

Prayer Letter

June 2011

Dear friends

Six months ago we arrived back in the UK. Whilst we have swapped the heat of Kasese for the cool of Didcot and vistas of the rift valley for the cooling towers of the local power station we are at peace that we are currently in the right place for this season of our lives.

New roles

Graeme: Graeme has taken on a role at BMS helping to oversee the recruitment of new mission personnel. It has been an absolute privilege to meet people every day who have a heart for mission and to journey with them as they explore whether it is right to serve overseas with BMS. When there are not people to meet, there are plenty of policies to be reviewed or written (ever wondered what our guidelines on the use of Facebook are?!). The past six months have been very exciting. A number of new long-term mission personnel completed training in April at BMS' training centre in Birmingham and are in the process of departing for locations as diverse as Mozambique and Thailand. Alongside the steady turnover of short-term volunteers and teams, we are delighted that there have been so many enquirers seeking long-term cross-cultural service opportunities.

Jenny: Has started to work part-time managing volunteers for the charity Victim Support at Swindon Crown Court. Whilst it has been frustrating not being directly involved in the legal proceedings, it has been fulfilling to provide support for victims of crime. This is only a contract for a short period but Jenny has already been able to see the possible applications for this type of work in a mission context in the future. Even in the fallow times when we end up not doing exactly what we felt we had trained for, God is able to use the waiting time for His glory and as a learning experience for the future.

Praise God for the provision of work and for the number of people who continue to seek to serve Him overseas.



News from Kasese

All of this seems rather far away from Kasese where we have left behind our home, possessions, and friends. We continue to receive regular news updates both good and sad...



Kasese village church

Legal and education work

The UCLF work continues in Kasese where Solomon, the UCLF advocate, visits the prisons and courts regularly. Isaac Bwalhuma, the UCLF paralegal, continues to undertake education seminars with pastors and community leaders. With regular visits from Kampala staff lawyers to oversee the work it seems that things are functioning very well in our absence. It is always the role of the missionary to try and put themselves out of a job by enabling a local

person to take on the work and it has been encouraging to see the work flourishing in our absence. We could never have dreamt that after three years the Kasese office would be established and running itself and Jenny may just have done herself out of a job there! A visit from a group of young lawyers from the UK in July will be an added encouragement to Solomon and Isaac. The Baptist Association Education committee also continues to function very well in Graeme's absence carrying out school inspections and trainings.

Please pray for Solomon and Isaac running the legal work in Kasese and the Baptist Association Education committee overseeing the education work.



Isaac, paralegal



Solomon, UCLF lawyer

Church work

Not long after we returned to the UK, we learned that after many years of conflict within the local Baptist association, the church in which we were worshipping had broken away to work independently. This was particularly sad for us as our last few months in Kasese were spent working closely with church leaders encouraging reconciliation between the parties. But, we are aware that out of conflict and hurt, new shoots and ministries can develop.

Please pray for lasting peace and healing amongst the churches in Kasese and for God to use this situation for his glory.

Life in Kasese

We were reminded about the fragility of life in Uganda when a couple of months ago we learnt of the sad



Baptist School inspections

passing away of Isaac Muhasa. Isaac was a very good friend whom we had latterly employed to act as a day guard and receptionist for the UCLF office. He was attacked and knifed less than a mile from our house on his way home one evening and sadly died a few weeks later as a result of his injuries. We felt particularly far from Kasese during that time but praise God that this man of 24 loved God and had touched so many others.

So what of the future...

New BMS family for Kasese

In June Gareth and Bethan Shrubsole together with Samuel (1) will be heading to Kasese to work with the Baptist Union of Uganda. They will be moving into our house and working alongside the same churches and partners as we were. Gareth will be helping the churches with their development projects whilst Bethan, who is a music therapist, will be using her music gifts to work alongside vulnerable individuals.

Please pray that Gareth and Bethan will settle in well and make good relationships and for good health for baby Samuel.

Our future plans

As for our future plans, we are still not entirely sure about the timing of the next step of our mission journey. We are still waiting on God and praying about the next step. It is a real privilege to still be involved with the work of cross-cultural mission at BMS albeit from the other side of the desk. Our hope is that we will be able to return overseas again in the future and we hope to have clarity on the timing of this in the next few months.

We want to thank you for your continued prayers particularly for God's work that continues in Kasese through our colleagues and his servants who work there.

*With our love,
Graeme and Jenny*