

### Possibilities for Travel

#### July / August 2011 Trip

A first hand account

Having closely followed the work of Possibilities since its beginnings, it was with much excitement and nervous anticipation that I, together with my teenagers Jack & Zoe, boarded the plane for Entebbe on 26<sup>th</sup> July this year. We were part of the first volunteer group that Rob & Denise had taken out to experience and work alongside the projects Possibilities supports. I travelled many journeys during the fortnight, both physically and emotionally. Every day I was challenged or surprised



or humbled or overwhelmed. We've all seen the documentaries or the fund raising programmes. I've always felt I empathised and understood, but being there, and for a short while being part of the picture, opened my eyes. I met people who in the face of corruption and poverty display an amazing acceptance and hope. People who make things happen.

#### SPAU

We spent 3 days with Paul and Sarah at SPAU. They had organised for us to labour for a local Ugandan builder at a school at Bombo. The Bajjo Community Primary School was built last year and already there is such a need that a further block of classrooms had to be built to accommodate the increasing number of pupils. This school is built in the middle of several villages. The nearest school is a distance away and so children walk up to 10 Km to lessons every day. The fees are set at a low cost so as not to be prohibitive, but when it is a choice between an education and



Our time in Uganda was varied. We built, decorated, played, gave, watched, and allowed ourselves to be saturated by the experience. Walking young girls through a slum to school, or holding a three year old orphan until she slept, or seeing the bedroom belonging to twenty girls for the first time, are memories that as I write come to mind – there are a million others. These experiences can't fail to affect you, to motivate you and to ground you in perspective about your own life. I cried most in

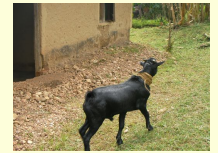
Uganda, not by what I was facing or seeing, but by what it reminded me of that I had in my own family or home. I have so much, and I have a new depth of gratitude.

'Mpola Mpola' (slowly by slowly) is a common saying in Uganda that expresses Possibilities' approach to helping some of the world's most vulnerable children. As a charity they are working to change lives 'mpola mpola', making a real difference, to real children with real difficulties. I count it a privilege to have played a very small part in that this summer. Helen

food in a stomach there is no choice. As the fees are set extremely low then there is a need to increase class numbers and pupils per class. Some children are taught in the headteachers office and others in the staff room (Both rather grand titles for the current classrooms) and so we were to speed up the process of gaining some new accommodation for these children. Our work consisted of moving bricks carrying water from the local well and cooking the school dinners.. On our last day at the school a huge football match was organised. Staff and pupils from Bajjo against our team (Uganda v England) Such fun until the heavens opened in African style and the game had to be abandoned - such fun.

### Possibilities with Goats

It became clear that the Billy goat that we had bought last June (2010) was still too young and not really man enough for the herd. So we decided to buy an additional Billy. After a tongue in cheek appeal on Facebook, 10 friends all agreed to purchase a tenth of the new Billy goat. We arranged for him to join the herd and when we visited in August the herd was at 10 goats. 3 kids so far and counting. We are now looking forward to the second litter so that the project can begin to start up small goat rearing businesses in the villages around and can begin to see some income generated for the villagers.



#### KiWoI

Just prior to our visit in July, we had a security wall built across the rear boundary of the property at Kinawataka. It has long been a concern of Benedicta that men from the slum could easily enter the property from the back. With the girls getting older and with the introduction of the chickens it has increasingly become a possible target for the criminal and so the wall was built in time for us to plaster the wall on our visit. We decided that our skills were insufficient for the task and elected to decorate / transform the dormitories and main hallway and latrine area. What a brilliant job was done by the team their efforts brought many tears and excited jumps of joy.



*"Hello Rob and Denise,*

*Greetings from Uganda! Thank you very much for the visit and your friends. We really appreciated the way how you are loving us. Children were very happy; the dormitory is looking nice. They can even sleep up to morning. My bedroom looks so as if I am getting married again, so nice. So thank you very much, Rob. Thank you, Denise. We want to send our sincere appreciation to the group you came with. Benedicta x"*

## Ntinde United FC

We spent an afternoon with Ntinde United - a third tier football team. Simeon and Jack took part in the training session and thoroughly



enjoyed a workout with some serious footballers. We had managed to gather many football kits and boots for this trip and so were able to distribute them to many groups. Ntinde United benefitted from a 2nd kit that had been donated by Stowupland Falcons Youth Football Club.

## Volunteering

We just had a volunteer at Another Hope Children's ministry for 1

month. If you are planning a gap year or similar or know of anyone traveling or looking for a gap year project, please point them in our direction.

## Safari Holidays

Part of the summer's visit was a chance to enjoy some animals and to experience the magic of safari. Although the elusive Lion was determined not to be seen, other



animals were observed and an amazing time was had by all. We have updated Musa's website (re-packaged the company) and helped him with marketing the safari business. 'ugandajunglesafari.com'

## BULA

The children's home in Namirembe was in need of a spruce up. After consultation with the landlords representatives we decided that the home was in need of a deep clean and not in need of redecoration. The team gave a day to rub down walls wash them and clean thoroughly. We

paid for a welder to come and make repairs to the property and also to several beds

that were broken and we repaired some electrical equipment also

Kenneth was so pleased to receive a guitar that had been given to us for him. The children, as always were polite and playful. It was great to catch up with some of them and to spend time chatting and being entertained by them.



## Farming Land

During the July / August visit Rob took 3 days out to try and secure the land. After several meetings and visits to the plot things became far too complicated and he withdrew our interest until the issues had been resolved. He left Paul Lwanga of



SPAU with instructions and license to purchase it if and when it became available. Since our return the land has been purchased and now the real heavy task of preparation, farming and building will begin. Not to mention raising the money.

## The next BIG challenge

We are currently paying for 20 children's schooling and various other needs in maintaining a children's home. In addition we are periodically called on for emergency rations, medical bills and for extras to enable the craft business to function. In buying the land we will be able to farm it and give away any surplus foods or market the extra. The Bula Children's home is in need of rehousing. The land will give them an opportunity to

move towards self-sufficiency. We are planning that the land will be used for rearing animals, keeping bees thereby producing honey that will bring some income and general farming of everyday foodstuffs. We will also be building accommodation blocks and begin to move the children from Bula to the more suitable and cost effective option. The building will begin hopefully in 2012 when we have raised sufficient funds. Much hard work and serious fundraising is now required.

## Calendar

### October 1st

Bollywood Charity Night

### Proposed Autumnal Events

Quiz night (November)

### February 2012

Rob to Kampala

### Spring 2012

Needham Market Charity Dinner

Needham 5's

Needham Market Perimeter run

### July 2012 and August 2012

Volunteering Teams to Uganda (taking bookings now)

For up to date info on fundraising events please visit website

## Bollywood Charity Night

October 1st. We are now looking forward to this fun looking event. If you need a ticket we may be able to squeeze you in but interest has been great for this. We are looking forward to a charity night that will be fun and energetic and hopefully will raise substantial funds for the cause. If you feel able to help organise or be involved in it's putting on please get in touch