



Your twinned update from Okunguro Assembly

Greetings

Dear Friends,

I send regards on behalf of our entire congregation to you and your loved ones in the UK. We thank you for partnering with Pentecostal Assemblies of God Uganda.

It is our prayer that the Lord brings us together one time. It is a blessing to have friends like you who have a passion for enriching others. Life used to be unbearable to us with no hope. But now we have studied PEP diligently and it has been the best thing to ever happen to us. Through our partnership, we have been enriched in our thinking and it has helped us to see life from God's perspective.

Those in our sphere of influence have all been blessed because of how the process has transformed us. We trust you have been following our progress and that you have been blessed with our stories. Please greet everybody in your church for us and share our love with them.

Yours in his name,

Pastor Robert Epianura

PEP Update

Last time we wrote we told you about the Information Gathering training we had done.

In this training we analysed ten tables, full of information all about the church and those who attend. Having all of this information in one place helped us to think properly about what kind of activities would be most beneficial to our congregation.

It particularly highlighted to us that making sure our young people got an education was very important. We found out that we have only one high school graduate in our church. Many people had dropped out of school for a variety of reasons. Often they could not pay the fees or sometimes their help was needed at home.

Thanks to this simple exercise of gathering information, attitudes towards education in our church have changed. There is evidence that the parents are now more supportive of

their children and have sent them to better schools. We are pleased to say that enrolment in the church's school has also increased.

The church's school has been able to take the burden away from the only government funded school in the area. Up until now, they have been very stretched with too many children and not enough resources. Thanks to a church scheme to support those children who cannot pay their fees, the church's school has been able to take on the most vulnerable pupils. Now the government school can run more smoothly and give a better quality of education.



The bricks the church have baked so far (L) and a latrine they are digging for the school (R)

The number of pupils at the church school has increased from 150 to 260 this year. We want to add more permanent class rooms so we have set about collecting the resources. We already have 4000 bricks baked! **Please pray for the challenges facing us: we need to buy more land to build the classrooms on, and we are in need of more qualified teachers. We have two, but we need nine more!** We also need to make sure we can reward them well for their hard work so they stay working at the school.

Stories to Inspire

The Pastor guiding his flock

Pastor Robert Epianura isn't just sharing the PEP training with his church, he's making sure it impacts his life too! Pastor Robert is 38, and married with children. From the very first time he started hosting PEP trainings in his church, he knew he wanted to improve his standard of living.

In 2013 he began growing rice in his fields. He had never tried to grow crops before, instead he relied on the generosity of his church members, but often they had nothing to give.

With his rice growing he made enough money to buy a stand at a local market. The next year he grew more rice and bought two bulls who plough his fields.



Thanks to PEP he has seen a change in himself, but also in his congregation.

'I am happy for this process, my offering and tithing has greatly improved and the same with my church members.'

Pastor Robert with the two bulls he was able to buy

Development on wheels!

Michael is married with seven children. He lives in Okunguro. Before PEP came to his village he had not thought about how he could make more money for his family. He used to practice subsistence agriculture - that is growing crops just for his family to eat.

After attending the PEP training about resource mobilisation he decided to have a think about what he could do with the resources he had. He owned a motorbike, so he began renting that out and putting the money aside.

With the money he saved in 2014 he bought three goats. A year later, those three goats had become 18! He sold some and paid for his eldest son to take a course in mechanics. When his son finished the course he took over the motorbike business, and he was also able to fix other vehicles in the area.

Michael is continuing his goat project with an eventual aim of owning a goat farm. He has plans for the future and the ability to help his his family out of poverty.

'We are happy for this process because we have been enlightened to begin livelihood projects.'

Right: Michael with some of the goats he has been breeding



Prayers for Okunguro

- The Okunguro community and Pastor Robert Epianura ask for you to pray blessing over them and the plans they have to develop their community.
- Pray for knowledge and wisdom as they continue with the PEP process.
- Thank God for those he has blessed, like Michael, through new ideas and new ways of thinking
- Pray for the school they are building, that it would be successful, and a blessing to the children who study there
- Please remember to pray for the families who have been affected by famine due to the prolonged drought, not only in Kobwin but in other parts of Uganda as well.