



Turning Leaves Uganda

Newsletter 19, December 2021

Dear friends and family,

Greetings from Edinburgh! I trust all are well. I apologise that I have not written a newsletter for so long; I have been busy studying for and then doing exams, which I was able to do online from Edinburgh! I am very relieved that they are over, and am now enjoying relaxing with my parents, sister, brother-in-law and nephew (Tobias Luke, born on October 13 2021). It is lovely to see everyone, and great to get to know the latest addition to the family!

Thank you so much for all your contributions (encouragement, prayer and financial gifts) to the work of Turning Leaves. We have been able to give out quite a number of food parcels in Namabasa, to run the office, to keep the demonstration farm going and to complete the purchase of the land. We have also raised around £1,300 for Christmas food parcels for families in Namabasa in the area surrounding the school plot. This should feed around 200 families on Christmas day, with a meal of rice and beef. Joseph is busy organising this at the moment.

It has definitely been an interesting year. Schools in Uganda have been closed for most classes for most of the year, which has meant that the education component of Turning Leaves Programmes has pretty much ground to a halt. We did almost get the go ahead for doing an education outreach programme for small groups of nursery aged children in Namabasa, but the local authorities, understandably, were unable to give us the necessary permission before all teachers had been vaccinated. I believe that schools are going to open at the beginning of the New Year. However, I will not be able to contribute much at that point as I will be stuck in to finishing the last term of my degree! That should finish in the summer, after which I will be able to get back into work again (which I am very much looking forward to).

It is difficult to know what the exact plans are for next year, but (as I said above) we have finally completed the purchase of the land for the school (and our homes), and Dad is hoping to come out in May so that we can begin to plan. This is very exciting indeed! If schools open, I think we will become very busy as there are two new schools that are interested in our programmes and may need some input towards getting going with them. I will also need to do a two month placement in a school with secondary school aged children in order to complete my degree. I am hoping to do it in a special needs school. It will also be interesting to see how the demonstration farm develops in the coming year. William is doing a great job, not only with the animals but also with all the children who come to help!

I will do my best to stay in touch over the next few months. I will be heading back to Uganda in the New Year, but it would be lovely to see some of you before I do so.

With love and best wishes,

Emma

