



Friends of Teso (Uganda)

Newsletter Spring 2008

This Newsletter Is For You!

Friends of Teso (Uganda) is now an established feature in the lives of very many people. This newsletter is for them and especially all our friends and partners in Uganda.

But if you have not heard of us, **this newsletter is for you too!** Please read on and see how you might help us to help the **one-and-a-half million people** still living in Internally Displaced Persons Camps in Uganda.

2007 – Our Most Successful Year Yet!!

Two forty foot containers were dispatched to Teso.

In June we shared a container with Jim and Lorna Stirland who sponsor a school in Teso called Halcyon.

In October a second container was sent which arrived in Kumi in February 2008.



The exhausted FOT team having just loaded their second forty foot container within four months!

Learn more - and how you can help:

www.friends-of-teso-uganda.org.uk



Can you help by:
Providing materials or equipment for shipment?

Assisting us with fundraising or other essential tasks?

Joining forces with us to combine shipments to Uganda?

The View From Uganda (1)

The following is a letter from the Chaplain working with Bishop Charles of Soroti about the containers sent in 2007:

Greetings to you in Jesus' name.

Greetings from the Relief Distribution Committee here and Bishop Charles. The relief arrived safely and it was picked up from Kumi safely.

We are very grateful that we received the relief items from the charity, and we have so far given out goods to five places. Four of these had been badly affected by the floods.

People are very grateful for the support you always give to them materially and spiritually, and we always continue praying for you and all the friends of Teso in the UK.

We are grateful for the continued support you give to Soroti Diocese and Teso as a whole.

God bless you.

Rev. Justine Emwogu Okello
Chaplain, Soroti Diocese

The View From Uganda (2)

The following is a letter from Bishop Thomas of Kumi about the containers sent in 2007:

Greetings to you in the beloved name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

On behalf of all the people of Kumi Diocese and on my own behalf, I would like to express my great gratitude to you, our partners, for the love you have shown to the whole of Mother Teso by the enormous quantity of goods that you have sent from the UK. Thank you very much for the container which has been retained for storage purposes in the Diocese.

I want to thank you very much for raising awareness of the 2007 floods and the devastation they caused in the Teso region. Your goods arrived at just the right time to create hope and build confidence in a downhearted multitude of people.

We thank you, and may God bless you abundantly for the services you have rendered to Him in our lives at a time when the Lord's Resistance Army and the flood catastrophe have caused very great hardship.

Christians of Kumi Diocese are so happy to find that they have friends abroad who care about them and are able to extend their love practically to them in these most difficult economic times.

I pray night and day for God to sustain our partnership for a long time so that we can all benefit from knowing one another and God's blessings can be manifest in the lives of all our peoples. God bless you in this practical gospel you are preaching within and outside the UK.

Please convey our sincere thanks and greetings to all the people who made sacrifices to help us in this appalling situation. Please keep praying for us as we do for you.

The Rt. Rev. Thomas Edison Irigei
Bishop of Kumi Diocese

What has your support helped us to achieve so far?

December 2002 - Seven boxes of children's clothes and three boxes of books were sent to Soroti.

October 2003 - 7.5 tons of goods were sent by container via the Christian African Relief Trust (CART), an organisation based in Huddersfield.

October 2004 - A 20 foot container of goods was sent to Soroti, which was received with great joy and appreciation in February 2005.

November 2005 - A 40 foot container of goods was loaded and despatched to Soroti on Saturday 26th November 2005. It arrived in Soroti on 22nd February 2006.

August 2006 - A 40 foot container of goods was loaded and despatched to Soroti on Saturday 19th August 2006. It arrived in Soroti October 2006.

June 2007 - A 40 foot container of goods was loaded and despatched to Soroti on Saturday 16th June 2007. It arrived in Soroti in late September 2007.

October 2007 - A 40 foot container of goods was loaded and despatched to Soroti on Saturday 13th October 2007. It arrived in Soroti in early February 2008.

Recent Fundraising Events

February 2007: Coffee Morning in Swanmore + Quiz in Bishop's Waltham
March 2007: Fashion Show + Global Mission
April 2007: Paté and Pudds in Swanmore
May 2007: Quiz at St James' in Boscombe
June 2007: B/W Carnival + Quaker Poetry Event
July 2007: Fete at St James' in Boscombe + Swanmore Fete
September 2007: Curry Night in Bishop's Waltham
October 2007: Murder Mystery 'At Calamity Towers'
November 2007: Silent Auction in Bishop's Waltham
February 2008: Frog Racing in Bishop's Waltham
March 2008: Coffee Morning in Swanmore + Quiz in Bishop's Waltham

All money raised funds the transportation of donated goods

Packing can be fun

I don't know how many boxes of donated goods I have helped to sort and pack - probably thousands. Nevertheless, you never know what the next batch is going to bring!

After packing goods with Pat at the storage container, we had some items that could not be sent or recycled. Luckily there was a handy, nearby skip.

Why the task became so hard was due to the way we tackled it: After more than three hours of sorting and packing we were tired and cold, so, being lazy, we pushed the rubbish into one large black sack.

I climbed as high as I could up the side of the skip and held on with one hand, whilst Pat climbed up to the first 'foothold' with bag in arms. We then rolled the bag up the side of the skip until it was balanced on her head. The bag fell backwards over our heads and landed in a pile of wet sawdust, sending a shower of the stuff over us.

We tried again, with the wet and slippery bag - needless to say, same end. We were now covered in wet sawdust mixed with mud and laughing so much we could barely hang on.

Sanity returned, we climbed down, separated the goods into three bags of manageable weight, and with my best netball shots - my gym mistress would have been proud - I lobbed the bags into the skip.

Anyone who has helped to pack the containers for transit will see the funny side, as that day always brings its share of laughs - mainly from the great gang of lads who pack the boxes into the container.

It is hard work, hot and dark in there, and facing what seems like an endless supply of boxes and other articles of all shapes and sizes. They joke around to get the task done in a fun way.

They have got packing the container to a fine art - so much so that when the custom officers in Mombasa opened one of the containers to search it, they were unable to 'fit the jigsaw' back together again. Don't worry, all the boxes which could not be put back reached their intended destinations - doubt Customs will bother us again!!

So if ever you have a spare three hours, need a good laugh and want a good form of exercise then packing boxes for our charity could be the answer.

Mandy White, Trustee.



Pat and Mandy at the twenty foot container which is used for storage of donated goods

**A new location for this container is desperately needed.
Have you any land with suitable access?**

Forthcoming Events For 2008

10 May: Murder Mystery
12 June: Fashion Show at St James'
03 July: Fashion Show at B Waltham
Also:
Bishop's Waltham Carnival
Swanmore Fete
St James' Summer Fayre

Contact Pat Morris (01489 892574) or check our website for further details:

<http://www.friends-of-teso-uganda.org.uk/events.htm>

**The purchase and shipping costs of the containers sent in 2007 was:
£10,140**

Why is help desperately needed?

Uganda has had a troubled history since independence in 1962. In particular, Northern Uganda is still suffering the legacy of a rebel group called 'The Lord's Resistance Army'.

Twenty years ago, this group, led by Joseph Kony, began to attack villages. They killed indiscriminately and took the children to be child soldiers and slaves.

The population was forced to leave their land and move to Internally Displaced Persons Camps.

The security situation is improving but still very fragile, and **over one-and-a-half million people are still living in the camps**. Most are dependant on aid from the World Food Programme.

About Friends of Teso

We are based in Bishop's Waltham, Hampshire with partners in Boscombe, Dorset.

We collect clothes for children and adults, books, bedding, educational materials, tools, musical instruments, medical equipment, sewing machines, bicycles, wheelchairs, other mobility aids and anything else that will be of use to those in Internally Displaced Persons Camps or to those in the area who are working to help them.

We send containers because this is the most cost effective way of delivery and it ensures that all goods reach their destination.

THANK YOU!!!!!!

To everyone who has helped by donating goods, time and money
To everyone who has encouraged us when the going has got tough
To everyone who has arranged events for Friends of Teso (Uganda)
To everyone who reads this newsletter and decides that they too must help



'Your goods arrived at just the right time to create hope and build confidence in a downhearted multitude of people.

Christians of Kumi Diocese are so happy to find that they have friends abroad who care about them and are able to extend their love practically to them in these most difficult economic times.

Please convey our sincere thanks and greetings to all the people who made sacrifices to help us in this appalling situation.'

Bishop Thomas of Kumi

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