

Turning Leaves Uganda

## Newsletter 19, September 2021

Dear friends and family,

Greetings from Uganda! I trust you are all well and enjoying the relative freedom of post-lockdown UK life! I do realise the cases are particularly high in the UK at the moment and so I think of you all often and hope everyone is keeping safe. Here in Uganda, things are continuing along much the same lines as last month. Schools are still shut, but there is freedom of movement so town is now a lot busier again. It has been a fairly eventful month! Irene gave birth to a baby boy called Donald Joshua on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August which I had the very great privilege of witnessing. It was an incredibly quick labour. It started at around 6am and Donald was born at 9.22am. This was so fast that he was almost born outside. The midwife turned up just in time. She was called as we arrived at the hospital, and only turned up at the last minute! Thankfully, a very good friend of Irene's, a midwife, was also there to help out. Everyone at home is enjoying having a baby in the house and Irene and Donald are both doing very well. My sister, Ruth, is now also preparing for the birth of her baby next month. I look forward to meeting that little one too!



Although schools are still shut, things have got a bit busier now that my university course has resumed online. I had my first online class on Tuesday. It went well, but, unfortunately, was cut short as the lecturer was at the university and the power went off! Hopefully everyone will be able to organise devices and internet soon so that the process goes as smoothly as possible.

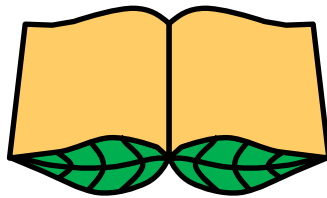
### **1. Appreciation**

Thank you so much to all who donated money last month. It was used to do a further food aid distribution in Namabasa and also to renovate a room for Mama Chan, whose leg was amputated a few months ago. She will hopefully be back with us soon. There was also a donation towards reupholstering a chair. Thank you.

### **2. Food Aid**

This month, we have been able to do a further food aid distribution. The 'team' in Namabasa were asked to identify particularly vulnerable families and came back with a list of 87 families. Unfortunately, we did not have enough food for that many people, so Joseph asked William and others at the farm to select those families headed by grandparents and other extremely vulnerable households. The list then went down to 52 families which were still too many, so Joseph suggested that families with many very young children be selected. This eventually got the list down to a manageable 33 families, but we only had enough for 20 families, so 20 families were selected from this list at random. Thank you so much to all who donated. Because of poor harvests over the last year, along with problems caused by the various lockdowns and a rise in food prices, impoverished families are really struggling. Although a 'drop in the ocean,' these packages make a sizable difference to the recipients.

If you would be interested in donating towards a further food aid distribution, please let Dad know! It would be great if we could target some of the original 87 families who were not reached this month. To give you an idea of costs, a basic food package costing about £5 will feed an average size family for a week.



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### **3. Schools Work**

Unfortunately, we are still unable to do any schools work. All teachers are now being vaccinated (in fact, I just got my second vaccine today!). Once all teachers have been vaccinated, schools may then be able to open. We wait in hopeful anticipation!

### **4. Demonstration Farm**

Activities continue to go on well at the farm. Joseph has just told me that one of the pregnant cows is about to give birth, and another is due to give birth in December. These calves will hopefully help to replace the bulls that we lost a few months ago. There is also a regular and steady flow of local farmers coming each day to collect manure for their gardens. In fact, demand is so great that William has had to start rationing it out as disputes were arising! It is good to know, however, that nothing is going to waste and that all farm products are being used by people in the surrounding community.

The photo below is actually of the home farm where I live. Every morning, Chan and Dollar wake up early to look after the animals. Here they are feeding a kid (called Mzee – pronounced Mz-ay, which means 'old man'). We have a number of sheep and goats, as well as ducks, chickens and turkeys.



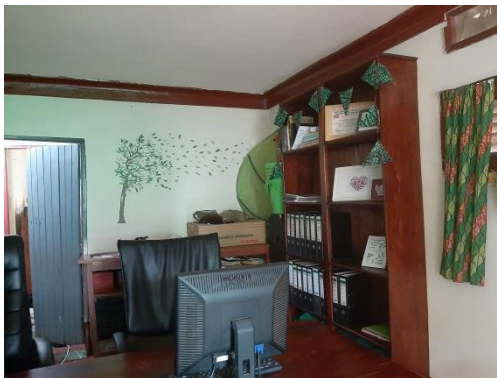
### **5. School Land**

We continue to be excited about the purchase of school land. We have around GBP 4,000 to clear, ideally before the end of the year. Thank you so much to all who have contributed towards the purchase of land. It is much appreciated.

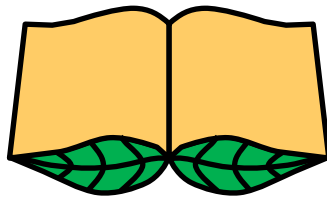
### **6. Office**

We finished renovating the office and it's looking great! Maggie and I finished the painting, and the new bookshelf is much better than the one we were using before. Joseph's chair is also a big improvement on how it was. I even got my sewing machine out and made some bunting to decorate the bookshelf. The whole room is looking very green!

Thank you to all who made this renovation possible.



Joseph is currently working on getting Turning Leaves fully registered with the Ugandan Revenue Authority so that we can be fully above board! We started the process well over a year ago but due to the various lockdowns, nothing much had happened. We are grateful that the tax people understand about the delay in payment!



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**Conclusion**

It has been an encouraging month and, despite the limits on what we can do, a lot has been accomplished. As always, we are grateful for all the support and encouragement we are receiving. I hope you all continue to stay well.

With love and best wishes,

Emma

