

# Australia Bringing Hope Inc 2022 C.E.O. Report.

Hi, everyone, hope you all enjoyed Christmas and the New Year is going well. It is that time of the year when I update people of the progress of Australia Bringing Hope (ABH) and also our plans for 2023.

First of all, our A.G.M. will be held on Saturday the 28th of January 2023, it will be at Tom and Di Ferguson's 45 Strickland Street Clare and will start at 2 pm. All are welcome but if you are planning to come, please let me know. Sonia Winter and her assistant Shannon Dolling from My Tax Accountant Naracoorte are just making the finishing touches to our audited Financial Report for last financial year, as I'm due to report to the A.C.N.C (Australian Charities Not for Profit Commission) by the end of this month and also will make this report available to those at the A.G.M. Next month, with Shannon's help I wish to change our Quickbooks accounting program to Xero, I have had a number of issues so I hope a change will improve things.

Looking back on my last Annual C.E.O. Report, I see a number of plans for last year, so let's just look back to see how we went. Last year I managed two short trips to Uganda, around six weeks over Christmas, (slightly extended because I caught Covid) and then three months finishing in September when I returned to Australia and resumed my employment back Beekeeping.

Our workshop in Kaihura, Western Uganda, has been closed since my return in September and also our small shop where we sold bee hives, equipment and honey. The standard of the beehives being made had slipped badly and I decided upon my return in late March, I will retrain my team to produce a top quality hive that can serve beekeepers for many years. We will also reopen the shop if we can find some reliable and honest workers. Just a few months back Saul (Our General Manager) caught a long term worker stealing. It had been going on for some time but eventually he was caught and jailed but after two weeks we let him go after counselling from Pastor Patrick Kyenjojo.

We had also wanted to set up a shop in Kampala to sell hives and equipment, honey and fresh vegetables but we simply have no funding for this. The shop would serve as a means of supporting remote village beekeepers by buying their honey and selling it. It would also be used to supply and train beekeepers as well as possibly help myself and Irene by selling some of our own produce but production is also an issue. My thinking at this stage is a small cheaper shop may work with a web site set up to sell online. A private company may be needed to make this effective and separate it from our charity purposes even though they would both compliment each other. At the moment ABH is registered in Australia but not in Uganda, we simply assist and work with other organisations to achieve our goals rather than create a higher administrative workload.

While our current web site is still working well and was updated last year, we decided to start a new website in Uganda where I can work alongside Ronald in Kampala to make more regular updates possible. It will take some time to get up to date but you can check out the new site [www.abh-inc.org.au](http://www.abh-inc.org.au) and the current one is still working well at [www.abhinc.org.au](http://www.abhinc.org.au) Some more information and current photos can be found on Facebook, either Phillip Grigg or Australia Bringing Hope Inc.

The big news for me at least is that I have purchased 9 acres of land adjacent to Karuma Forest, which is a part of Murchison Falls National Park. I have purchased this myself using my Superannuation Funds I withdrew during Covid. I have also built a workmans quarters, toilets and bathroom using my own funds and several other upgrades. This property will give myself and Irene, an opportunity to produce fruit and vegetables so we can have an income. However it is becoming our biggest bee project and will eventually house our workshop and honey processing plant as well as offer cheaper accomodation and meals as it is central to all of our bee projects. This will be a

great saving to ABH and also means we have our own land for permanent improvements like queen bee breeding. One new area we now work in unexpectedly is helping chase elephants out of people's gardens. This can mean the difference between having food or people starving.

Our previously biggest bee keeping project in Kigumba, (about 30kms south of our new farm) is still continuing to play an important role but unfortunately our resident beekeeper and part landowner was killed the day before we arrived to continue our work. Richard will be sadly missed, ABH played its part in organising the burial as employers usually do in Uganda and his family have graciously encouraged us to continue the project there.

## **WORKING PARTNERSHIPS IN UGANDA**

We assist a number of local organisations throughout Uganda but with the small level of donations it is very limited.

Pastor Fred Mwanje from Gidco Ministries has been a long term partner, he helps a number of orphans in Jinja and runs a school near Mayuge. We helped him over the years build four classrooms and assisted in many other areas including paying teachers wages and making school desks. But much more is needed.

Bringing Hope to the Family in Kyenjojo District is our original and main partner but we have been unable to help them for several years now, they do great work, check out their web site, via a link on our websites. Fortunately the Americans are much more generous than us Australians and BHttF continues to expand doing God's work and building His Kingdom.

Pastor Patrick still continues in Kyenjojo to expand his ministry and from time to time we are able to help him as he works with people living in poverty.

We also have a number of beekeeping projects in the north, which is still our main focus, our hope is to continue our research and development which will help people better run bees to increase their income and help pollinate crops as well as promote conservation. Alongside our bee projects we also give out tree seedlings in remote areas freely to encourage more planting to help deforestation as people still use wood for cooking. At our farm ABH bought a gas stove to encourage workers not to cut down trees. Only a small step but we hope to encourage others.

Many individuals we meet along the way are perhaps our most important ministry.

Many individuals have been helped along the way, in the areas of school fees, medical help and basic needs like clothes, bedding and food, it would be best to check out Facebook for these although a few have been shown on our new website. It is now ten years that we have been helping Charles with all the essentials of life, in fact we are his only lifeline. Hopefully people can see Christ in us as we do our day to day duties.

Last year we welcomed Dr Lisa Koo to our team, we thank God that we have been able to continue our work but my Prayers is that we grow further this year as the need is great. Basically the best way I can describe it is that ABH gets a bit over \$30,000 in donations and I work to earn around the same per year so that gives us / me around \$60,000 average per year to live, travel and work in Uganda while supporting individuals and other organisations on a little less than I would earn if I just worked full time and kept the money for myself. It leaves me in a position that I have to survive on a little over \$100 per week and it seems that even this cannot be maintained as I turn 64 years later this year. Also adding to this burden, I have only spent three months with my wife Irene in the last three

years, I thank her for her love and patience. The work is greatly needed and people would simply die if we give up, so trust in God we will.

So thank you everyone for your help, prayers love and support, may the Lord bless you and keep you and shine His light upon you, bless you guys

**Phill.**