



Friends of Teso (Uganda)

The story so far

It was the needs of the children in the refugee camps in Teso, Northern Uganda who had virtually nothing that made us resolve to do something to help. Following our return from a visit to Uganda in June 2002, the plan was to send children's clothes. So in December that year we sent seven boxes of clothes and three boxes of books to Uganda, courtesy of Christian African Relief Trust (CART), who were sending a container from Huddersfield.

So much more was needed, and by December 2003 we had enough fill a 7.5 ton lorry to Huddersfield to share a container with our friends from CART. This time we also included clothing for adults, bedding, educational, orthopaedic and medical equipment.

It became clear that if we were to continue and become effective and efficient we needed to do two things. Firstly we needed to purchase, pack and send our own container from Southampton and secondly to establish ourselves as a charity.

In October 2004 we sent our first 20 foot container to Teso - adding to the previous range of goods several wheelchairs, a couple of computers, two bicycles and several sewing machines. A bicycle can provide transport for a family and a sewing machine employment.

We were generously given so many items that in November 2005 we sent a 40 foot container which has just arrived in Kampala on the last lap of its journey to Teso. A piano for the Cathedral was the "first", but we also included 15 computers, 8 wheelchairs, 20 sewing machines as well as donated building materials. All this costs money, and we have just made the final payment of the £7,800 to transport the container and its contents.

The people of Teso greatly appreciate everything that we send and send their thanks. It is humbling to realise how much we have and it is a privilege to send goods as an indication of our concern and care.

We would like to use this, our first newsletter, to thank everyone who has supported us in so many ways.

Pat Morris.

Newsletter

Spring 2006



Forthcoming events

1st Sunday in every month - Table-Top Sale - Jubilee Hall, Bishops Waltham - 9.30 am to 12.30 pm. **Dates are: March 5th; May 7th; June 4th; July 2nd.**

February 21st - Coffee Morning, "Bring and Buy" and Raffle - 115, Locks Road, Locks Heath - 10.30 am to 12.00 noon.

March 18th - Craft Fair - Swanmore Primary School - 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

April 21st - Quiz Nite and Raffle - Priory Park Hall, Bishops Waltham - 7.00 pm to 10.00 pm.

July 22nd - Murder Mystery Evening with Three Course Meal - St Peter's Church Hall, Bishops Waltham - 7.30 pm to 10.00 pm.

Tribute to Christian African Relief Trust (CART)

CART, based in Huddersfield, sends more than 20 containers to Africa every year.

CART in 2002 gave us hope that we could achieve our ambition and sent our few boxes to Teso in one of their containers.

CART in 2003 shared space and costs of a container with us enabling us to send our 7.5 ton lorry load of items.

CART who in 2004 inspired and supported us to send our own 20 foot container.

CART who in 2005 guided and encouraged us to register ourselves as a charity. In this year we sent a 40 foot container.

To **CART** from the Trustees of Friends of Teso (Uganda) our thanks for your encouragement, support and inspiration.

Loading the Container



What else do you do on a cold late Autumn Saturday morning but get yourselves and your family and friends up early and load a 40ft container with, quite literally, hundreds of boxes and pieces of equipment.

First stop, Moorgreen Hospital 8.00 am to load the walking aids and wheelchairs which the Charity had kindly been given permission to store there. Then on to Bishops Waltham for 9.30 am where more willing hands were waiting – and a garage full of boxes!

Each item was labelled, counted on and packed neatly – job completed in three hours, thanks to everyone who worked so well together to get the job done. Muscles aching but smiles a mile wide as you can see. Thanks one and all - see you next year???

Mandy White.

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?

Support us online – via our website, by standing order or by a one-off donation. If you are a UK taxpayer, we can reclaim the tax you have paid on your donation via "Gift Aid".

Why do we send containers of goods and not money?

Friends of Teso (Uganda) sends to Uganda clothes for children and adults, books, bedding, educational materials and practical equipment such as computers, sewing machines, bicycles, wheelchairs and other mobility aids. These items are critically needed but are unavailable for purchase in Uganda.

Purchasing a container to transport the goods has proved the most cost-effective way of delivering the donated materials and equipment. In addition, it helps to ensure that all items reach their destination. After unloading, the empty container is, in itself, a valuable local asset for use as storage.

Brass Instruments

Charles, Bishop of Soroti, desperately needs brass instruments for the Boys Brigade band. We don't know where to get them. Do you?

Shipments to date

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 despatched to Soroti on 26th November 2005.

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

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Trustees: Mrs Patricia Morris; Mr Geoffrey Carpenter; Mrs Amanda White; Ms Kathryn Morris; Mrs Ann Ridout; Mr Douglas Harris; Mr Brian Huggett; Mr Richard White.