



This month our P4s and P5s went on a 'tour' (as excursions are called over here) of Upper Buliisa to study the Rift Valley and other natural features. Many have never been this far back towards Kampala before. A couple students, including Caleb (below), were even interviewed when they visited the local FM station.



Excitement is building as we head into the Town Council Primary School Athletics Competition this week. (Students in the yellow shirts have been selected to participate. Teachers resurrected the tee-shirts from some back cupboard where they've been hidden away for a couple of years, and had the girls skirts made in town. I was not consulted on colours, but at least we'll have no trouble picking out our students!)



Children's Community Medical



Safina is a dear little girl in our community suffering from hydrocephalus. Amari helps with sending her to Kampala for reviews so that specialists can keep an eye on her. On a recent visit, her consulting surgeon and physiotherapist suggested we get a wheelchair for her, as she is getting bigger.

This will cost approximately AU \$300 for the chair and transportation back to Buliisa. If you would like to help contribute towards this, could you please contact us, or make a deposit into our Capital and General Account (see below), and reference it 'wheelchair'.

I might also add, when Safina came up to visit us for this photo, she was more animated and cheerful than I have ever seen her before. What a blessing is that!



Kakindo Children

Over the last couple of years, Amari has been in contact with a local group who support orphaned and vulnerable children living on the other side of Buliisa Town, about 5 kilometres distance from us.

Last year we agreed we would take some of their children into our sponsored students programme, on the condition that Kakindo Orphans Group made sure their could be transported to school. So this year we have six of their children starting in our Lower Nursery class. They all enjoy school, and are thriving.

(From left to right: Rogers, Connet, Comulide, Harriet, Steven, Rachel)



Only one of these children is currently sponsored, and it would be great if we could get the other five covered. For example, Connet.

Connet is the youngest of six children, whose father passed away in 2013. Her mother farms one acre of land to provide food for the family. She sells some vegetables and firewood, but still struggles to educate her children, and make ends meet.

If you would like to help sponsor Connet, or one of our other children, could you please contact us through email: sponsorship@amari.org.au, or through our website.

Building



We are very excited to have our own brick machine, which was delivered onsite this week.

For the last five or so years, we have been able to hire a machine owned by the Buliisa District (our local government), but this needed minor repairs, which were taking months to organise.

We are truly grateful for donations raised over Christmas through the Margaret Court fundraiser, and through a sizeable private donation, that has enabled us to secure our own machine. We are also blessed that another NGO had this one available, that has barely been used, and they were willing to sell at a reduced price. It is exactly the same model as the District machine, so our staff are very familiar with it.

Buildings and groundstaff are working very hard to get Gerard's staff house and my house ready in time for our June visitors from Australia.

My house is towards the centre of the property, so it's a bit of a trek moving aggregate and water down there! The staff, are, however, working hard and without complaining, and keep assuring me it will be ready in six weeks! (Below: Gerard mixing aggregate, Denis carrying down one of the water drums.)



Visitors

It's been a busy month for visitors! After having only one lot of visitors for a couple of days last year, this year we have already had three!

Mercy for Mamas

Last year we were put in contact with an organisation that provides kits for pregnant mothers. In Uganda, many pregnant women don't go to health centres to give birth, because the health centre does not have the kits available, and the patient cannot afford the supplies the hospital asks for. This results in unnecessary deaths, the transmission of AIDs and other issues impacting maternal health care.

Mercy for Mamas sent a representative to assess if there is a need in our area (Lower Buliisa), and they have indicated they believe there is. World Vision and other organisations are providing kits to clinics in Upper Buliisa (back towards Kampala), but they do not come this deep, although the greatest number of births take place this end. We are looking forward to seeing what eventuates from their visit.



www.mercyformamas.com



Indestructible Soccer Balls

Jaz and I had a lovely couple of days catch up with my friend Melissa and her son Ethan, who used to be based in Masindi ('just up the road' from us).

I've been waiting about 18 months to get some of these soccer balls over to us, and Melissa kindly (or bravely!) told me she could carry them from the US, and came loaded with 2 cases full!

The balls are great, because they are incredibly durable, and don't die in 2 weeks, as a regular soccer ball does on the rough ground. We will keep some, and have already given some away.

Praise and Prayer Points

- *Our staff are settled and working cohesively. Guardians and our wider community are happy with the progress our students are making, and the way we are developing.*
- *The Lugungu New Testament is now available on an app, and will be out in print hopefully later this year.*
- *Please pray for the continued building of strong relationships with our government leaders, and with different segments of the community.*

Amari Community Development Organisation

Amari CDO was established in 2008 to help relieve the effects of poverty through the support of education, development and welfare programs conducted in developing countries, principally Uganda. We have 40 acres of land at Kisiabi in Buliisa District. We are registered as an NGO (Non Government Organisation) in Australia and Uganda. Our emphasis is on the education and support of orphaned and vulnerable children. We aim to invest in them educationally and spiritually through quality Christian education.

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Tax-Deductible Donations can be made directly online at www.amari.org.au

We gratefully acknowledge the support and partnership of: AUSTRALIA HOPE INTERNATIONAL

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