



Friends of Teso (Uganda)

Newsletter

Winter 2006/2007

News from Teso

Friends of Teso (Uganda) has been in existence as a charity for 2 years. So what have we achieved?

We sent to Teso a 20 foot container in 2004 and 40 foot containers in 2005 and 2006 at a total cost of £22,800.

It was time to take stock, review what we had been doing and answer some difficult questions:

The challenge:

- are we sending the right things to Teso?
- are some things of greater value than others, and if so what?
- is the sending of containers of goods the best way of spending £22,800 to support people in Teso?

In order to address these questions of purpose and value, Pat Morris and Linda Nother went to Teso in November 2006.

In Teso:

We discussed with Charles, Bishop of Soroti what we hoped to do. We agreed a programme of activities and visits with Bishop Charles' blessing and the support of two of his priests, Rev. Boniface and Rev. Benjamin.

We visited:

- *Soroti Hospital*
- *5 clinics*
- *1 nursery*
- *8 schools*
- *1 further education college*
- *2 camps for internally displaced people (refugee camps)*
- *a girls' hostel*

We helped to sort and distribute goods from the container which had arrived a few weeks earlier.

We also were made welcome in several private homes and worshipped in a village church in Kateta.

Everywhere we were greeted with great courtesy and warmth. The clothes books and bedding which we were able to deliver, and sometimes distribute, were greatly appreciated, and it was a joy to see the children in hospital each with a toy. At times we were only too aware of how little we had to offer.

We encouraged the people we met in schools and clinics to tell us what was most needed:



We were able to establish that there is great need that ranged from high tech computers and medical equipment to low tech typewriters, sewing machines, bicycles and all necessities of daily living such as bedding, clothes and exercise books.

We were able to jointly agree a system to aid distribution and receipt of goods.

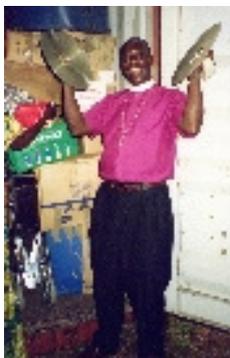
By undertaking a cost/benefit analysis, comparing goods sent with what could be bought locally, we are sure that the money spent on the purchase and transportation of goods donated in England makes good financial sense and is exactly what is needed.

We are now collecting goods again and have started the even more difficult task of raising money to send the next container.



Highlights and delights of our visit to Teso

- the astonishment and delight of the children with the play tent
- our pleasure at being able to use one of the computers we had sent to write a report of our visit to Bishop Charles
- doughnuts and “sodas” as we set off on our daily safaris
- walking in the Bishop’s flip flops!
- staying in Peter and Martha’s village in truly rural Teso
- receiving the gift of a turkey which custom allowed us to pass on
- children with bubbles and toys
- sunshine and deluge: dusty compound to slippery slidey mud pond
- wonderful feasts thoughtfully and lovingly prepared for us
- cuddling a toddler after a fall until tears were dried and smiles returned
- morning devotions with the Bishop’s team
- shared pleasure at getting to know one another
- love in action



**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?**

**LEFT – A musical interlude as
Charles, Bishop of Soroti, helps
unload our last shipment.**



MODELLING AS A CAREER MOVE?

Having been asked (shang hi'ed actually) to model at the Travelling Trends Fashion Show, I was not quite sure what to expect. All models - there were 7 of us in total - 4 young girls and 3 more mature ladies - all took along with us a variety of shoes and accessories, as we had not idea what styles or how many outfits we would be asked to parade on the catwalk.

As it turned out, I personally had 5 different outfits to wear, chosen by the organisers and then as a finale could chose a favourite outfit to model - making 6 outfits in total. The clothes were all from High Street shops and highly fashionable, but there was something for everyone in the range.

My outfits were 3 sets of skirts and tops, 1 dress and a pair of pyjamas - in fluffy pink material that gave my friends and colleagues a good laugh! (real passion killers).

Behind the scene all models were in a small store room hastily trying to get out of one outfit and into the next as quickly as possible - changing shoes, jewellery, bras, and much brushing of hair. Lots of giggling and encouragements from one to another before and after we each came "off stage". When ready - out you go - trying to show off the outfit in a flattering way, walking up and down to the music and "twirling" as instructed. By the time the finale arrived we, the models, had got into the swing of it and were obviously enjoying ourselves. We had suddenly developed a hip swaying walk - either that or we were all walking rather oddly in too high heels!!

The evening was supported by around 45 ladies and a few brave men! There were side stalls selling home made cards, jewellery, jams and chutneys and a collectables stall, plus a raffle - where I won a bottle of wine - completed a good evening's entertainment. £230 was raised for the charity and another event is planned in March 07, and again I've found myself agreeing to model! - but as a career move - not at my time of life, too painful on the feet (as well as too restricting on the tummy!) but good fun nevertheless.

Naomi Campbell and Kate Moss your jobs are quite safe!

MandyWhite

Forthcoming events

Sat February 10th - Quiz in the Priory Park Hall, Bishops Waltham at 7.30pm

Sat February 17th - Coffee morning at the Patterson Centre, Swanmore

March 10th – Missionary Fund Raising Event, St Christopher’s Church, Southbourne at 7.00pm

Sat March 17th - Spring Fayre at Swanmore Primary School, Swanmore

Tues March 20th - Fashion Show in the Jubilee Hall, Bishops Waltham at 7.30pm

Sat May 12th - Quiz at St James’ Church, Pokesdown, Bournemouth

Murder Mystery - Date to be arranged

Table top sales held on the first Sunday in the month in the Jubilee Hall, Bishops Waltham – 9. 30 am to 1.00 pm

Thank you

to everyone who has helped by donating goods, time and money

to everyone who has encouraged us when the going has got tough

special thanks to Mesha Banerjee who “leaped out of a plane, solo” and who raised almost £500 for Friends of Teso. Also to:

Mr John Pitter who sponsored the container from Bishops Waltham to Southampton docks

You can support us online – via our website, by **standing order** or by a **one-off donation**.

If you are a UK taxpayer, arrangements can be made for us to reclaim the tax you have paid on your donation via **"Gift Aid"**.

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

Registered Charity Number: 111413

Tel: 01489 892574

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