

Ian's Newsletter no 23

October 2004

Ian and Silver have continued their busy lives since their last newsletter in June. In fact, it has been so busy they have not had time to prepare a personal letter to you all, so I am attempting to update you from information culled from their regular and sometimes frequent emails and text messages.

It is sometimes tempting to concentrate on the large projects or specific missions and overlook the general day to day life of Ian and Silver in Uganda and Kenya. The work of YEA is just one part of their ministry and this is set against the backdrop of daily life African style about which they have written from time to time. This newsletter will attempt to give a snapshot of some of the things Ian and Silver are involved with, not necessarily YEA related, but linked with Kampala Baptist Church, other charities and their friends in Kenya.

A key part of their work is connecting with and supporting teams and individuals as they visit East Africa. This sometimes shows up the challenges of communication between and within countries and people, especially important when organising hosts, training, missions and projects from a distance. Ian and Silver are often the link between the UK base and the Ugandan or Kenyan trip. This may require a physical visit to the hosts when letters, emails or telephone messages disappear into the black hole of cyberspace!

The summer has seen visits from the Uganda Crusoe Team, short term Oasis teams, James Druce from UK to link with Sammy in Kenya, Marie Marquis from Guernsey to Hoima, Peter and Cynthia Empson from Crusaders, and currently a team from Bognor Regis Baptist Church to Kampala and Kamuli.

Goodbyes were also said as Ingrid Verbiese who had been working in Kampala returned to Belgium and Lizzie, a Crusader volunteer returned from working in Hoima.

Building up and encouraging young people for their futures is also a regular part of their work. Ikong went to join a basketball training clinic in Kisumu organised by Edgar from Parklands Baptist Church Kenya. Ian and Collin began to run preaching workshops for the KBC youth during September, and Douglas from KBC has now joined the Uganda Youth Forum (UGF) board as youth representative. Kasibante returned from Rwanda after a successful period of mission with YWAM. Unfortunately he returned with TB and required some extra care as he was slow to respond to treatment. He spent some time convalescing at Ian and Silver's house. Ian says that *"one of the biggest challenges of my work is balancing the wider development work with the individual needs of youth. There are not enough hours in the days."*

Follow-up is an essential part of enabling the training and mission work to become sustainable in the long term and owned by the communities and churches. Relationships are created and nurtured between individuals, churches and communities as common vision develops into shared work.

There have been mission trips to Lumino (Busia), a retreat for Campus-based youth by the lake at Kaazi, a Medical mission at Kampala Baptist Church, and a University Mission during Freshers' week.

Ian has also been involved in a conference to see how 'Abstinence' can become the key message to youth nationally in the ongoing fight against HIV Aids (UYF). There is potential too to work alongside Baptist Union Uganda youth work to train youth workers countrywide next year.

Silver continues his musical interest with Harmony 6 and the group plays an active part of local missions especially on Campus. Ian has joined the KBC worship team – he has to sing in 4 different languages: English, Luganda, Acholi and Runyankole.

September saw a power problem as the water level dropped in the Nile so the dam at Jinja is not able to produce enough electricity – Ian texted me one evening while he was cooking by the light of a candle. They were also expecting El Nino and a locust swarm. Food was getting a bit short although it was worse in Kenya where there is famine in many parts. Oil prices have gone up causing the cost of living to rise with it. The vehicle has required yet more work as it negotiates pot holes and rough tracks pretending to be roads.

However, on a brighter note, water is now coming out of the new bore hole at the IDP camp in Otuboi, Kaberamaido, and hoes and seeds were being put to good use as the people begin to farm again.

This month, October, will also see Ian and Silver moving house, plus celebrating their birthdays, Silver on the 13th and Ian on the 29th. During this time, preparation continues for the November/December Kenya visits and the December/January youth camps in Uganda. At the end of November there is the Word of Life Teens Camp, in Ukunda, Mombasa where Ian is the main speaker. In December they move on to Lamu to join the AIC Church Youth & Children's Camp. Ian is also the main speaker there plus a joint team of youth from KBC & MPC to help lead all activities.

Immediately after Christmas, the KBC youth camp takes place from 28th Dec to 4th January, followed by the UYF National youth conference in Kampala from 9th Jan to 15th January 2005.

Ian also plans a visit to the UK during 2005 and continues to be alert for ways to develop the network of partners further.

How can you be involved?

It is always encouraging to hear from friends – it really helps to know people are thinking of you. Just a few words can make a difference so if you have a mobile phone, maybe you could text Ian or Silver, or you could email them with a longer message, and if you have neither mobile nor computer, there is always Royal Mail to send on your letter. All the necessary contact addresses are in the box below. However, they are not always able to reply immediately.

Please continue to keep Ian and Silver in your prayers. Although they make light of the challenges in their news, living and working with these conditions all the time does require special qualities; patience, grace, wisdom, health and strength to name a few.

Pray too for those who have responded to God's love through the Mission Teams and for those who will disciple them as they continue to follow Christ.

Give thanks for the youth leaders attending the training sessions undertaken by Ian. Pray that they will go back and build up the young people in their home churches.

Here, back in Ian's home church Bognor Regis Baptist Church, we are looking to fund-raise for a replacement vehicle for the faithful but worn-out friend mentioned in the news. Please pray for Ian and Silver as they look for a suitable substitute and for us as we seek ways to provide financially for it. If you would like to partner with us in this, please contact me. We are grateful for your continuing support.

Thelma Edwards, c/o Bognor Regis Baptist Church, 73 Victoria Drive, Bognor Regis, West Sussex, PO21 2TD, England.
Email: Thelma.Edwards@grace.ukol.net

P.S. If you wish to follow the journeys of Ian and Silver, I can recommend two good maps from the Nelles Explore the World Maps series.

UGANDA ISBN 3-88618-659-8

KENYA ISBN 3-88618-543-5

Ian's address: Mr Ian Wardle, P.O.Box 26430, Kampala, Uganda, East Africa.

Tel: 00 256 77437 990

Please note this is GMT+3 hours. You can text him on this too.

email: youthworxea@hotmail.com

Silver's address is also c/o P.O. Box 26430, Kampala, Uganda, East Africa

Tel: 00 256 77847718

Email: silverinnocent@hotmail.com