

Sandra in Uganda News Update **June 15**

Greetings from Uganda!

I was recently able to **visit the UK** for seven weeks and returned to Uganda in May. The objective of my UK visit was to finalise the legal issues and other things that had resulted from my brother's death. Because I was focussed on that I only made one weekend visit to Worksop and so was not able to see as many people as I would have liked.

While I was in the UK, YWAM ToRCH received a major donation to the **time2own** appeal which enabled us to pay the down-payment on our property. A big **THANK YOU** to all of you that contributed and made this possible. Since I got back to Uganda, a large proportion of my time has been invested in time2own – that is in the fund-raising and the work in the City which the building is to serve.

We have been sending out emails to potential donors to raise money for the next payment. We have not had a breakthrough as yet but we have two months to go before the payment is due. We have also been updating our web-site and Facebook pages. Below is our new photo header for Facebook – it shows our campaign pie chart, the team, the YWAM ToRCH family gathering in our garden and then workmen painting the rear of the building. The latter is significant to us as the landlord now expects us to maintain the property and we did some essential repairs – it was great that we can now decide what needs to be done and when and even choose the colours the painters use!



This week we have been evaluating our work in **Masese**. This is the slum area where we wanted to see how we could help the children. We have been doing evangelism and a weekly children's program there. However, in our evaluation we identified that these initial strategies were not being effective. The key issue is that the church we are partnering with is not fully involved. We have therefore decided to put those activities on hold and perform a needs assessment with the church and community. We can hopefully then come up with activities and strategies where we can invest in the church effectively and help the community through the church.

We are also reviewing our **schools** work. The schools program has not taken place recently because we lack a team to do it. We want to see how to move forward, possibly by partnering with a church.

Another area which we are giving attention to is the **Child Educational Sponsorship** program. We have nine young people who are coming to the end of their secondary education and need to go on to Vocational training or University. That means we need a lot more money for them and yet we are short of sponsors. We are trying to see the way forward as we want them to finish their education well.

Meanwhile, as we continue our fund-raising to secure this property, we are aiming to find ways to reduce our overheads. We are thinking about solar power and harvesting rainwater in a large underground tank. However, those ideas need a large capital outlay and cannot be done now. But we are experimenting with some small-scale agricultural activities – see the pictures on the right.



PRODUCTIVE CREATIVITY

Currently **YWAM ToRCH** is **experimenting** with new ways to produce vegetables and meat. Our experiments include growing **oyster mushrooms** in black plastic bags to utilize space, and buying **rabbits** that will be used for meat. We recently grew **organic tomatoes** in sacks filled with soil and manure, and had a plentiful harvest; this project is perfect for limited garden space.

Finally, I have two **conferences** coming up. The Eastern Africa YWAM Staff Conference will be held in Kigali, Rwanda at the beginning of August. This conference is held every three years and I always attend. But there is also a global YWAM conference which is to be held in Townsville, Australia in September. I am supposed to attend the global conferences - but usually avoid it because although they rotate the location it is always too far away. However, because of the season we are in – the fund-raising, developing our vision and strategies – I am planning to attend.

Thank you again for all of your support -

Sandra