



Mission Direct Impact Story

Partner Ministry: Kumi Mother's Union 2022

Isolated, forgotten, hungry; possibly a description that could apply to many elderly and disabled people. In the UK we may have Care Homes and Social Services which might fill some of the gap. However even that cannot compensate for the loneliness of those who have outlived or been forgotten by their family. In Uganda there is no state help. Fortunately, Uganda is a caring society and extended family, kindly neighbours, churches and organisations such as the Mother's Union are active in moving alongside the elderly.

We had a humbling day joining with Mother's Union distributing food packs to some of the oldest and neediest. The visit was both heart-breaking but also heart-warming. All the recipients were in great need of support, most were in their nineties and were without any family support, as they had outlived their spouses, children, and other relatives.

Each person was given a basic food parcel, including some rice, cooking oil and a bar of soap. All these items, now cost so much, that for many they are unaffordable. Several of them are reliant on being carried in and out of their homes. The most heart wrenching was Columbine, a woman in her late nineties. She was paralysed and unable to get out of her small traditional home. It took four people to bring her out to meet us (she was adamant she wanted to see us in the fresh air!) If there had been no help forthcoming, she was going to try to drag herself out. She had spent the whole of the previous night, praying we would visit her! So, so humbling.

Without family support life is difficult. However, all are trusting in the Lord and were so pleased to receive us even for the little we did. And there were joyful highlights; Lena singing "Oh Happy Day, when Jesus took my sins away." Lois, who still walks miles to church each Sunday who jumped from her mat dancing for joy singing Eyalama Edeke (Thank you God). Examples of why we finished the day not only heartbroken but with uplifting joy too.

The Mother's Union in Uganda, as in the UK has a great and caring mission in Uganda. We are so grateful to have been able to join with them in their ministry.