

# We rescue children from the ashes of War, through the strong arm of **Father God...**

Lunchtime at **CKS Schools**, and thousands of hungry children were queuing up with empty bowls for scoops of maize dough & bean soup. It began to rain, so empty plates became mini-umbrellas.

I prayed, "O God, have mercy on Your little ones. Stop the rain till they've had lunch please."

As the children chorused "Amen", the downpour ceased and orderly lines advanced towards the giant saucepans.



"Thank You, Father," I murmured. As I watched the children receiving their lunch, the Lord's Prayer came to my mind in words the children use:

DADDY GOD, I breathe Your name. Feel You reach down from heaven. Lift me up and out of my pit

Up to a bluer heaven Into Your spacious place Of Lovelights, glistening, And angels' kisses.

Your name promises us everything. *Jehovah Nissi* is my fave: Your Banner over me is LOVE.

I am satisfied in *Jehovah Jireh*, My Provider. Kept peaceful in *Jehovah Shalom*.

Healed by *Jehovah Rophie*...

Daddy, Come Rule my heart, my life, my day.

Daddy, Today Feed my body, Feed my spirit, Feed my soul.

Daddy, Jesus' blood Wash me clean, And also my enemies. Your blood is enough. Make them clean as me.

Daddy, Don't test me too much. Protect me from evil pits.

Daddy, Let me see You rule. Show me Your force. Show me Your glorious face. You are the Last Word.

Amen till another day.



# A LETTER to **CKS** U&me SPONSORS

Dear Sponsors

My first word is to express appreciation for all you are doing for the children. Without your help and prayers, they might have died, if not from bullets, from a discouraged, despairing heart.

However your loving support has provided all they need to stay alive, and even more, study to their best, and even dream of a good future.

Abala & Irene here. We'd like to answer a few of your common questions here.

Apologies about substituting your chosen child. But it is beyond our control, the reason being that **CKS** children were rescued out of a war situation. The rebels moved into Congo, so it's safe enough for people to leave the camps and return to their farms.



The movement of children is unavoidable as families relocate and adjust to living back on their clan land. In most cases we know the district of your child, and can even bring them to see you if you visit. But distance from our schools means we cannot keep a daily eye on them. Hence we will send you an equally beautiful child's photo for you to consider as your replacement child.

Be assured that your help towards your original child was so valuable. They are now able to attend their local Gov't. School, and plan for their future. When old enough to leave family, the child is welcome to enrol in **CKS Vocational Institute**.

Sponsor 1 child \$35 p.m.

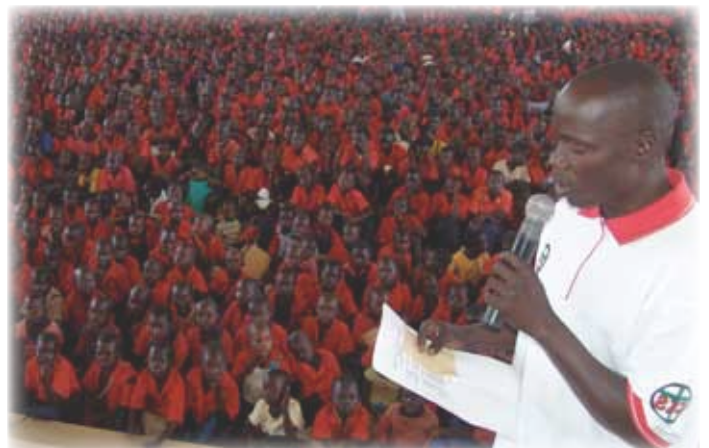
Meanwhile all 8000 in **CKS** schools are receiving great BENEFITS daily:

**EDUCATION:**

**CKS** U&me employ over 130 qualified teachers.


We have chosen them for their academic excellence and Godly character. Our students continue to achieve top marks in the district.

Pay 1 Teacher \$300 p.m.



**CKS** Headteacher Kennedy addressing assembly.

**CAPACITY BUILDING:**

As a result,  **U&me** are sponsoring many through tertiary studies, especially as medical care trainees. This will redress the suffering of villagers unable to afford doctors.




**Professional's fund \$2,000 p.a.**

**CKS** trainee doctor Simon receives tuition money for 2010.



**NUTRITION:** In the wake of war/destabilization of communities, agriculture has been disorganized.

 **U&me** give 2 meals each school day to our students. Their good health helps their concentration on learning.

**100kg of Maize feeds 500, costs \$70.**

**AGRICULTURE:** **CKS** School Agriculture Program involves the children in learning food production skills.

**1 hoe costs \$8.**

**1 Wheelbarrow costs \$120.**

**ANIMALS:** We are purchasing and distributing animals, seeds and hoes to help family income.



**1 cow \$650**

**1 hen \$17**

**1 sheep \$80**

**MEDICATION:** Access to our school clinics is always open and free to our current and former sponsored children and their guardians.

**CKS GLORYLAND JUNCTION AIDS 60 bed Hospice** provides loving palliative care, nutritional food and ARVs to any member of the community.

**Drugs for our 3 School clinics cost \$700 p.w.**

*Here Irene attends to CKS school children suffering malaria.*



**VISIT:** It is a highlight of both lives when a child meets face to face the dear sponsor responsible for maintaining his/her life. The area is perfectly safe now. A stay of up to 10 days is best, during school terms. Contract & info sheet from Alice Zagorski: **02 9451 3463.**

**GIFTS:** When your child receives mail from you, they are so happy. They say 'My sponsor is thinking of me'. They show it to everyone as a prize. You are welcome to post letters, photos/ send gifts to your child. Respecting this communal way of life, we suggest you send in multiples of 4 for sharing with unsponsored children, any of the following: small radios, undies, pens, toys, torches, books, red T-shirts. Your child will answer. Allow 3 months to receive your thank you from your child. After that time, any queries email **abaladavidson2007@yahoo.com.** (Not for general use. Only enquiries plse.)

**PROJECT UPDATES:** Besides **quarterly mags**, you can follow us through:

**CKS** blog: **irenegleeson@posterous.com** or **facebook** Irene Gleeson or Abala Davidson.

*Hope this answers many of your concerns,  
Yours sincerely,  
We remain your Kitgum servants,*

*Abala Davidson & Grandmum Irene*



## **APPRECIATION DINNER:**

### **GUNS 4 GUITARS**

*a special presentation.*

**When? Friday November 5, 2010. 7pm.**

**Where? Harbord Diggers, Freshwater.**

**Book now (02) 9451 3463**



**Only \$55 meal.**

Add \$10 entertainment charge for celebrity **EXODUS 3v8** & his team.

*Awarded Top Gospel Artist in Uganda.*

*See **YouTube Exodus 3v8***

# Hakiim raps 4 Jesus at **CKS** Vocational Institute

80% of our Vocational students were abducted, brutalised and forced to carry guns and machetes by the rebel army. As terrified children they were given the choice: 'Kill or be killed.' Few resisted and have recurring nightmares as a result of the senseless destruction of human life that they were party to.

When war ended 4 years ago, they escaped to rejoin their siblings living in camps. Life has been cruel to these youth. Robbed of their childhood, their families destroyed by war, they have every reason to be angry and frustrated. War has muted any song in their heart.



*U&me* is giving them a new life, new songs.

**GUNS4GUITARS** is a **CKS** program to encourage poetry, song, dance and drama.

As well as enlisting the participation of Uganda's top Gospel artist, our son George Lubega (stagename: **EXODUS 318**) with his energetic *dancehall* style, our youth are encouraged and inspired by local hip-hop star **Hakiim Olweny** (stage name: BIGDEAL).



*One of Hakiim's street kid dancers performs in Community Church.*

Hakiim Olweny was born in 1986 in a Kampala hospital. His beautiful mother was from the Tutsi tribe. She was a refugee fleeing the unrest in Rwanda.

Infected with AIDS, she died in childbirth in 1995 when Hakiim was 9 years old.

Hakiim travelled north to Kitgum to find his father, a Muslim, who put his son in school.

Hakiim found himself in the midst of war. He survived several ambushes as rebels attacked vehicles.

He saw his friends travelling back to school, killed with bullets.

In 2003, Hakiim's father also died after a long illness where Hakiim nursed him. On his deathbed, the father named Hakiim then 17 years old as his successor to manage his tracts of land.

The clan uncles however disowned Hakiim, saying "We don't know this boy. He has just appeared to rob us of our property." All support for school fees and requisites stopped.

Hakiim had to throw himself on the mercy of a teacher, who designated him as a Basketball coach and allowed him to sit secretly at the back of classrooms. Hakiim managed to pass his Senior 4 papers, but his dreams of achieving further education had to delay until he could work to raise school fees.

Labouring on building sites, Hakiim picked up the precise skills of glass cutting and began to bank for his future.



Socially Hakiim felt like an outcast. "I had no sense of belonging anywhere", he said. "When Africans know you have no family, they reject you."

An affable, natural born leader, he began gathering the war affected youth, and started a Youth Group called '*Brothers & Sisters 4 Peace.*'

"I approached local government and was given a disused building to turn into a youth centre. I noticed the modern music available was very aggressive, full of killing & sex talk. This was only going to twist their minds more. So I began to encourage them to compose hiphop rhymes with a positive emphasis. Practising different moves of break-dancing keeps their bodies fit and gives them an interest in nutrition and healthy living."

Last year my dance group won 3rd prize in **CKS** Dance Competition.

Next day we came back to **CKS Community Church** and some got saved. I call that my real birthday. Since then God has been lifting me out of problems.

I am paying my way through school now.

**CKS** employs me in the holidays to fit the glass in the church windows. Oxfam has selected me out of thousands of applicants to travel overseas for a three year project to give different presentations about rehabilitating youth after war.

My hiphop poetry is about fighting tribalism and segregation. Here is some:

*Why should I be blocked from family  
Cos my mother's tribe was different?  
I have friends. I have crew.  
I have family in the dance.  
I see my track.*

*Want to trace my roots.  
God give me sight.  
Take me in the right direction.  
My mum was so lovely.  
I want to trace her roots.*

Recently Hakiim addressed students of **CKS Vocational Institute**. His novel presentation went this way:

*I'm a Big Dealer,  
Big Dealer.  
I live like a pillar.  
I work hard.  
I'm not like a chiller.*

*Put your gun down.  
Don't hold the trigger.  
Let's be brothers.  
Brothers and sisters.*

*Get a pen and paper  
Write me a love letter.  
Make sure you're good.  
And control your temper.*

With every youth attentive he continued,

*'Your family's dead.  
What you gonna do ?  
We go ahead ? Or we end right here?'*

The students roared, 'We go ahead. Go ahead.'

Hakiim continued 'Hey, my blood bros, I want to take you with me. Many of you have the same conflict in your minds that I had. Giving your life to Jesus is like going somewhere beautiful. You will never regret it. How many want to go ahead with Christ? Go ahead with life? Come out here and you will never regret it.'



Over thirty young came out to say no to discos and sleeping around, and determined to start a new more positive lifestyle led by Jesus.

Hakiim finished off with a boisterous hip-hop that had the students cheering:

*'I try to take it / but I just can't take it.*

*My life's got dreams / but noone believes Cos they can't see it.*

*I step out of darkness / stepping in the light.*

*My homies say Bigdeal, Bigdeal, Bigdeal.*

*Hear them say/ when I was still a little kid I was called Bigdeal.*

*Pap got a call (died) / mama got a call. (died)*

*My gone mam told me / No man's without a enemy.*

*My enemy's defeated / cos God's by my side.*

*My life's still on motion / cos I keep my thoughts on God.*

*Big deal. I'm a Big Dealer. I live like a pillar.*

*I work so hard / I'm not like a chiller.*

*Encourage Hakiim on [facebook](#) (Hakiim Olweny)*

# WAKING UP TO A GREAT DAY.

*Let's be honest. Are you reluctant to open your eyes and face the day most mornings? Want to burrow under the blanket and hide? Most of us do , but will never admit it.*

*Well I am an expert at beating off the ghosts that have gathered during the night. They were waiting for me when I emerged from my mother's womb, an embarrassment in an unwelcoming world. They continued hovering through a traumatic childhood. They robbed me of joy and oppressed me with exhaustion as a young mother. Even now as Irene AO, General Grandmum, honoured and awarded a gold medal as successful rescuer of thousands of children, I'm aware of the presence of unfriendly armies massed to dodge my steps.*



*My mother Cynthia one month before she died, and Irene and 3 of the 7 siblings Marelle, Louise and Janice.*

1. *My father a US sailor abandoned me before I was born. I was confused as a child because my mother had 3 husbands. My childhood left me wounded and vulnerable to negative influences.*
2. *My mother died aged 35 leaving me to care for 7 siblings.*

*God explains the battle: We are not fighting physical or soul wounds. We are facing spooks, master spirits, evil generals and wicked armies of the spirit world. They've been having meetings while you slept to target your weaknesses and align you with pits. (Eph 6v12 & Ps 2 )*

*Well God's laughing. And so should you at their stupidity. Want an action plan for tomorrow morning.*

*This way. Follow me.*

## **1. IDENTIFY the ENEMY** – the robbers of joy & energy.

*Is its name Depression? Rejection ? Discontent ? Poverty ? Abandonment ? These are some common ones assigned to me. But you would have your own personally assigned after demon rulers studied your childhood traumas.*

## **2. BIND UP the SPIRIT & GAG IT.**

*Say "I bring every thought CAPTIVE into line with Your Word, Papa God. Depression. Loss. Rejection. Fatigue. Disappointment. Strife. I catch you. I take you prisoner of war. I bind you in chains. I silence you.*

*You stupid thoughts, you spirits. Do not elevate yourself above God's Word made Flesh, that is JESUS.*

*I reject you. I say NO ! to Depression. I say NO ! to Fatigue." (Ps 149)*

**3. GIVE the PRISONER to GOD** (Phil. 4v6 & 1Pet 5v7)

Say "Papa God this worry has been gnawing at me. I turn it over to You. I cannot carry it anymore. You God deal with the problem. You God organise my life." (Isa. 9v6)

**4. SPIRIT of PEACE GUARD /PROTECT my MIND.**

Holy Spirit, Comforter to me, I hear You say "I am putting Captains of War over you to guard your body, soul and spirit. Do not be afraid. God Himself is fighting on your behalf." (2 Chron 32v6)

**5. SEE the DAY THROUGH GOD's RUBY WINDOWS** (Isa. 54v12)

Now You God walk me through my day.

**I say YES to GODLOVE. I say YES to GODJOY. I say YES to GODPEACE.**

Finally fix your mind on Phil.4v8: Truth of God's love for you, His promises.

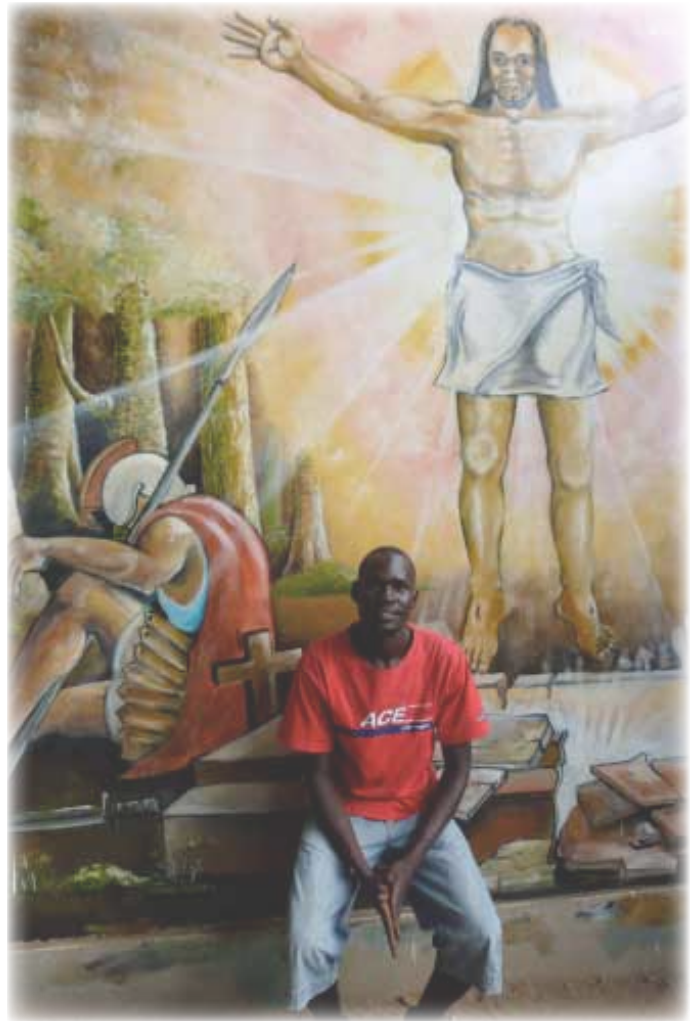
Whatever is justice. Whatever is pure. Whatever is lovely.

Whatever is kind and winsome. Whatever is excellent. Whatever deserves praise.

**I LEAVE YOU with our GOD of PEACE. ENJOY TODAY.**



*I fight my spiritual battle then I am free to rescue children.*



***"It is finished".***



***DON'T LET THE CHILDREN DIE WITH THE MUSIC STILL IN THEM***



## Artist paints murals in COMMUNITY CHURCH

**20 years ago**, small boy **EVEREST OTTO** gathered with other war traumatized children for Grandmum Irene's school under the mango tree every day.

He watched intently as I turned the pages of picture books. The children smiled and chattered as they viewed cartoon animals wearing clothes.

"Oh, yes," I explained. "Australian animals wear clothes. Where did you get that hat?" I sang.

Their voices raised, the children sung in halting English and tried to mimic my actions.

Little by little they learned to sing "*Jesus loves me. This I know, for the Bible tells me so.*" Another favourite was "*I'm so glad Jesus set me free. Satan had me bound, but Jesus set me free.*"

As I looked over the children, I could see that miracles were needed to transform their diseased, malnourished bodies into healthy.

Their nights disturbed by marauding rebels kicking in the doors of their flimsy mud huts, or even worse, setting fire to their grass roofs, the children gathered courage from these few hours of daylight, singing and seeing pictures of a world beyond their trauma.

Weakened by malaria, isolated and depressed, as I daily trudged the dirt roads to several 'schools under the trees', I never fully appreciated the impact I was making in young lives.

Now twenty years later, I look at the result: healthy young people, equipped with unique skills, now twenty five years old with families of beautiful children. I can say **CHILDCARE - Kitgum Servants** was God's idea which He enabled this humble servant to perform.

Among many outstanding graduates is our artist Everest Otto. **CKS** trained him in carpentry, training that developed his sense of scale, but almost cost him his life. Sponsored to study at a technical college 20 kms distant from town, their school was targeted by rebels several times.

One dark night, in the playground rebels were tying with rope the students under 14 years of age. Everest and his peers at 16 years of age were considered past the age of brutal indoctrination. At gunpoint they were forced to lay face down on their dormitory floor while rebels prepared to throw hand grenades into their midst.

**GOD INTERVENED.** A baby started crying outdoors which alerted the few slumbering army guards. Gunfire zapped across the night sky. Students and rebels fled in all directions. Everest's life was saved for a higher purpose.

His sketches caught my attention. So **CKS** sponsored him to attend Michelangelo's School of Art for several years where his natural talent was honed.

Many of the **CKS Community Church** congregation are illiterate villagers. As they have spent the past 20 years barely surviving during war, many times they miss the richness of bible stories.

Everest is bringing them alive on our church walls. His latest, the crucifixion scene, has caused many people to fall weeping on the ground. Some have risen to their feet, healed and delivered.

One of Everest's paintings now hangs on the wall of Hollywood singer **Andrae' Crouch**. It was delivered by producer of our **DVD Cinderella Children**, my 'Mediterranean man' Grant Windle.

**CKS** pays Everest \$50 Au per week. If you would like to supplement this, you can commission him through my email to do you similar painting.



# VISITORS

Many special friends brave the 500 km (8 hour) bus ride to visit **CKS** children and staff here in north Uganda.

**Paul McGill**, architect of China STATE TV Building, and Rolls Royce factories in Chichester, came to share his knowledge with students. A keen observer of different cultures, I asked him to list his likes and dislikes.

'I liked: all the smiling faces, the beautiful children, the humble, contented character of the people, their very positive outlook despite all the trauma they have passed through, complete acceptance of other humans, even those disfigured by war injuries.

I disliked: African timekeeping, no sense of urgency, week long funerals which cancel all appointments, bats squealing all night, roosters crowing at 5am.

Outstanding memory: Riding blindly at night, on back of motorbike through puddles and potholes with no street lighting, in torrential rain.'

Paul was accompanied by his mother, retired Headmistress, **Lucy Gill**. On this, her 2nd visit, Lucy chose to lodge at remote **CKS Padibe Primary School**, coping without running water or electricity. There she blessed staff and pupils with her outstanding organisational abilities as well as practical gifts of staff chairs, tables and wall paint.



*Paul enjoyed Crosscountry Bikeriding*



*Lucy shared wisdom with **CKS** Headmasters.*



Another valuable visitor was **Camille Svirinas** who sampled the local protein boost: Dry fried white ants. Always surrounded by children, Camille's keen intervention saved the life of a young child Rachael Auma who was put on anti TB drugs when her condition was detected.



*Camille samples local protein boost.*



*Camille entertained **CKS** Nursery school children.*

A talented team led by Irish **Richie Hennessey**, blessed the **CKS** community when they dispersed across our 18 acre project site, busying themselves in technical and primary school classrooms, helping in clinic and distributing valuable donations of medicine.

Two young university students from the Australian Gospel band 'ESCEND', **Tom Jacobs** and **Curt Daniels** endeared themselves to **CKS** staff with their many skills relating to music.

They spent several weeks working with **EXODUS 3v8** in **CKS** city studio, then transferred their expertise to building our Kitgum 'bush' studio. As well, TJ installed a snake cable from **CKS Community Church** sound room to equipment, while Curt advised on restructuring **CKS** accounts Dept.



*Tom Jacobs arrives carrying heavy snake cable.*



**Instruments donated by MUSIC JUNCTION Camberwell Vic.**

## MURCHISON FALLS National Park

TJ and Curt accompanied **CKS** Admin staff to see Africa's animals. This involved a 12 hour return car ride, but all voted well worth the tiresome journey.

Here are some photos:



*A meeting of cultures.*



## GLORYLAND JUNCTION RESIDENTIAL AIDS HOSPICE

**CKS** has always grown in response to the needs of the community.

Our **GLORYLAND JUNCTION AIDS Hospice** was built to provide care for many of the infected parents of our schoolchildren.

I remember one Monday morning an 11 year old boy sat in the school assembly, tears streaming down his face. When taken aside he bravely told the story of his weekend when his mother had chased her 4 sons outside their mud hut. When they returned, they found her hanging from the bamboo struts. She had been sick with AIDS, unable to feed herself or care for her sons.

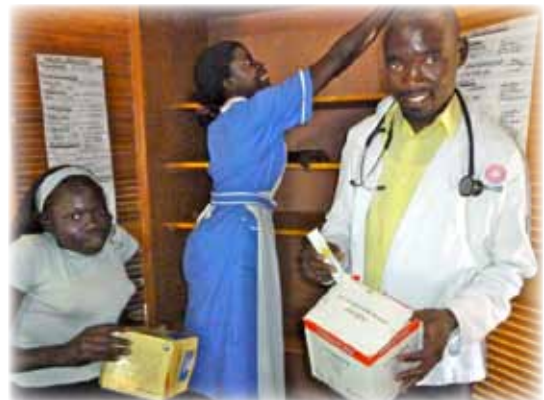
I decided to build a palliative care block on the project site adjacent to the school. This frees children from caring for their dying relatives, allowing them to attend school.

When I realised it would have to include a mortuary, I was very reluctant, until God said 'Make it a beautiful place of hope, call it '**GLORYLAND JUNCTION**' and call the mortuary '**HEAVEN EXPRESS**.'

There are usually 60 patients:

20 adults who are often rolled-in in a wheelbarrow, skeletal cases discharged from hospital, sent home to die. Rather than allow a human being die alone and forsaken in a village hut, **CKS** nurses are prepared to give patients good food, dignity of clean surroundings, treatment with ARVs and Christian counselling.

The results in our AIDS Hospice -incidentally the ONLY residential Hospice in Uganda - are impressive. In 2009 only 3 patients died, yet 25 were discharged, stabilised and able to rejoin their community.



**CKS Medico Francisco** now appointed to **CKS AIDS Hospice**.

The remaining patients are AIDS infected children, whose relatives are dead. They attend **CKS** nursery or school during the day, but sleep in the ward, under supervision of nurses who monitor their condition and give ARVs when necessary. These children Kenneth & Simon Peter enjoy their loving community, though sometimes are unwell for several days after treatment which is similar to chemotherapy.

We have just completed a children's new ward, and plan to build an outpatients' clinic to serve the impoverished villagers denied access to medical care.



*CKS schoolchildren, patients in our Hospice receive their ARV drugs .*



Introducing CKS Medico Francisco Olweny the new in-charge of CKS AIDs hospice. CKS U&me can be proud. We paid him through medical school for 3 years. Now he has graduated and returned to work with CKS clinics and hospice patients.

“I am very happy that CKS gave me this chance for the success of my studies in my chosen profession. I am determined to put back into the community the knowledge I obtained through your help.

You will soon see all the nurses and personnel under my supervision improve health services delivery to the vulnerable people in our area. Many have been suffering without proper care.”

This is 20-year-old Lakot Susan. She was rescued from her village home in Muscwini. Weakened by AIDS, she was unable to walk or care for her malnourished baby, 9 months old Laker Prissy.

Now safe in the care of nurses at CKS Gloryland Junction, Susan is getting another chance to live. Her baby Susan greedily gulps milk from a cup. In next newsletter you will see new photos of thriving mother and child, as our other patients have become.

***Bye till next time.....***

So many lives rescued. So many hopes revived. Thank you, precious supporters.



**U&me** are a great team. We really get things done on the ground. I pray God's richest blessings into your life as you practise **PURE RELIGION**: caring for widows & orphans, rescuing Cinderella children from the ashes of war.

Thank you from Grandmum Irene AO & the children of north Uganda.

We pray God's richest blessings into your life & your loved ones.

*Irene Gleeson AO & the children.*

**TAX DEDUCTIBLE!** **CKS** is proud to be a partner of **Global Development Group** (ABN 57 102 400 993), an Australian Non Government Organisation [NGO] carrying out humanitarian projects with approved partners and providing aid to relieve poverty and provide long term solutions through the provision of quality aid and development projects. For more information about Global Development Group, visit [www.globaldevelopment.org.au](http://www.globaldevelopment.org.au)

**PRAY. GIVE. SPONSOR. TAX DEDUCTIBLE.**

**DON'T LET THE CHILDREN DIE WITH THE MUSIC STILL IN THEM**