

Newsletter

October 2008

Dear Friends

Meeting and greeting

If they have an acronym, we have met them. From the RDC and LC5 (Regional Development Commissioner and Local Chairman Level 5) to the DEO and DWPO (District Education and Welfare and Probation Officers) our first few weeks have been characterised by introductions, relationship building and networking. In addition, we have travelled around the region to visit different pastors and the Baptist Western Seminary near the Congo border. As well as making many new friends and useful contacts it has allowed us to play our new favourite memory game when someone waves at us as we drive through town (“was that the town mayor, the police chief or the chap who sells us onions at the market?”).

Calvary Baptist Church

We are loving being here so far and the main reason is the blessing and privilege we feel of being part of our new home church, Calvary Baptist, Kasese. Pastor Moses Kaiso is a man of real vision; humble and committed to teaching the Bible and serving the people. He has been invaluable in helping us settle in as have the rest of the church and we have been blessed with many visitors and gifts – including 25 eggs from the ladies group. Having boiled, scrambled, poached, fried and sautéed we are now running out of ideas. Suggestions please.



Sunday morning at Calvary Baptist Church



The younger members of Calvary Baptist



Church commitments

As well as the work we hope to be doing in the advocacy and education fields, we are committed to serving in our local church and community and we have had very productive meetings with Pastor Moses about how we might become involved. As well as Graeme occasionally preaching we have been asked to start up a new outreach/discipleship Bible study in the new year to reach those outside the church. The prospect of this excites us very much but we need to pray for wisdom as to how many responsibilities we take on as we now realise how big a task the legal and education work is going to be.

Starting advocacy work

It has been decided that the approach to the advocacy work in the west should begin with an educational developmental approach rather than taking on legal aid clients (as it is necessary to have an Ugandan advocate to undertake court representations and we have yet to meet any Christian lawyers here). We hope to work through the local pastors and community leaders, empowering them to become advocates for the marginalised in their community through teaching them about what the law and the Bible have to say about fighting injustice. The four main injustices that we are hearing about in the local community are sexual abuse of minors, child neglect, domestic violence and lack of land registration leaving people vulnerable to

eviction. In the next few weeks we are going to undertake some research with the police, church and community members to ascertain the level of the problems.

Education work

Graeme has had positive meetings with the District Education Officer and hopes to meet with the Kasese Baptist Schools' Committee to ascertain how he can best support the local schools. In the meantime he is developing some Christian Child Rights educational material as well as learning the child protection material to be taught in legal workshops.

The next few months...

...are looking very busy which we are pleased about and our diary looks as follows:

- **4-10 October, Kampala:** Attend orientation course with the UCLF and BUU Education Department.
- **13-24 October, Kasese:** Undertake local needs assessment, prepare for and organise UCLF Legal Education Workshops, recruit Community Rights Advocates and learn the legal teaching material. Meet with the Kasese Association Education Board and do schools' needs assessments. Language Training.
- **26-28 October, Kampala:** Attend BUU AGM in Kampala.
- **29 October-13 November, Kasese:** Prepare teaching materials and continue to identify/recruit Community Rights Advocates. Also move house. Language training.
- **17-20 November, Bussi Island, Lake Victoria:** Legal Education Teaching Workshops with churches.
- **21 November, Kampala:** Collect work permits from immigration and BMS team meetings.
- **22 November, Kampala:** Training UCLF child rights volunteers on child-centred approaches to teaching.
- **25-28 November, Kasese:** Education Workshops with Kasese Baptist teachers.
- **1-4 December, Kasese:** UCLF Legal Education Workshops for pastors and community leaders.

Personal news

Housing: We have yet to find a permanent house to live in. The houses we have seen are either too grand or falling down. Our current home is too big and only has a contract until the 15 November so we need to find somewhere to downsize to soon.

Language: Jenny is currently doing two hours of Swahili, four days a week with a local teacher. He is a very capable guy and runs Swahili lessons for the community every Saturday morning at 6.30am on the local radio station. I can't claim that we have been getting up to listen to these! Once we have mastered KiSwahili we only have the small task of learning the local tribal language, Lukonzo!?!)

And finally... The Worst Business Plan in the World

This week we visited a hotel close to our house. The proprietor was very excited to show us around the place particularly as they had just finished building a... sauna. Considering we are living in the hottest part of Uganda where we sweat simply sitting in the shade, we declined his kind offer of using the sauna and suggested that a swimming pool or chilled drinks facility might have more chance of long term business success!

If you feel able to pray...

Praise God for:

- ◆ Open doors and warm welcomes as we have met community and church leaders
- ◆ Pastor Moses and the members of Calvary Baptist Church who have helped us settle in so well

Pray for:

- ◆ Safety as we travel back and forth across the country
- ◆ Preparations for the upcoming legal workshops and recruitment of community advocates.
- ◆ Wisdom as to what roles to take on in the church.
- ◆ That we would find the right house to move into and settle in.
- ◆ For our language training.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement.

With our love, Graeme and Jenny

BMS World Mission supports 370 personnel working in 40 countries of the world. Together they are involved mainly in church planting, development, disaster relief, education, health and media and advocacy. If you would like to support work like Graeme and Jenny's you can make a one-off donation, or you can become a 24:7 Partner for as little as £2 per month. Visit www.bmsworldmission.org or call 01235 517617 for a 24:7 Partners leaflet, or 01235 517641 for our donation hotline.