

Dear Friends and Partners of Kasambira Kingdom Life Church Ministry

Many of you will know that Joan and I look after the UK Administration and Finance Administration for this Ministry. We find ourselves in a strange situation, because we realise that Janet has not written a Prayer Letter since last November 2019. Because of Covid 19 and the lockdown in both Uganda and the UK, Janet is at present still in Uganda. They have had problems with the Broadband in Kasambira and with the lockdown Janet has not been able to produce her usual Prayer Letter.



Peter and Joan Smith

In a recent phone conversation with Janet, all three of us felt that you all needed to receive an update. Since Janet was not able to email a Prayer Letter to me for distribution, I have volunteered to have a go at writing an update for you, using information Janet has told us over the telephone.

Joan and I, with a few more friends of Janet had planned to visit Kasambira at the beginning of May. We intended to join with Janet in a celebration of her 80th birthday, which is in July, and her leaving of Kasambira on 19th May. We also intended to help Janet by bringing back to the UK some of Janet's belongings. With the Covid 19 situation none of this took place.

Janet returned to Kasambira near the end of November last year. In an email she sent to us shortly after her return, Janet said "The journey back had been difficult because help on the ground was poor, but actually on the planes it was fine". She also said "I arrived in Kasambira to find it raining, and in fact Jackson told me the rain had been going on for ages".

Janet found it cold in Kasambira on her return, in November, and even though it was not as cold as in Britain she was still wearing a Jacket!!!

Before Christmas, Kasambira, and a lot of Uganda, was experiencing storms and colossal rainfall. The Kamuli road, which connects Jinji to Kasambira to Kamuli had been completely underwater and many people had to be rescued. However, Janet felt many of the people had been fortunate because most of the produce (crops) had been harvested. This meant she felt the food situation would be OK at that time.

The rain has continued which has resulted in Lake Victoria and some rivers flooding. The floods have caused a lot of difficulty in Uganda, loss of homes and some deaths. **Please pray for all those affected by the floods.** The flooding is also affecting the electricity in Kasambira.



On a more positive note, in January 2020 we heard that of the 48 pupils Kingdom Life Church School entered for their Primary Leaving Examination, 30 gained First grade and 18 gained Second Grade. This resulted in the School being First in the Kamuli District. This shows God's Grace but also the great amount of hard work and dedication from the pupils and staff at the school. The picture left shows Hosea (Headmaster) in his office.

Then Covid 19 struck the world!! By 19th March there had been no cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19) reported in Uganda. However, in order to try and ensure no cases occurred, the Ugandan Government had decided to close their borders and all schools and training establishments, churches, etc from Friday 20th March. (A bit like the situation we were facing here in UK).

This has affected the education of all the children at Kingdom Life Church School and the education of all the students at Hope Vocational Training Centre. **Please pray for them.** It probably has not occur to many of us since in the UK pupils at schools, students at colleges and universities will have had much of their studies put on line. This is a "luxury" that pupils and students at Kingdom Life Church School and Hope Vocational Training Centre and I suspect many other schools and colleges in Uganda, do not have since they have no access to internet at home and so have no on line studies. Janet, Hosea and the team need **your prayers and God's wisdom concerning the Primary Leaving Exams** this year, because if the pupils do not return soon they will not be sufficiently prepared to enter these exams.

The lockdown continued through April and May with a curfew at 7pm by which time everyone needed to be at home. All private and public transport was stopped to try and prevent any transmission of the virus. Entebbe airport was shut to passenger flights and the few cases of Coronavirus were isolated. All shops were closed except those selling food.

Please pray for Janet. She is keeping well and safe and is in good spirits. She does not leave her compound at present, but Fred collects the dogs and takes them for a walk. Her flight to the UK was scheduled for May 20th, but with the closure of Entebbe and the situation with flights in the UK that was cancelled. Janet at present has no idea when she will be able to return to the UK.

Hosea as Headmaster had permission from the Resident District Commissioner to use his car. This meant he was able to get food for Janet.

Some people were prompted to give extra funding during this time to help with the impact of Covid 19 in Kasambira. Others were prompted to fund raise to help in Kasambira at this time. **Janet and the team would like to thank all those** who gave extra or helped fund raising. Joan and I would also like to add our thanks. The extra money has allowed well over 100 families to be helped and has meant that the Ministry has been able to continue to pay all staff wages as well.

The latest news is that there has been some easing of restrictions. Private cars can now be used, more shops are open and the markets are open. The curfew still remains at 7pm and masks are compulsory when outdoors.

P7 and some Senior classes may be returning at the beginning of June. The returning of P7 will affect Kingdom Life Church School. **Please pray for wisdom and protection for the team, teachers, staff and pupils,** because if the school is reopening they all must be kept safe. There is also a question of how the pupils outside the village will get to the school since there has been no information about public transport as yet.

Blessings Peter and Joan

Picture of Janet Robinson

Please note that our web site address is:- www.kasambiramiracle.org

