

P2P Uganda 2012

Prepared to Preach Uganda - July 7 through to July 21st 2012



25 of us... and loads of them!!

The P2P team consisted of 25 volunteers from the UK and Canada, who had raised funds and supplies throughout the previous year, with the support of their ecclesias, friends and family, for all the resources we were to use over the 2 week trip. This was supplemented generously by the Meal-a-Day fund and also 2400 mosquito nets provided through donations made to by the networks africa appeal to distribute to the local community.

After an initial welcome meeting at Entebbe, we were off to Butacho, via Jinja, a journey that took most of the day but gave us time to take in our first sights of Uganda and get to know each other better. The majority of the group had been members of the Sterling P2P course who had been motivated by the skills and encouragement they'd received into action. By early evening we had arrived in Butacho and were welcomed with traditional singing and dancing by the ecclesia as we began to set up camp around the ecclesial hall.

★Blessed by God

This July God blessed us with the opportunity and privilege of spending 2 weeks in one of the poorest areas of rural Uganda, working with the brothers and sisters at Butacho ecclesia, to preach and reach out to their local community - showing the love of God in word and action.

★ Basic Butacho

This area of Uganda is a far cry from the urbanised centres of the country's city's and what most of us Westerners on the trip were used to; no running water, no mains electricity, no shower, all the food we ate was local cuisine of mainly maize and rice with beans; however, there was one luxury in amongst our organic african experience; a single, albeit non flushing, western toilet - much to the delight of the camp!



★Task forces!!

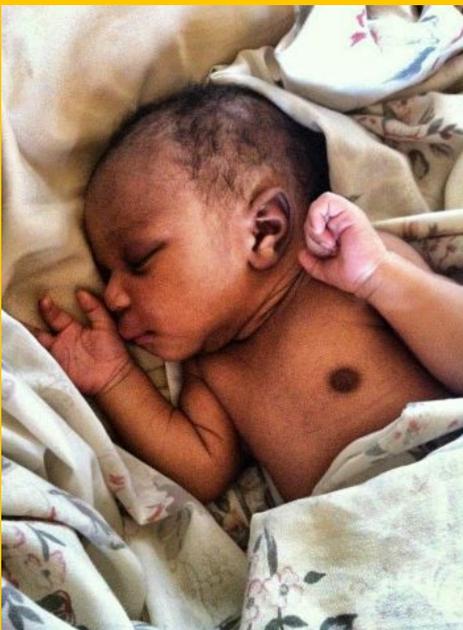
The group was divided into task force teams to cover the different projects, in addition to the daily bible teaching



we were to carry out every day.

There was a team dedicated to decorating the ecclesial hall at Butacho - by the end of the 2 weeks both the inside and out were covered in murals encouraging passers by to come in and learn about the word of God.

★Baby 'Mercy'



The clinic team

The health team focused on making the health clinic, run by 1 lead nurse, Winnie, and a team of minimally trained health care assistants, more hygienic and more functional for the 23000 patients that it serves . As well as painting educational murals on the clinic walls to remind the nursing staff about how to treat common infectious disease, we also renovated the maternity room and held seminars for the local community health care workers about basic principles of first aid, hygiene and family planning. Alongside this we gave out mosquito nets to over 2000 local residents with the aim of preventing malaria in an area which has one of the world's highest



death rates amongst pregnant women and under 5s from the infection that



is essentially avoidable. Thanks to the generosity of so many brothers and sisters in the UK who supplied us with bags full of hand knitted toys and children's' clothing we were also able to give

out these gifts to thoroughly grateful expectant mothers at the antenatal clinic and families attending the clinic for childhood vaccinations.

One of the highlights for a few members of the health team was that we were able to work together, through God's grace to enable an emergency resuscitation of a newborn baby in the middle of the night who was born after hours of distress in the womb and was born unable to breathe on her own, Sadly, this served to remind us the extremely limited medical training , staffing and health care resources that are typical of these rural Ugandan communities and which all too often result in unnecessary death for the mother and baby.

★Bore Holes

The bore hole team laboured despite the scorching african sun to build fences around the bore hole that supplies water for thousands of Butacho villagers who walk miles each day to collect their daily water requirements. This fence will



prevent animals contaminating the bore hole water that is used for drinking, washing and cooking and ensure a safe water source for the village preventing against waterborne infections such as cholera, dysentery and hepatitis that could otherwise cause severe illness and often death, especially amongst children and the already sick.



Secondary Schools

Just down the road from the health clinic were 2 secondary schools, each of which responsible for teaching hundreds of children, with as many as 50 to a classroom each day. These schools were badly in need of repairs, so another team set to work with plastering and painting to make them into a more enticing environment for the children that go there, and also, showing the local community that we care about them and want to try and make a difference to their lives in whatever way we can. In addition, the children were given sunday school classes in the form of puppet shows - this was received with much joy and laughter from both the students and P2Pers!



Sewing
with the
sisters

Bible Studies

From late afternoon and spanning way into the dark of dusk there were daily bible teachings ; sisters classes, 1st principle classes, teachings on the parables of Jesus, sunday school lessons and more advanced bible study as well as the opportunity for 1:1 bible study for specific questions to be addressed. With all the work going on in the surrounding village ; be it painting, handing out mosquito nets, plastering or paying games with the local children, a lot of intrigue and interest was generated and this naturally resulted in attendance around the camp for the bible studies in the evening.



“Encouragement” Orphanage

The second week of our visit we continued to work on these multiple projects but in addition, as a whole group we took on the challenge of renovating a local orphanage. Run by a local pastor and his wife, who felt moved by the plight of children in the area who had lost parents to war or illness, the orphanage looks after 52 children and schooled a total of 200 day pupils in addition. At night the children ranging from infants to 15 were sleeping 5 to a bed in cramped and dank conditions - seriously increasing the risk of infections common to such environments like dysentery and TB. We set to work to provide new



★Sewing with the sisters

Back at the ecclesial hall there was a team who organised bible teaching and activities for the sisters and women from the village to get involved with. The main thrust of the effort from the activities front was to encourage women to sew together squares of fabric with the aim of creating 12 blankets which would then be given to widows in the area in the most need. This was not only a means of providing in a tangible and caring way to these women, but also served to encourage and enable the Butacho sisters to give out of the what they had. Moreover this proved to be a an amazing opportunity for the P2P'ers and women from the local area to bond together through working together on a common goal whilst serving the gospel and was truly an experience to be enjoyed and remembered by all involved!

★THANKYOU

We feel that our 2 weeks working alongside the ecclesia in Butacho was a truly unforgettable and rewarding experience for all involved and we are so thankful to everyone both behind the scenes in the UK and around the world for their prayers, encouragement and financial support that have made this trip possible. Similarly we are so thankful to our brothers and sisters in Butacho who were so welcoming of us and showed us so much about what it means to show faith in the face of adversity; materially these families have very little but their love for God, thirst for his word and willingness to work together to help others was inspiring and it was an honour to be part of a team working together with the common goal of bringing the teachings the kingdom of God to Butacho; lessons we hope to continue to live out be it in Butacho or the UK, until Jesus returns.

Thankyou for your help, for you donations, for you prayers, for your support



bunk beds and mattresses for the children to sleep on, painting the rooms with educational murals and pictorial demonstrations of bible stories. There was much needed repairs made to leaking roofs and a guttering system installed so that precious rainwater could be collected and used for drinking and washing so as to



reduce the frequency of mile long, barefooted walks to the nearest borehole. And of course there was time for fun playing with and teaching the beautiful children there!

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