

**\$1306 was donated for 'Beef Bones for Christmas' food parcels for the poor of Mutai with \$1040 being given on the appeal Sunday alone! A tremendous, generous effort- thank you all!!**

## BEEF BONE BOUNTY

struggle with ill health as poor nutrition and disease are part of their cycle of poverty.

For once these people had a substantial Christmas dinner. Beef bones are a luxury. Usually, village families in Uganda rarely eat beef or any meat at all. But at Christmas time everyone aspires to. The Christmas season is the most important festival of the year in Uganda.

Jackson's 4 helpers also received food gifts. The gifts were distributed by Jackson on the morning of Christmas Eve. Each gift was accompanied by a card from Good Shepherd Hallett Cove.

Jackson Omoding, our evangelist at Mutai, was very pleased with the gift. He described it as "a

A vehicle had to be hired (also more expensive during the festive season) to transport the food from Jinja markets, as Henry Baliddawa (OUT's representative in Uganda) no longer has access to the Lutheran Church Mission Uganda truck, and the truck is faulty.

*great help to my evangelism and care programme".* For families struggling to feed themselves, Christmas time can be especially difficult with food prices rising sharply during the festive season. Jackson had identified 6 desperately poor families, including those below, who were given 25kgs of rice, 2kgs sugar, 2kgs meat and 1kg salt each. A gift for a Christmas feast and beyond. 30 more needy households received 2kgs rice, 1kg sugar, 1kg meat and 1kg salt each. All of these families also

**'WHOEVER IS KIND TO THE NEEDY, HONOURS GOD.'**  
PR 14:31B

Jackson says, "On X-mas day people celebrated the day happily and they were thanking Hallett Cove congregation ...many people came to church this day, at the end of the service many Christians told me to pass their sincere happiness to you for supporting them materially and spiritually.

"Thanks to God who has blessed you and your pockets in Hallett Cove. May his Grace, Peace and Mercy multiply in you. Jackson"



Widow Catherine Masswa cares for 6 orphaned grandchildren including these 2..



Widow Proscovia Nabagala cares for 4 orphans including these 2.



Widow Samali Kyotakoze cares for 2 orphans



*Mutai Nursery School began a new term on Feb 2nd.*

## MUTAI SCHOOL NEWS

Our investigations into the need for things for the children, which Rita Nakirya, the head teacher, has said is a 'very good idea', lead us to ask for other possible requirements for the school.

The list Rita sent us back was:

1. First Aid Kit, 2. Text books from nursery to Primary four, 3. Desks, 4. Playing kits,
5. Soccer balls, 6. Uniforms, 7. Four chalk boards
8. Mosquito nets, 9. Benches for the lower classes.

A first aid kit was especially important but Rita left it to us to decide which items we could provide.

All but the desks, uniforms and benches could be purchased for \$600. So this amount, along with the regular funds for school meals was sent in January. The cost of school meals has risen slightly along with demand for desks, chalk boards, scholastic materials, space etc due to increased numbers of children.

More information will be sought about the other items on Rita's list.

*"We really thank you for your continued support for the feeding of the children and pray that the Lord gives you more than you expect He can. Rita."*

## FRESH FIELDS FOR PETER STEICKE

After 13 years at Para Vista congregation, partners with us in outreach to Uganda, Pastor Peter Steicke is stepping down in March to begin a ministry planting house churches. He has done a lot of work in this already in Uganda where it is so necessary for Christians in remote communities. His work in Australia will reach out to people our traditional structures are unable or have failed to reach.

He says, *"Firstly, over 90% of Australians do NOT worship at any church at all. Yet many of them are happy to talk about matters of faith. Secondly, many of them say the established church is totally irrelevant to their daily lives."*

*"While I will be under the guidance of one of the mission directors of the LCA, Pastor Steen Olsen, Julie and I will be living by faith without a salary, so we will daily be trusting in the Lord's provision."*

His official relationship with Uganda will, therefore, be ended but who knows what God may call him to do?

Please pray for him in his new ministry.

## ATTACKING HOOKWORM

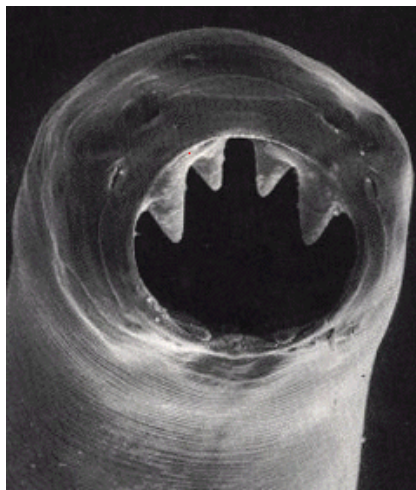
Though there is an aid organisation called the Flip Flop Foundation which works to provide simple footwear to vulnerable children to help prevent Hookworm infections, Dr Nathan Zweck who has worked in Uganda advises that thongs would only help partially. His ideal solution would be;

1. *treat all children in the school 6-monthly with Mbenzazol tablets (which kill the hookworm in the body); if possible, increase iron in their diet;*
2. *supply children with shoes which cover the whole foot- complete protection.*
3. *dig pit latrines and*
4. *educate the children to use latrines and preventative hygiene practices at the school. Children tend to defecate wherever they happen to be when nature calls. They don't bury the waste.*

Hookworm is a blight to children as it affects their ability to concentrate and study leading to academic retardation and other problems..

Rita, Mutai school teacher has also been researching this problem: *"I have also made some inquiry about the children in Mutai and found out that they also have a problem of tape and hookworms because of the environment they live in. It is true about 90% of the community in Mutai don't wear shoes and most are children. The estimated number of children around Mutai is over 300. Unfortunately, there is no education about the dangers and need for the parents or guardians to buy shoes for the children as most of them claim that they are too poor to afford such expenditure."*

Rita is looking at having pit latrines dug on the church land, and hygiene education for the children. OUT is looking into supplying medication and shoes.



*The fearsome face of hookworm- shows the mouth and teeth it uses to attach to the gut lining and suck blood.*