

Link Letter No.14 April 2013

Hey you guys,

I hope you are all having a great time! I have seen SO many snow pictures over the internet, it's untrue! I have been very jealous, as our temperatures reached 45°C – get a thermometer to see how hot that is! It is so hard to live or work at that temperature, it really wears us out.

However, like you have had loads of snow at the wrong times of year (and much more than you usually get!), we also have had some strange weather. We have times in the year where, for a number of months, rain falls, and then at other times where, for a number of



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Ruth is a CMS mission partner seconded to the Children's Department of Across and serving in Yei, South Sudan. Across is an interdenominational Christian NGO that has worked in Sudan for over 30 years. Ruth's ministry includes developing child protection policies, leading trauma workshops and training Sunday school teachers. The years of war in Sudan make this work so vital to a future generation of Sudanese.



Making Cadbury's Cream Eggs (see over the page for the story!). Here we are trying to melt the nutella to coat the eggs

months, rain does not fall and it is very hot, dry and dusty! We call it the dry season! But this year, the dry season was not always so dry! At the end of January, which is still supposedly in the middle of the dry season, we had a HUGE thunderstorm in the night, and the rain fell for 24 hours! Then we had even shorter rain spells too!

We are all a little confused about the weather, as we see it changing all over the world. We hope it doesn't mean that our rainy season will also be shorter, because here people really depend on the rains, to

grow food for their family to eat, and also to sell to earn money. Life will be hard if food cannot be grown well.

So I was going to write to tell you about my Christmas, but now it is nearly Easter so let me share what I did during Holy week, the week before Easter with my friends here in Kampala (the capital of Uganda, where I came for a break!).

On Palm Sunday, I went to my friends Isobel and Shiisa's house. It was a lovely day to relax together; we watched the film *Brave* (I had never seen it before) and we made a load of palm crosses together too, although it took us ages to work out how to make them! It was a fun thing to do, and in the evening, when we had eaten, we spent some time praying together. We did a kind of Psalms consequences! You remember the game where someone writes a line of a story and folds it over and passes it to someone else – well that's what we did, but we wrote a Psalm. Some really good praises to Jesus were created!

First, we wrote something to praise God about, and then we wrote something we think God might have been saying to us, and then we wrote something we wanted to say to Him, and finally we wrote something to finish the Psalm off. Then we spent some time praying together.

Here in Uganda (and South Sudan!), you can't buy Cadburys crême eggs but another friend of mine living in Africa sent me a recipe to make my own! We thought that this was a great



Step one - mixing the ingredients



Some of the palm crosses we made

idea so Shiisa and I decided to attempt to make them! Well, as you can see from the photos, we had a GREAT time doing it, but the finished results were not really what we had thought they would be!

Here is our recipe (below); even though when you read this it will be after Easter, you could still try to make them (though make them small, as they are VERY sweet!)! We can celebrate Jesus being alive every day of the year! Yippee!

■ **Step 1:** We mixed golden syrup, butter, vanilla essence and icing sugar to make the fondant for the middle. Yum yum! Then we



Step three - making the eggs

shapes – they really looked like eggs! Then the final step... trying to coat them in chocolate! *Oh dear; this is where things went a bit wrong!* We realised that the chocolate here wouldn't melt well because something is added to STOP it melting (and it changes the taste too, which is sad!)... oh dear! What a mess we got into!

So then we tried making our own toppings! We tried mixing sugar, cocoa and butter, but that



The cocoa, butter and sugar coated one, which looked like chicken!

took about one third of it out to make it yellow with food colouring.

■ **Step 2:** We had to take a third of the mixture out and colour it yellow to make the yolks; after putting the mixture in the fridge to harden it, we made small balls of the yellow fondant.

■ **Step 3:** We put it back in the fridge to chill, then we made them into egg

only made our eggs look like a chicken breast with spices on! Then we warmed a jar of Nutella and used that! The proof was in the tasting the following day!

Shiisa, her mum Isobel, myself and Garry, another CMS mission partner, all met together; it's fun meeting with other CMS people as it feels like they are my family here. We had to taste each egg, and give it marks for taste, smell, texture, and sweetness.



Step four - trying to cover them! You can see that our hands are covered in chocolate and the eggs on the plate do not look quite right!

As you can see from the photos, we had SO much fun together, but we all felt rather sick at the end!

We decided that the best place for the Nutella one was in our coffee; the sugar, cocoa and butter coating was nice, but not quite right and, even though they looked terrible, the best tasting ones were in fact the ones with the Cadburys!

In this link letter I wanted to share with you some of the fun things I do here! I wonder how you celebrated Easter? However you did it, I hope you remembered that all Jesus did, when He died and rose again was because He loved us all so so much!

PS: Recipe taken from: <http://www.instructables.com/id/Homemade-Cadbury-Creme-Eggs/?ALLSTEPS> (if you look here, you will see that theirs look MUCH better than ours do!).



Isobel, Shiisa and me on the morning of the grand tasting



Here are some photos of us as we tasted the eggs... we had a LOT of fun!



The final Cadbury eggs!

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