



Craig, Claudia, Leo and Bethany Smith

Serving God in Kabale, Uganda

Welcome to Newsletter 9

Dear Supporters,

Welcome to the prayer letter for our second Christmas in Uganda! We wish you all a peaceful and happy Christmas and a New Year full of God's plans.

Training

Claudia has been encouraged that after many months the training for Sunday School Teachers finally seems to be coming together. She has started an 8 week training course for students at the NTC Kabale, with the support of Rev John the college chaplain.

She has also been requested to run a training workshop at the local church in Bukoora where we run our community project. This is a great opportunity since those in the villages find it very difficult to come into town to attend training events due to the cost of transport and accommodation.

Rev Friday, who is responsible for Children and Youth Ministry in the Diocese, has also organised a committee, who in the New Year will begin to organise regular training for Sunday school teachers in town. We look forward to the opportunities that will come from this.

An initial opportunity in 2010 is for Claudia to speak at a Children's conference in January. She

will be speaking on the theme of 'Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ' (Romans 8:35) as well as preparing Bible study material for the teachers to use in the afternoon on the story of Joseph. The conference runs for three days and they are expecting around 70+ children.

Bibles

We have been increasingly struck by the fact that most Christians living in the villages do not have a bible of their own. Bibles are not available in churches during services and most people have none for their own personal use at home. This is one reason why the Uganda church is sometimes described as 'wide, but not deep'. The reason is the cost: A Rukiga bible costs 15,000 shillings (£5) when a days pay for working in a field is 2,500 shillings.

We have had the privilege of donating nearly 150 bibles so far, mostly donated by an organisation in America. These have mainly been easy read English bibles. As we have got to know the people and priests of Bukoora much better now, we want to assist people to have their own Rukiga bibles. The ones we have donated so far have been received with real delight. We have now started a program of giving subsidised bibles for 5,000 shillings (£1.50) instead of the usual 15,000 shillings.

The demand is enormous, so if anyone or any church wishes to support this program, please let us know.

As a testament to the power of God's word, we were delighted last month when the grandparents of Bright (a member of the project) became Christians after receiving one of these Rukiga bibles. Bright's family had been praying for them for many years, but this was the first time for the Grandparents to have a bible. We were moved to be present at a ceremony at their house where they symbolically removed artefacts from their traditional religions.



expensive here. The community itself assisted in its construction – carrying hardcore and sand as well as digging the 16 ft diameter hole! We will charge 3p per jerry can, with the money assisting the project and paying for more bibles to be distributed. We look forward to the heavy rains in January to begin to fill the 50,000L capacity!

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to this tank - we may possibly be able to look at constructing another next year. It has been really good for the community to see the project benefiting them all.

Pics: <http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=2046250&id=1220062771&l=65d4e184d2>

With much love and thanks again for the support of everyone. We wish you all a happy Christmas,

God bless,

Craig, Claudia, Leo and Bethany

Ro 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.

Community Water Tank

It has been our real privilege to have been working on a large community water tank in Bukoora over the last month, funded by the pledges and gifts from many of you. We were approached by the community leader in Bukoora, since most people must spend up to 2 hours fetching water from a spring or pay up to 15p for a jerry can – very



Praying for us

- Claudia as she prepares for speaking at the Children's Conference (8-10th January).
- Opportunities opening up at Kigezi high school for preaching, bible studies and training maths teachers and peer counsellors.
- Bethany as she gets ready to start pre-primary school with Leo on 1st February.

Blog Address: <http://www.smithsinafrica.blogspot.com>

Bakiga Community Project: <http://smithsinafricaprojects.110mb.com>



CROSSLINKS