani-Tayi Self Help Project. Komi is a returnee from Uganda and is a leader in his own community and wider area. Through his church network and the Sani-Tayi Self-Help Project he assists as many people as he can. The aims of Sani-Tayi are 'Helping the poor, orphans, schools and providing skills training for self reliance'

AFRIKOB'S INTERNET CAFÉ



Anne Kobisingye has opened an Internet Café in Kabale. Four computers share an internet connection and there are regular clients who come to use the services. For many this is the first time they will have email addresses. Anne's main advertising line is 'Affordable Internet' and she has set her prices to make the service accessible. The computers and some small items have been supplied by Afrinspire, but in equal and perhaps greater measure is the contribution and initiative being taken by Anne and her friends to make the Café the place to be. This is the shop front for a larger vision which is for helping the disabled people of Kabale district. People with disabilities have been to the café to have training in computer skills. Anne needs to attract plenty of internet and email users. She also needs more capital investment to improve the facilities.



'KABALE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN DEVELOPMENT'.

Anne writes "Being myself a victim of polio, my disabled condition exposed me to the futility of the disabled. I can never forget every detail of the hard times, struggle, social exclusion and stigmatization which I experienced through my life.

When I look at my fellows who are still down-deep in the village communities without any support or help from friends, government, organizations or charities, I just shed tears in agony because this takes me back to my condition before I received any help. In the country there are many national programs designed to help persons with disabilities but the

programs don't reach people. I therefore resolved to take courage and redeem Ugandan lives with disabilities spreading from my district of Kabale.

I have a project proposal, a constitution and an executive board committee, comprised of the disabled and representing the majority from all over the District. I have registered with the government as a community based charity organization. I have already identified over five hundred people with disabilities and look forward to having more and more because registration is still going on in the District Sub-Counties.

The aim is to provide all possible support to particular people with particular disabilities, income generating projects among the disabled, education and skill training, to bring about growth and development of the people with disabilities. I will make sure that the project meets the demands of all age groups; these are the young, youth and elderly.

I am not supported by any funding agencies or Government, so I thought it important to share this great commission with you and request for your co-operation. It would be lovely when you connect this project with your friends whom you trust and think shall understand and participate with us.

Thanking you in anticipation,

I remain faithful, *Kobusingye Anne*

Anne's autobiography featured in our September 2005 Newsletter. If you missed it, then please request a copy.

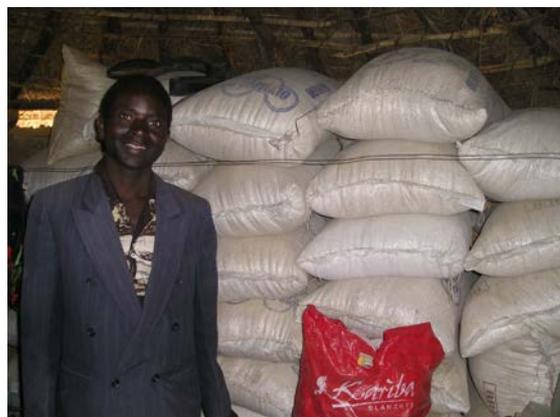
RAINWATER HARVESTING

It is now clearly recognised that to create an infrastructure of water pipes around Africa such as we have in the UK will be an incredibly long job if not an impossibility. The fastest way to improve the water supplies for large numbers of people is to catch the rain that falls. Water harvesting using storage tanks is the order of the day. It does not need to be national government led initiatives. This is within the capability of every community once a team is trained to build tanks. Two farmers from Bugaya in Kamuli district of Uganda were trained by a Tools With A Mission team working in Entebbe. They have taken the skill back to their community where they are constructing two tanks per month. The size of the tank depends on the size of the available roof and the rainfall data, but is typically 1,500 to 2,000 litres. The cost per tank is £150. Afrinspire has donated money for several tanks but this money is used creatively to subsidise what can be paid by each homestead. The aim of this team is to keep building for the coming year and then to appraise the effectiveness of the programme. Experience must be gained on how to best use the tanks. For example, it's important during the dry season to ration the water drawn from the tank in order for it to last as long as possible. We need more sponsors of tanks to take us through the first year.

PLACES TO STORE GRAIN

Barry Ilunga reports on the amazing difference that the micro-agricultural project is making to people's lives in rural Zambia.

The micro-agriculture project this year has been a great success. The rains were good in our area. I was so touched with the report by Misheck from Mibila village who testified that this year has been his first year to have such a harvest from his field. I asked him what has been his harvest in the past. He told me he has been harvesting two to three bags each year, but this year he harvested for the first time forty five bags. Most of the families on the project have now built a place to keep the maize grains in their villages, which is a sign of people who are doing well. Some harvested up to sixty bags of maize instead of the usual five to seven bags per year. It is amazing to see how this kind of investment in the lives of people can bring such a difference in their way of living. Those



who were the first group for this micro-project in 2004 have also done well again for the second year, and I am convinced that they will never be the same again. A one time investment of £350 has brought great joy and a sense of purpose to the families. Because of the help invested in the lives of these dear ones, they are empowered from now on, and it looks to me that it will continue throughout their life time.

Please would you thank everyone on my behalf and on behalf of those who have benefited from this micro-agriculture project. Thank you so much for your generous giving to these families! As we together run for our prize, let us continue in this meaningful contributions in the lives of those in need until that day when we all appear before the Creator. I know the needs are great as I look

around in different villages and families, but what has been done for the sixteen families so far has brought joy and hope to me, that as we continue the picture of these villages will truly change for the better. I look forward to that day when some of the investors will decide to come and visit some of these families here in Zambia and see for themselves and be part of the joy of seeing the difference that the investment has made to the people.

Yours in this exciting journey of serving with you.

Barry Ilunga

World Outreach Team Action, Chingola, Zambia

“By giving £350 to one family to invest in seeds, land, farming materials and agricultural education we are helping whole families to break out of the poverty cycle for ever”, writes Annabel Manser. “We are hoping to sponsor more families in the same way from October this year and we currently have enough to help four families. If you would like to support the project further use the Response Slip enclosed with this newsletter, or you can send a cheque made out to ‘Afrinspire’ to The Treasurer, Afrinspire, 22 Melvin Way, Histon, Cambridge, marking it for the Kapeshi Micro Agriculture Project. Thank you so much for all your support!”



BOOK-KEEPING COURSE

Afrinspire is a small but growing charity. One of our strengths is our direct contact with Africa. Trustees travel regularly to see at first hand the people and projects we are supporting. Relationships are key to our effectiveness. We have seen plenty of evidence of money well spent in development and as expected we make sure that money designated to certain causes finds its way to the right place. Some organisations we work with are small and fledgling. We are planning to sponsor a simple ‘book-keeping’ course to bring up the skills of some of our partners. It will cost £80 per delegate and we are looking for sponsors so that this course can take place. It will build the skills of the attendees and allow their organizations to develop.



Joerg Rottmann completed his seven months as a VSO volunteer with Foundation of People with Disabilities and returned to Germany in time for the World Cup in June! While on release from the business consultancy firm, Accenture, Joerg used his skills to create a Capacity Assessment of FPD.

Afrinspire sponsored a workshop in June when this document could be received and discussed by the trustees of FPD, many of whom had made direct contributions into this



comprehensive document. The workshop was attended by one Member of Parliament and key representatives of the disabled. It was a fitting conclusion and hand-over point. The Workshop was pivotal in deciding the future strategy of FPD who have the only orthotic workshop in South Uganda and also have a variety of programmes running to



help the disabled. The biggest problem they face is the lack of resources among the disabled community, who tend to be the poorest among the poor. A strategy is needed to raise FPD into a more self sustaining organisation.

It is planned to place a new VSO volunteer with FPD before the end of the year. This is to assist FPD in organisational development. Afrinspire is committed to meeting the local costs of the volunteer. This makes it possible for FPD to have volunteer input and this three cornered partnership between FPD, VSO and Afrinspire has proved successful. Afrinspire needs to raise a minimum of £900 every six months to achieve this.

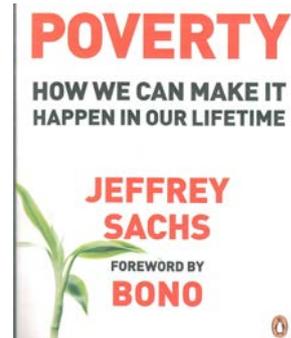
ENDING POVERTY IN A GENERATION

How can we end poverty in our generation? Jeffrey Sachs, leading world economist, argues the case as to how this can be done in his book 'THE END OF POVERTY' by Penguin Books 2005, ISBN 0-141-01866-6. Have some myths about poverty exploded and understand why Africa has been most vulnerable in the race to develop.



A strategic book by a strategic professional.

There's a forward by Bono, which draws attention to this book, but once you start reading Jeffrey Sachs will carry you along.

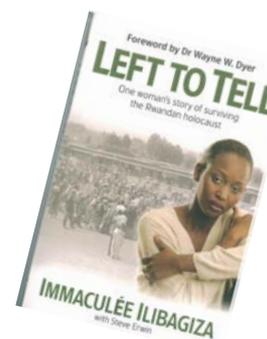


THE BIG FIVE according to Jeffrey Sachs
Not the safari animals, but the big five development interventions that will transform Africa.

1. Agricultural inputs - to increase yields
2. Investments in basic health - to improve health and prevent death
3. Investments in education - to empower with increased information and skills
4. Power, transport and communications - to remove isolation and remoteness, facilitate trade
5. Safe drinking water and sanitation - to improve access to water and reduce time to fetch..

LEFT TO TELL

A book released in March 2006, is the autobiography of Immaculee Ilibagiza, a survivor of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. A book you will not be able to put down, tells of Immaculee's experience being hunted and in hiding for 91 days. How can feelings of hatred and revenge be turned into forgiveness? Immaculee wrote this hoping that others may benefit from her story. ISBN 1-4019-0897-7



AFRINSPIRE is a Christian charity and action group supporting indigenous African initiatives which relieve poverty. People and projects are supported in Uganda, Zambia, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Sudan and Tanzania.

Afrinspire is a UK Registered Charity Number 1095001. Donations can be made and further information can be obtained from AFRINSPIRE, 22 Melvin Way, Histon, CAMBRIDGE, CB4 9HY, UK

Donations may be gift aided if you are a tax payer. Donations can be made via our website.

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