

KIYOMBE COW SCHEME 2014

Milk – Manure – Peace & Reconciliation

The Kiyombe Cow Scheme Grows

The Kiyombe Cow Scheme operates in Rwanda by providing cows and calves to some of the poorest widows and orphans. The cows provide much needed milk and good quality manure for fertiliser on their small plots of land. The cows are cross bred, 75% Friesian and 25% local breeds (Ankole). The idea being that they will provide a high milk yield but will also have a good degree of disease resistance

Most of the cows have gone to family groups on a geranium grow-

ing co-operative which is managed by Nicholas Hitimana (Rwandan co-ordinator of the Kiyombe Cow Scheme).

The Kiyombe Cow Scheme grows as cows are artificially inseminated and new calves are handed onto other poor family groups when they are a year old. Over 35 cows have now been either born or purchased via the scheme.

The scheme has now expanded to include a dry area in the East of Rwanda called Kibungo. The cows need plenty of water and eat 'elephant grass' as fodder. So monies have also been used to pay for 'rainwater harvesting' collecting rainwater from a large corrugated iron roof over a stable which feeds into a tank.



Current Newsletter Update 2014

Special points of interest:

- *Rwandan Cow Scheme*
- *Some of the poorest Widows and Orphans from the Rwandan Genocide of 1994 benefit*
- *Cows are held in very high regard in Rwanda*
- *Supported by the WCVA Gold Star Communities Project, funded by the 'Wales for Africa Scheme'*
- *The Scheme has been generously supported by All Saints Church Barry & St Barucs, Barry Island and UNISON Vale of Glamorgan Branch.*

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Links To The Geranium Growing Co Operative IKIREZI

On this co-operative widows and orphans are helping to grow geraniums which are distilled to provide essential oils. This oil

has many uses including anti mosquito properties which are vital in the battle against malaria which is the biggest killer in Rwanda. Many of

those on the co-Operative have now put their children in School, have health Insurance and are Building relatively better homes.





WHO GETS A COW ?

The family groups which receive a cow are selected from amongst the very needy within the co-operative by the following criteria:-

- They must have a suitable piece of land
- They must grow fodder food for the cow
- They must build a stable at their own cost (usually built with strong branches and banana leaves at minimal cost)
- They have the approval of the group that they can look after the cow, are needy and are trustworthy.

Elsie Hitimana lost many close relatives during the genocide at Kibungo. She is working hard at reconciliation in her old home village. The cow scheme has now also been established there to help in this process.



Elsie in Kibungo

The principal causes of mortality and morbidity in Rwanda today are communicable diseases. These illnesses can mainly be prevented through better hygiene and behavioural change. AIDS and malaria are rife

Background To RWANDA

The surprising thing about Rwanda is how beautiful it is. It is a small mountainous country in central Africa known as the 'land of a thousand hills'. Subsistence farming, in family plots spread across the hills, is still the mainstay of life for most of the Rwandan population. Rwanda is the most densely populated country in Africa and is about the same size as Scotland. Life is very hard for most Rwandans who work on the land for about 1\$ (70p) a day. 20 years after the genocide of 1994, Rwanda is still coming to terms with that orgy of ethnic strife when upto a million people were massacred and two million fled the country. However despite their hardships there is a great deal of faith and hope for the future. Education may be their only escape from poverty. Rwanda is investing in education and its people as it possesses few natural resources. More children than ever before are attending school and now enjoy peace.

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.'(Proverbs 31: 8-9)

Pray for continued Peace; Justice; Repentance; Forgiveness and Reconciliation in Rwanda where there are many deep psychological wounds that remain after the genocide

How You Can Help

Pray for the success of 'The Kiyombe Cow Scheme' and the Ikirezi geranium co operative .

Financial Support to Pay for More Cows to Help Rwandan Widows & Orphans :-

<http://parish.churchinwales.org.uk/1325/>

www.ikirezi.com

Please contact and /or send your payment to :-

Rowan Hughes, Secretary Kiyombe Cow Scheme, 8 Usk Way, Cwm Talwg, Barry, South Glamorgan CF62 7XL

rmh1958_2005@yahoo.co.uk. Please Support our Bucket Collection and Spread the Word within UNISON

From :

Address:

Donation to Kiyombe Cow Scheme..... TOTAL £....

You are advised not to send cash through the post. Please make cheques payable to 'KIYOMBE COWS'