

Dear All,

If you were on a stage and the world was your audience, what would you tell them? That is the question that 'Community Albums' posed to children around the city this month. Two churches in Lincolnshire paid for a Mac laptop, digital camera and sound equipment to be delivered to CRANE. Community Albums has a vision for children around the world to 'tell their stories', and the collaboration with them has proved excellent timing as the advocacy strategy in Kampala develops. The participants all had a great week learning about the technology, for most of the children it was the first time they had used a computer. Check out www.communityalbums.com for some great footage, but here is what two children had to say:

Boy, 11: *"When the world listens to me, I would like to tell them that I wish every adult would give children a chance to be educated."*

Girl, 12: *"Hello. I have a message for you. God cares about us, God gives us protection, and God can give us everything we need."*

Two personal highlights at work have been that I secured a meeting with UNICEF's Child Protection Officer for Uganda. We had a really good discussion about both our organisations work and there were a few interesting overlaps. I'm really hopeful that Viva's name will now be on some of the agendas that they are working on. Secondly, I raised £685 for Viva's partnership network in South Africa. Thank you to all of you who contributed to the effort.

It's time to wrap up my life in Uganda. I am on my way to the World Cup and, upon my return, will just be finishing off and handing over. A good friend said to me, "You can't leave. Your life is here. You have to stay in Uganda." I could've cried! The busy happenings of the last month make me want to stay very badly, but the end of the era is nigh... At church I led 'Children's Time' with 50 children, of varying English levels (none to basic) listening to what I had to tell them, and over 400 adults/parents doing the same! I was very nervous but it was alright. More importantly for me, I was baptized. This is a Christian symbol of our faith where we are immersed in water to symbolize Jesus' forgiveness in our lives. I was also very nervous but so happy to be joined by my two good friends Sanyu and Noah. On a totally different note, my hockey team won the Easter Cup, the University Open Cup and maintained a 100% record in the league so we got the treble. We all think we are Didier Drogba...

So, it is time for the great South Africa adventure. You will hopefully be able to keep up with my progress through facebook or wait for an extra special newsletter if you are interested. I feel so privileged to have the opportunity to work with Viva's partnership network, Connect, during this time. I will be helping to coach sport, take children on outings and setting up big screens for them to watch matches in safe zones against the backdrop of the theme 'Keep Them Safe' (from abuse, HIV/AIDS and child trafficking). As you all know I'm football, Africa and child rights mad so it is the perfect combination.

2010 - C'mon Africa United! Lots of love, Elise xx

PS – Thank you Daisy and Barbara, you are wonderful supporters!



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