

THE RICH REPORT

January, February, March 2009

Children from the
Wellspring Uganda
community



Happy New Year! With the festivities now safely behind us, time for a short review of the last quarter of 2008.

Overseas Travel

In November it was off to **Hong Kong** where some amazing doors of opportunity are opening up for us. It seems likely we will open an office there during this year as a means to serve churches there with projects, teams etc. A few days rushing around meeting various key contacts proved to be a very fruitful time. The trip culminated with a two-day board meeting for *International China Concern (ICC)*. My period of office has now come to an end here and I was invited to consider being appointed for a further term. However, having been thinking about my role in *ICC* for several months now, I tendered my resignation. I will need to go to one final meeting in China in April and then I will be off the board.

A few days later it was off to **Uganda** to the farewell event to mark Mike and Beryl Godward's retirement from the *Wellspring* project and the official inauguration of Herbert and Eve, to the role. I was asked to join the newly-formed *Wellspring Apostolic Council* to help provide spiritual oversight, direction etc of the ministry.

UK Travels

A personal highlight was visiting *Molesey Community Church*, which I really enjoyed. Unfortunately most of my national travels for the end of November and beginning of December had to be cancelled (see below) at short notice.

On the home front

Things continue to develop apace with *Links International*, which is

exciting. I also continue to be very much involved on the core leadership of *Arun Community Church* which is also great - most of the time! I continue to serve on the board of *CPO* in Worthing and meet on a regular basis with the *Ground Level Team*.

Family

We had a great holiday over the half-term week at a friend's villa in Spain. It was a great week away and very relaxing. I used my best 'Spanish' everywhere!

To be honest, we have suffered one or two setbacks over the past few weeks, since we got back from Spain. First of all, we unexpectedly lost all of our personal financial support overnight when the Nationwide suddenly cancelled all standing orders and required

Diary

January

3-9 Uganda
14 Links Board meeting
15 Magazine editorial meeting
16 CPO reception
21 Arun Area Leaders
22 Samaritans Purse
25 N. Baddesley
27-29 Vista Leaders Conference
31 Nottingham – Links team day

February

4-17 USA (Ohio and Texas)
22 N. Baddesley
25 Ground Level Team
26 Ground Level Key Leaders Day

March

8 Threshold Church, Nettleham
12-20 South Africa
25 CPO Board and AGM
29 N. Baddesley
30-3 April Ground Level Annual Leaders Conference
31 My birthday. The BIG one!

everyone to sign up all over again from scratch. This has caused a significant number of long-term supporters not re-signing with the consequent loss of income. It has been really good in that it has challenged me on where my source really is! At the same time we have been humbled and amazed at those who have signed up again, often increasing their monthly investment into our work.

Secondly – I managed to write off my car whilst on my way to a meeting at Tear Fund in London. The front of my car unexpectedly made contact with a huge horizontal girder welded to the rear of a large refuse lorry owned by Horsham District Council. No damage whatever to the truck but the front of my car crumpled up like a paper bag. Fortunately I was not hurt – just shaken up. I do all my own stunts, you know!! The search for another car proved considerably more tedious and a lot less fun than I was anticipating but we have now, at last, got a replacement.

Thirdly – whilst in Uganda, I contracted Malaria, after just four days there and in spite of being on Malarone anti-malarial tablets! Once home it took me a good week to get back on my feet and even then it left me feeling very weak and wobbly. All my appointments, meetings and speaking had to be cancelled. I felt very bad about this but really had no option.

Still – it has not been all bad news. In October we celebrated 20 years in ‘full-

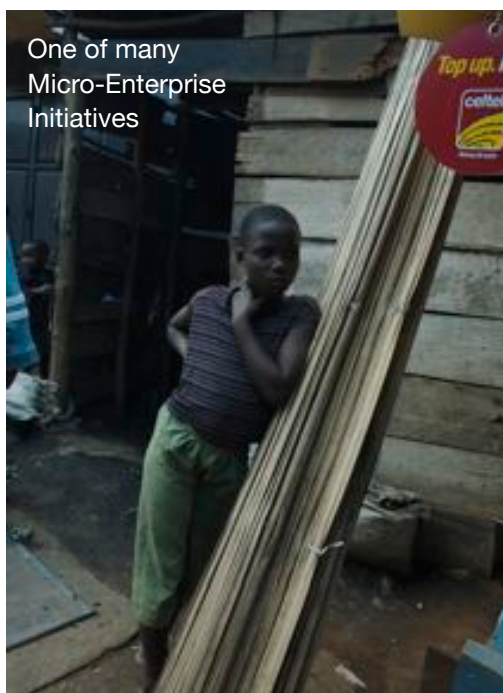
time ministry’. Our colleagues had an unexpected whip round for us and presented us with gifts. I received a parcel that looked suspiciously like a commentary or a study Bible. I tried to look enthusiastic as I opened it but was then genuinely surprised and absolutely delighted to unveil instead, the complete DVD set of *Only Fools and Horses*!! Every single episode and special ever made - 41 hours of pukka viewing over 26 DVDs! Total preaching inspiration and a perfect antidote to Malaria, I discovered!

Other family news: Sam (now 21) got baptised in November, which was really great. Straight after Christmas he left home for three months for Hawaii. He is volunteering at the YWAM base there but has taken his surfboard as a precaution! He is now suffering for Jesus on the sun-kissed beach of a tropical island having to endure blue seas, palm trees and a winter temperature of 30°C. Poor Sam! Amy is still with us (!) and seems to be enjoying her GCSE options. We recently attended her first public drama performance, which was assessed for GCSE purposes. We were very proud of her.

So once again wishing you all a very Happy New Year

With love,

Rich Hubbard
Lynda, Sam and Amy



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