



REACHING AFRICA'S
DISABLED CHILDREN

Accomplish Acts...

CHRISTMAS ISSUE

OCTOBER 2016

- Medical care
- Epilepsy treatment
- Community outreach
- Education
- Vocational training
- Income generation

2016 Christmas Campaign—Water!

Water. Something so simple we take it for granted here in the UK almost completely... but in rural Africa access to consistent supplies of clean water can be a rarity.

In Uganda people pray regularly for good weather: and by that, they mean rain. If it's raining as you arrive, Ugandans will say you bring a blessing. Our partners are located in south western Uganda on the rift valley, a relatively humid climate with reasonable precipitation levels over the year. However, the region sees distinct seasonality and the 'rainy' seasons are unpredictable. Therefore, to grow crops regularly throughout the year requires careful management and conservation of clean water supplies.

Accomplish supports the RAPCD special needs primary school in Kasese. It is normal practice in Uganda for parents to pay school fees, and for children to be sent home if they cannot pay. RAPCD is unusual in that it never sends children home, and its fees are means tested so families only pay what they can afford. Accomplish funds most of the school's costs so fees can be kept low and accessible.

Accomplish recently purchased 10 acres of farmland adjacent to



the school to enable RAPCD to plant crops for feeding pupils, thus bringing down the school's food bills. RAPCD also uses the farmland for hands-on lessons in agriculture - an important part of village life.

Most local people are subsistence farmers. They grow crops to feed their families and sell excess produce to pay school fees and medical bills, and buy other items such as firewood, soap or clothes. If they plant seeds at the wrong time, or if there is not enough rain, or perhaps it rains too early or too late in the season, their harvest will be affected which has a huge

impact on people's lives. RAPCD will be growing crops on a larger scale, but its farmland's yield is still completely dependent on the weather.

RAPCD is planning to expand the primary school from the current 140 pupils to a 200 student capacity by building more accommodation in a new 80-bed hostel. In addition, the organisation is in the process of building a secondary school, which, like the primary, will start small with the first year's intake of approximately 50 students. The secondary school will grow gradually, adding another intake of ~50 students annually, until it teaches four year groups and 200 pupils.

The farmland already owned by RAPCD is large enough to grow food for all these extra students, but only under ideal weather conditions. Therefore, RAPCD has asked Accomplish to install an irrigation system to provide a steady supply of water and thus ensure a bountiful harvest. Sunshine is in abundance, so with a reliable water supply RAPCD's farmland will be well positioned.

The irrigation system has been designed and engineered to produce a reliable, cost effective water supply. To purchase and install the system will cost £4,500. Although this is a signifi-



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OUR PATRONS

Harry Gratton MBE

Harry Gratton presents BBC Look North for the Yorkshire region. An award-winning sports reporter and commentator, Harry has reported on the Olympic and Commonwealth Games, the FIFA World Cup, Wimbledon and the Open Golf Championship. In 2013 he was honoured with an MBE for services to broadcasting.

Harry has been President of the Scarborough Cricket Festival and is involved with several charities all over Yorkshire.

The Reverend Canon John Young

is a Canon Emeritus of York Minster. He has written over 30 books/booklets and his work has been translated into several languages, including Chinese and Russian. He is an outspoken advocate of Accomplish.

Professor Gordon P. McGregor

is an Honorary Fellow of York St John's College, Emeritus Professor of Education at the University of Leeds, and Hon. Visiting Professor at Oxford Brookes University. He spent many years working in Uganda and Zambia; he taught at King's College, Budo in Uganda and then lectured in English Language at Makerere University. He was also chair of the Zambia Braille Press.

cant upfront investment, the irrigation equipment will eventually cover its costs by ensuring reliable harvests, increasing the farmland's yield and thus lowering RAPCD's food bills. Any excess food will be sold to subsidise the school's running costs.

We know from the work we have done previously with SADICH and RSNF, and the agricultural land already run by RAPCD, that properly irrigated and managed farmland in the region provides an incredible abundance of food to be harvested, so we're asking you to dig deep this Christmas to help the RAPCD school become more self sufficient and sustainable by growing the majority of its own food.

There are many ways we could split this project up into stocking -able Christmas gifts—for example you could buy a water pump or some HDPE piping, but perhaps the easiest way to think about it is in terms of the additional children that the school will be able to support as a result of this project: 60 primary students and (eventually) 200 secondary students....

So for a sum of £17 you will be helping to feed a school child not just in 2017, but for the whole period of their education at the RAPCD centre! And not just that child, but the child that comes after that one. It really is



quite a marvellous idea, and feeling. You could even support two, or ten, or even more children!

As a seasonal fundraising idea: one of our trustees has decided not to send Christmas cards this year and will instead donate the money she would have spent on cards and postage towards the irrigation project. Alternatively, perhaps people you know may wish to become involved in the project by way of a Christmas gift?

To give directly, please go to our BT MyDonate page:

<https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/accomplishchildrenstrust>

You can of course also set up a electronic bank transfer by liaising with our treasurer, Sue Baldock via email, or send a cheque to our postal address.

Do please let us know in good time if you will require an e-gift card—these can be provided at no extra cost.

Thank you so much for your generosity; your giving will make a real difference. We wish you all the best for Christmas and New Year.

How Accomplish Acts—Samuel

Accomplish supports many children with disabilities, each with their own, unique, story. With our partner organisations, we aim to bring support and hope to each child. In the first of a regular series, we intro-



duce Samuel as an illustration of the work that, through you, we are able to do.

Samuel is 12 years old and has cerebral palsy. He lives with his mum. Samuel's father has left the family so culturally, Samuel is described as a partial orphan because he has only one parent providing for him.

The Rwenzori Special Needs Foundation (RSNF) brought Samuel to the Kyaninga Child Development Centre (KCDC) in Fort Portal, where he has received physical, occupational and speech therapy. KCDC gave him a wheelchair, language cards to help him communicate, and specialist toys to help with his therapy exercises. Accomplish supports both RSNF and KCDC.

Samuel and his mother have benefited from RSNF's agricul-



ture programme, funded by the Accomplish 2015 Christmas Campaign. This year they have grown crops and harvested enough to eat, replant and also to sell, and have invested their profits in pigs and a sty to generate more income for the family.



PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

Rwenzori Association of Parents of Children with Disabilities (RAPCD):

RAPCD advocates for a society where disabled children are accepted and have equal rights and opportunities. It runs a primary school for deaf or blind students and is building a special needs secondary school.

www.rapcd.org

Save the Disabled Children's Home (SADICH):

SADICH provides vocational training for children with disabilities and their parents. It also runs an epilepsy treatment programme and medical outreaches.

Rwenzori Special Needs Foundation (RSNF):

RSNF supports children with disabilities and their families through education, medical care, rehabilitation and income-generating projects.

www.rwenzorispecialneeds.org

Kyancinga Child Development Centre (KCDC):

KCDC provides physiotherapy and occupational therapy to children with disabilities.

www.kyancingadc.org



Liz Bulkeley: travels with Accomplish

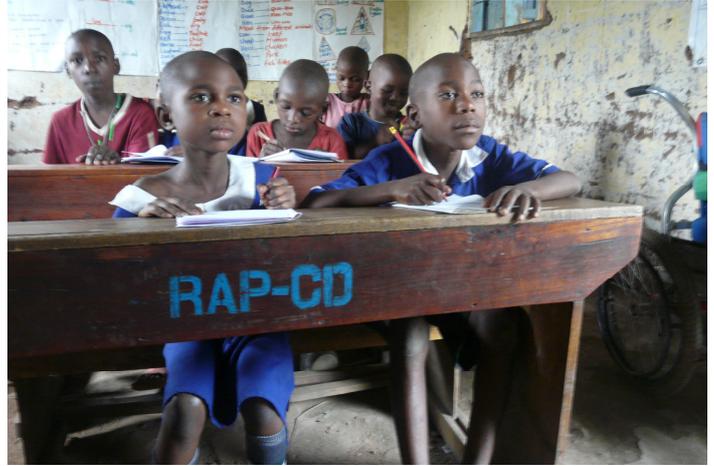
Accomplish supporter Liz Bulkeley travelled to Uganda in March this year as part of the Accomplish team. Here she gives an account of her experience, and the effect it has had on her.

"From the orchestra of the tropical creatures at night, to the beauty of an early morning sunrise, from the challenge of visiting those living in poverty, to the inspiration of seeing how lives are being changed by the work of Accomplish, my first trip to Africa has created many special memories. The team was great and as supporters, we were looked after very well by Chris and Becca, two of the trustees who led us.

Accomplish has been my first experience of supporting a fairly small charity; until this point my links have been with much larger charities working in a number of developing countries around the world. With Accomplish I have been impressed with the scope of the work, the relationships with the projects and the skills and leadership of the trustees. The outreach of Accomplish is amazing and a real testament to God's provision and faithfulness.



During our trip we were privileged to visit all four of the projects supported by Accomplish. A particular highlight for me, as a teacher, had to be the primary school for children with disabilities in Kasese; to understand how the school has developed, to hear the stories of some of the children and to witness the children's confidence and learning was brilliant. The ethos of the school was wonderful and a witness to the community in



changing attitudes towards children with disabilities and developing the potential they have.

One of the most difficult moments for me, was arriving at a small house to find a child alone, in the dark, sitting on the floor, rocking and calling out with a few pieces of food lying on the dirt around her. Our arrival had attracted the attention of other local children, so we were able to find out a little more of her story. Unable to walk, and too big to be carried, her mother leaves her at home

child's very poor sight.

The most unexpected event was when we were asked to physically present (as in pass over!) pigs in Fort Portal – one element of the Christmas campaign last year. The pigs offer income-generating opportunities to carefully chosen families of disabled children. We were able to visit some of the children (and pigs!) who had benefited from previous gifts.

As a Christian, through these experiences I've grown in my understanding of God's heart of compassion. It's also been a great opportunity to experience the body of Christ in action, from the prayers of supporters here through to sharing with Christians in Uganda.

While there is much more that I could say (and hundreds of photos I could share!), I'd like to finish by saying that your support is making a real difference to changing the lives of disabled children and their families in Africa. I'd strongly recommend taking the opportunity to join the next supporters' trip in March 2018 if you are able."

Thank you so much to Liz for taking the time to write this piece. If you would like to speak to Liz further about her experiences in Uganda, please contact Accomplish for her details.

If you would be interested in accompanying our team and visiting our partner organisations in March 2018, please send an email to accomplishtrust@gmail.com and we will get back to you to further discuss the opportunity.



*"A gift opens the way
and ushers the giver into
the presence of the
great"*

Proverbs 18:16 NIV

Perfect Hope

Trustee Dr. Chris Harris reflects on one of the less tangible, but perhaps most important, benefits of the work our partners are doing in Uganda.

The first time I met the founders of SADICH, they were nervous, shy, and we met in a darkened office without electricity. That meeting could not have been in greater contrast to the way I found the organisation in March of this year. As I walked up the road towards the vocational centre I could hear cheering from down the street and could not quite believe that it was coming from the same compound I had visited nearly 10 years ago.

At our meeting this time, the lights were on and there were over 100 children with various disabilities taking part in a celebration of achievement, playing volleyball, making crafts, showing their carpentry and tailoring skills, and all absolutely delighted with the difference that SADICH has made to their lives. There is **hope**. Such a strong driving emotion. Hope that their future could hold a job, an income, a life outside of poverty, a family of their own. We have recently had World Mental Health day, reminding us that

people's suffering often goes unseen. It can be easy to focus on a child's disability, and just as easy to miss the psychological burden that often accompanies disability, particularly in a country that is so unforgiving of those with extra needs. Giving these children and families hope has transformed lives and brought happiness and security to a group of individuals, who are perfect in so many ways.



The social effects of SADICH are mirrored by our other partners: RAPCD, KCDC and RSNF. The care, compassion and physical support shown by these groups to children with disabilities, has showcased the talents of chil-

dren with disabilities to the wider community, forcing people to take notice and changing deep seated fears and prejudices. This in turn has reduced discrimination.

A great example of this change can be seen in the epilepsy clinics. In March we were able to start yet another new clinic at the RAPCD school and there was a clear contrast between the new, nervous patients who felt they had to hide away their illness, and those patients who had been seen at our other clinics previously, something I had not noticed before. The self-confidence of these 'older' patients and the interest shown by their community leaders towards them was truly humbling. I am sure we will witness this change occur in the new patients as our, now expert, team begin educating their families and communities about epilepsy.

There are many challenges ahead, but the relief from suffering and provision of hope is a real and palpable entity across all our projects. So hard to explain, yet so vital for the changing of bodies and minds. I am at once proud and humbled to be part of such a story.

Ways to donate

There are many ways in which you can support Accomplish. Please do contact us if you have any questions, would like more information on the work that we do, or would like us to come and give a talk. You can contact us via email on:

accomplishtrust@gmail.com

or, if you prefer to speak to us in person, call our contact trustee

Sue Baldock: 01904 706120

Further information is available on our website:

www.accomplishtrust.org.uk

and via our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/AccomplishTrust

To donate directly, please visit our BT MyDonate page:

<https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/accomplishchildrenstrust>

or send a cheque payable to Accomplish Children's Trust to:

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If you are a UK taxpayer, you can make your donation go further by completing a Gift Aid form. When you sign up to Gift Aid we are able to claim an extra 25p for every pound you donate. Please email us to request a Gift Aid form or call Sue Baldock.

You can now also support Accomplish when shopping online—at no cost to yourself. Please register with www.givingabit.com and choose Accomplish as your cause. Then by visiting www.givingabit.com prior to shopping online, you will create a donation for Accomplish (funded by the retailer) and you may even save money with discount codes and special offers. With over 1,200 shops signed up



to the scheme, including Amazon, Sainsbury's, Groupon and John Lewis, you can help Accomplish when buying everything from music to car insurance!

Similarly, for those of you that use ebay to shop and give donations at the check-out, Accomplish is set up as a charity – just search for our name. You can also sell unwanted items through ebay on behalf of Accomplish if you wish—please contact us for details.



Thank you for all your support! Accomplish Children's Trust is a registered charity in England and Wales, charity number 1127235.

