

## Link Letter No.14 April 2013

### Dear all,

I started writing this letter at a time when wishing you all a happy New Year did not seem out of place although I fear that I have now missed that window of opportunity!

### Christmas and New Year

I had a great Christmas and New Year. I stayed in many different places. First I was in Kampala with fellow mission partner Isobel Booth-Clibborn and her daughter Shiisa for meetings with other CMS mission partners, where we met and welcomed Revd Philip Mounstephen, our new CMS executive leader. In the evening after a meal, we ended up decorating Isobel and Shiisha's house, which was great fun!

Then I went onto Nairobi to visit Mary's family. You may remember that Mary lived here in Yei for



### Ruth Radley

CMS mission partner

### South Sudan

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.



*Decorating the house for Christmas!*

my first two years, before being relocated back to Nairobi. I was able to spend one day with Mary's children whilst she and her husband were at work; they came home to us all painting each other's faces! Surprisingly, apart from a small laugh, no one seemed surprised at these happenings in the house – *I was there!*

I also celebrated my birthday with them, and we went to a small park with rides on. I enjoyed going on a couple with the children – one was a pirate ship, and the screams and looks of delight on Wambuis (aged five) and Benjis (aged 11) faces were worth it all! Edwin (aged 15) and myself were the other extreme, concentrating on surviving the ride alive! The dodgems were the best! Until I went on, everyone seemed to be very

polite drivers trying to avoid each other, but I demanded we all went on, and I then set about crashing into everyone I could for the entire duration of the ride! MUCH more fun!

I then moved onto Kijabe (Kenya), where some close friends had arrived there in the past few months. Again, it was lovely being a part of their family for Christmas, and being able to have some time out to rest and relax a bit. We had a special time together on my last night; we looked at the armour of God, and all the different parts. We even had some tin foil, and dressed Mike up in it all! I think we all enjoyed it and the children's contributions were really pertinent and also made us think. It was a real blessing to be



*A game on protection*

with them; they have always been an amazing support to me, and I look forward to seeing them a little more now that we are all on the same continent!

Finally, I was with my good friend and supervisor's family for New Year. Elly is South Sudanese, but has spent most of his life in Uganda where his wife and children still live. The first thing he said to me when he returned from his Christmas break last year was how much fun he and his family had had on New Year's Day playing games, and that next year he wanted me to join them. Funnily enough, I met one of his friends at the CMS gathering before Christmas and we realised that we would be spending New Year together – such a small world! It was a really fun day together, but I am still gutted that I didn't win my egg and spoon race, coming a VERY close second!

### **Back to Yei**

I came back to Yei fully expectant to get going on our new proposal, since we knew the agreement was that the project will start in January 2013, but we hadn't factored in the lead NGO employing the manger for this programme



*Taking part in a drama introducing to the children the topic of protection, part of the series on the armour of God...*

and other things. We finally we had the meeting on 5-7 March. This new proposal sees us partnering with other NGOs and working with churches, communities and government structures to help children participate meaningfully in their communities. It will aid linking communities and government structures together, as well as helping communities to develop systems to keep children safe and respond appropriately when there are concerns. I have been pleasantly surprised with myself, as I have come to realise that I have changed significantly since I have lived here. I am much

more at ease with this whole process than I would have been when I first arrived, and indeed realising how I have been through most of the process of getting this far. If you want to read more about this, then please read my blog ([www.ruthieradley1.wordpress.com](http://www.ruthieradley1.wordpress.com))

Humanly speaking, I have no idea how we will manage in many ways; we



*Using pictures to look at different hazards that children might face around the home, and how we can prevent them*



*Robina and myself with babies in our facilitation!*

are in need of a vehicle, another motorbike, and there is not enough in the budget to actually do some of the activities, let alone provide for our location needs as well, but we already seeing the Lord provide.

I did a fantastic bible study called “one in a million” which looked at the Israelites’ experience of leaving Egypt for the Promised Land. So Joshua and Caleb being the only two of the original 2,000,000 to leave to enter the Promised Land are effectively one in a million. One thing I had got slack on – even though it is something that we used to do in my Canterbury days – is to praise God in advance for what we expect He will do. That we go into our daily lives fully expecting to see miracles and fully expecting to see Him

at work! We have decided to make this a mantra in our office, that we will praise God for all we expect Him to do. So please do praise Him along with us for the ways we will see the children’s lives changed for the better! We are positive, if not still a little daunted, about all that lies ahead.

### **Office life**

I need to introduce the newest member of the office team to you! Robina Duku has joined Sam and myself in the office, in preparation for the new project. She is



*With Sam and Robina - the children’s ministry team*

currently working with us on a casual contract, and we have just heard the news that we have enough funds to employ a full time worker for the remainder of the year, so we are currently about to advertise. Robina will apply for the full time position. She has fitted in really well, and it is so lovely having another woman to work with (although probably a bit tougher for Sam! During a training that I was facilitating and which she was translating, we put the participants into groups, and the next thing poor Sam knew was that we both had acquired babies to cuddle whilst the mamas worked! He laughed when he saw us!).

Robina also has a great heart for children and, like Sam, has some training to facilitate, but looking exclusively at spiritual stuff. She is also on a rapid learning curve with all the holistic needs that children have, and especially learning about rights WITH responsibilities and protecting children. We did our first devotion the other day, and it was great having the three of us working together; it meant that our drama worked really well. The children really got involved too! It is rather exciting to think that in some cases this coming year, we might have three activities happening at once, with each of us in different places (although sadly, I will be limited to where I can facilitate in English!). It's exciting to see how slowly but surely we are expanding. We have so many more ideas of what would be good to do too, once this new proposal is up and running properly; we might look to extending what we are already doing more too!

We were really blessed to have a day's training on child protection with the leaders of Sudan Pentecostal Church (the day before some of them were ordained!). This was an amazing opportunity, to enthuse participants of the Father's heart for His children, and to help them see that this is an area that the church NEEDS to be involved in. In the UK, sadly, I feel the church buried her head in the sand when these things were being talked about and standards, policies and procedures were slowly being put into place, leaving us with sad results. So to be able to have this day with these leaders as procedures are being put into place in South Sudan was amazing. It is very rare to be given a whole day to facilitate on children; we were blessed and enjoyed the day, returning the next day to share in the ordination service too.

I am currently in Uganda on a pre-Easter break. I look forward to getting back to Yei on Easter Eve, having two days of celebration, and then back to the office on Easter Tuesday, to begin this new work. Thank you again for all your love and support in so many ways; it is not only me who is aware of your partnership with us here, as many of my South Sudanese friends also are very aware, and grateful!

Blessings

*Ruth*

**STOP PRESS:** Since writing this link letter, we have held interviews for the position I write about above, and I am pleased to announce that Robina was indeed the stronger candidate for the job. We have therefore offered her the position!

PS. Did you know that you can now receive link letters by email, sent as a pdf? If you would like to receive them this way and help CMS save money, please contact the links team on [links@cms-uk.org](mailto:links@cms-uk.org)

[www.cms-uk.org](http://www.cms-uk.org)



**Church Mission Society**

Watlington Road, Oxford, OX4 6BZ Tel: 01865 787400 Fax: 01865 776375  
Email: [info@cms-uk.org](mailto:info@cms-uk.org) [www.cms-uk.org](http://www.cms-uk.org) Registered Charity Number 1131655