

JOSEPH ODEKE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND

NEWSLETTER NO 4

March 2010

2009 was a very busy and productive year for the Joseph Odeke Committee with many months spent organising equipment for the **second 40' container to be sent to Uganda**. A wish list was made of equipment which was to be a priority and that which would supply everything needed to give the people of Katakwi district the opportunity to be able to have a successful and productive farm. Top of the list was three mouldboard ploughs, three tractors a potato planter and digger numerous pieces of plant, tyres, oil, 2 kerosene fridges, 2 motor bikes, roofing iron, hospital beds all packed carefully with numerous bags of clothing and boxes of school books. Many people had put an extortionary amount of time into repairing and assembling the numerous pieces of equipment not to mention the fundraising which enabled us to get this shipped. Packing took place on the 25th of September which was a huge job and much was learnt from packing the first container. Little space was left in this one!!! The container started it's journey mid Oct finally arriving in Katakwi just prior to Christmas. With the difficulty of shipping to an inland African country where corruption is huge it is was a wonderful relief when we heard it had arrived safely. The Joseph Odeke Committee is very grateful to all those who helped in any way to make this possible. **T h a n k y o u**



KATAKWI, UGANDA VISIT SEPTEMBER 2009

By Lynda Henderson, this is an edited version and her full story is on the web site.

Again we thank Lynda and Fiona for the contribution they gave to Katakwi.

I spoke in length to Kate Brookman on her return and heard about Jacinta Okiror and her school. Jacinta is the head teacher at Katakwi primary School and a friend of Dr Odeke. Jacinta is a remarkable woman.

The bus experience was quite horrendous. The first bus we boarded from the busy, bustling overcrowded bus park broke down. The second bus which we had to walk some distance to and jostle with the crowd to board was the wrong bus. By the time we attempted to board the third bus tempers in the bus park were becoming frayed as tickets had been collected on the first bus and passengers were arguing their rights for a seat.

To anyone thinking of visiting Dr Odeke's extended family, I would say 'Take the opportunity and run with it.' This experience is one I am the richer for. My very special thanks to Dr Odeke , Mig Brookman and those who helped make it happen. I believe the sharing of experiences and goodwill between the people of the Katakwi district in Uganda and the people of the Keith and surrounding districts we call home is infinite.

To reflect on my visit to Katakwi one thought immediately comes to mind: What a privilege!

Lynda has written a comprehensive report with photographs on her visit to Katakwi which can be seen on the website- www.josephodeke.com.au



On the 19th of January Joseph , Ian and Kay Winybank left for Katakwi to supervise the unloading of the container and most importantly to assemble the plant and equipment that was sent and to educate people how to use and operate the machinery. This is a very vital part of the project and we are extremely grateful for Windy and Kay to fund their fares to help the people of Katakwi. With Joseph being able to accompany Kay and Windy and oversee the organisation at the other end it has given this project the necessary skills to be successful. The following is part of Kay's report the full one is on the web site.

Kay wrote a fantastic report and photographs on their trip to Katakwi. We have had to shorten it to fit on one page but please see the full report on the web. www.josephodeke.com.au

Friday 22nd after breakfast we drove out to Joseph's village, Attiri, a 30 min drive from Katakwi, where the 2nd container was delivered. There were many of Joseph's village people there, (hundreds) some with Malaria, infected sores and cuts. They were very thin and very poor clothing if any. It was a very sorry and sad sight to see. In fact I couldn't hold back the tears. These beautiful people still smiling and coming up to greet you with love in their eyes.

The day was spent unloading the container. Windy & I were kept busy assembling machinery and attaching them to tractors and showing the boys how to operate them. Some of the boys were very knowledgeable and could assist Windy very well with his instructions, and without my help. Unfortunately some of the equipment couldn't be operated because the land was so very dry after the drought they have experienced.

They have 2 wet seasons over there, March and August, so they were all hoping and praying for rains in March to enable them to plough the land. Hence the importance of some form of irrigation, dams and bores etc. The water in some places is only 10 feet down from the surface.

Joseph was very busy that day as all days distributing clothing, medical advice etc. to his beloved village people.

We drove back to Andrew's house where Windy set up 3 lights within the home with his home made generator, which is able to charge mobile phones, batteries, cameras etc. He also set up our toilet seat for the loo.

The rest of our days spent there with Joseph organizing the next season of getting land ready to sow and plant crops, distributing clothing, hospital supplies, books etc and medical advice to the many people.

The 2 fridges were quickly claimed by Mr Edgelet and the Katakwi Hospital.

Florence, the headmistress of Amusia primary school was elated to receive her motor bike. She had never driven one before so Windy started to give her instructions, followed up by Salim. She soon realized not to wear long skirts as they were being scorched by the exhaust.

Windy was kept very busy the whole time repairing tractor no 4 with the use of a hospital bed, plus other repairs to the remaining tractors.

They do not have trailers in Uganda, therefore vehicles don't have tow bars, so we had a draw bar welded up in Katakwi to fit onto the trailer to fit onto a tractor which was very helpful to cart water to the village from Joseph's well.

We also attended a Church service the following Sunday 31st at Joseph's Village, Attiri, which was and always will be a highlight in Windy's and my trip to Katakwi. There were hundreds of people there and the Chairperson of Katakwi, Robert, plus many dignitaries attended. It was a very spiritual service and you could feel and sense the presence of our Lord.

It was so good to catch up with the people we met on our first visit, they were so pleased to see us again, and the feeling was mutual. Such wonderful, happy and loving people, with no complaints about their living conditions and survival, just so very thankful and appreciative for the help they have been given by us all who care. "THEY ALL CONVEY THEIR HUMBLE THANKS TO ALL OF US IN AUSTRALIA FOR OUR HELP AND UNDERSTANDING IN THEIR PLIGHT FOR SURVIVAL AND THEY CALL US OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS FOREVER"

It makes one feel so humble and thankful for our existence with so many luxuries and these beautiful people are so happy with nothing but diseases and famine, and above all LOVE.

I hope this report enlightens all of you as to how very grateful the people of Attiri feel about the support and love which has been given to them in their plight of survival from all of us here in Padthaway, Keith ,Tintinara, Mundulla and surrounding districts.

Kay Windebank.

