



May 14, 2016

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Gulu! I have just three more days here before I start my trip home. But I want to let you know what's going on here. I was writing a wordy tome but I thought you'd never work your way through it. So here instead is a pictorial. Then I'll add some words at the end.



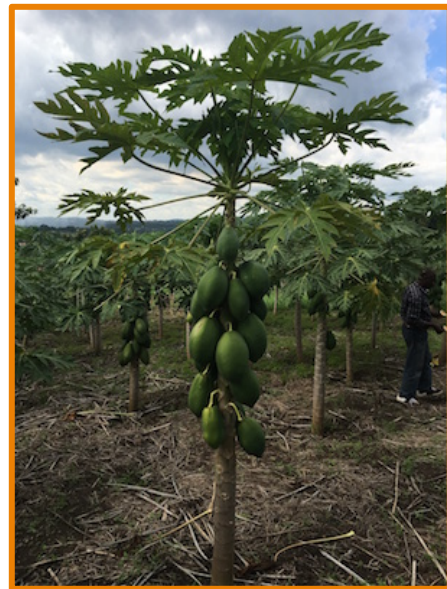
Our staff: Rear - Irene Keller, Volunteer Daphine with daughter Divine, Irene Musekura, Richard, Freda. Front – Peter, Issa, Robert, Lilly. Absent: Bam Daniel. They work for you!



Visitor and volunteer Polly Walton distributes birthing kits at the Ongako Health Center. We delivered over 160 donated by the Zonta Club of Riverside.



Bricks! We have 80,000 – enough for 10,000 stoves. We hire extra brick makers during the dry season (Nov. through March) to get ahead.



Plant a papaya seed and seven months later you get fruit! Thanks to Aid Africa's friend Edeke Michael for giving us these seeds. These are his trees. Ours have yet to grow.



Sheltered spring at Tongwiri completed at the end of March. There's a whole essay here, but these two customers tell enough. Ask me about that cup!



Our nursery worker amidst our crop. We're going to distribute about 25,000 fruit trees this year. Valencia oranges, avocados, improved mangoes, jackfruit, tangerines and papayas.



Stove assembly day at Koch Li. Lots of bricks to assemble over 160 stoves that day.



Visitor and volunteer Polly Walton made herself at home among the women there. They loved it!



This well, dug by USAID, broke after three months and it's been three years since it worked. We did our assessment and repaired it the next week.



Aid Africa repaired this broken well. It is used by hundreds of people who had to use unsafe surface water.





We always take our visitors to Murchison Falls National Park for a close up view of the game. There's also a boat trip up the Nile to the base of Murchison Falls.



One more game shot... er, photo. Yes, he was very close! I always want to get out and pet the kitty. I'm still here so you can tell I've refrained so far.



Here's Polly reflecting on her trip with Aid Africa. She says she had such a great time she wants to bring her friends. Maybe you should be one of Polly's friends and come, too!



Irene and I support an orphanage in Jinja, the Pearls of Africa Children's Home. Here's Irene doing what she loves, reading to the children.

Now those words I promised. All is going well and our projects are running pretty smoothly. We have a new manager, Bongomin Robert, and a new accountant Ocaya Richard. They're helping a lot!

We received a \$10,000 grant from the Living Water Team in Everett, WA and we'll start spending that next week. We're getting very close to finishing our Rotary International grant for \$70,000 to build stoves.

We have a new stove design, more efficient and more durable than our venerable stove we've used for years. It's been tested in a lab in Kampala last week and is over 30%

efficient. Our old model was 22% efficient. It's more durable, too. We'll start distributing them in a couple of weeks. We have to adjust our brickmaking for the new design.

We'll have lots of visitors this summer – ranging from early June to the end of August. They're mostly engineering students. One is from Princeton, four from Cal Poly SLO and one from University of Aberdeen in Scotland. We also have our church member, Meagan, coming. But for me, the best is that my daughter Epoña will arrive here from New Zealand July 29 for about three weeks. She was here with Ken and me in 2005 and I've wanted her to see what we've done. *Doin' the Happy Dance!*

We're at a comfortable plateau right now. But I've told the staff that we can't stay here. Things will either get better or worse. So now I have to make everyone uncomfortable and move us up a notch.

We really need better transportation. We have a small dual cab pickup truck that isn't big enough to carry either the staff or much cargo. We need a van to get around better. We need a replacement motorcycle for times when we don't need to take a big vehicle to the villages just for organizing a community or doing an assessment. We need a 2-ton flatbed truck to carry bricks, well drilling equipment and trees. Right now we have to rent a van or truck every time and it would cost half as much to use our own vehicles.

Thanks to all of Aid Africa's friends and donors for your continued support. We're doing good work that makes me proud.

Just one more photo. Irene and I had such a good time together and I think this photo shows a bit of that.



Warmly,

Peter Keller  
Executive Director  
Aid Africa