

# Five Talents

Fighting Poverty, Creating Jobs, Transforming Lives

## HIGHLIGHTS OF VISIT TO UGANDA, 5-12 MAY 2006

Team: Tom Sanderson, Charles Eve, Chris Jelley



### Day 1



We were received by Frank Tumuhairwe, the General Manager of Five Talents Uganda. We visited the Micro-Enterprise Adviser at DFID Uganda (UK Aid programme). We met the Archbishop of Uganda, Most Rev. Henry Orombi who is a big supporter of Five Talents in Uganda and who wants to see it expand to cover more areas. He said: *“Five Talents is an enabler for our people’s dignity, giving them honour and independence, enabling them to make a success of their lives. Five Talents does this very well.”*



We met the staff in the Five Talents Kampala office, and saw several clients coming through the door to apply for loans or report on progress. We then went in the car to visit 4 clients in their businesses – a chicken farmer, stone quarry, animal feedstuffs and retail shop. See case studies for examples. This was an excellent experience to see how the loans are used and the impact made.



**Day 2** – Travelling across the Equator to Kabale, near Rwanda border.

### **Day 3** - Sunday

We attended a Confirmation Service in a village church – a wonderful experience.



### **Day 4**



We met the 4 staff at Five Talents Kabale office and learnt the loan approval and tracking system. We then went to help with some business training in Butobere, on the outskirts of Kabale town. We were amazed to find 310 participants had turned up, waiting for us! They comprised all religions - protestants, catholics, muslims and others. The business people were so keen to learn and share. We covered the following topics:

1. Lessons from the parable of the Talents – varied abilities, hard work, accountability
2. Why start a business, factors in success and failure.
3. Businesses in the community
4. Business planning - group work and reporting back
5. Record Keeping – cash book, debt book
6. Marketing – the four P’s.



### **Day 5**

We did a second day of business training in a rural village near the Rwanda border – this time with 220 participants. Also brilliant.



### **Day 6**

Tourism at Queen Elizabeth National Park, overnight at Mweya Safari Lodge – beautiful scenery and animals!



### **Day 7**



We drove to Kasese to visit the Five Talents Kasese project. We spot-checked their paper record keeping and we were impressed. A group of 5 clients arrived while we were there, coming for loan-application and business training. We then went with one of the Loan Officers (Christine, pictured) to visit 4 clients in their businesses: a pharmacist, a restaurant, carpenter and brick-maker. See Case Studies for examples.

We then flew back to Kampala in a small plane and left for England the following morning.



### **Final Observations**

This was a fantastic trip – seeing all three Five Talents’ funded programmes in one week, plus training over 500 people, and visiting more than 8 clients in their homes/businesses. It was invaluable to see how the loan programmes are managed and to meet the staff involved. We were very impressed.