



beyond
subsistence

NEWSLETTER

December, 2011

beyonsubsistence.org.au

THE VALUE OF JUST ONE TREE

In November 2011, Beyond Subsistence CEO Jon Lambert was invited to Uganda to inspect local forestry and agricultural activities.

In Uganda I met a very special man. John Peter (bottom right) is 80 years old. He and his wife had 16 children of which 12 survived. He was able to provide for his entire family from just 2 acres of farmland. John Peter is an extremely clever farmer and a very hard worker. His simple philosophy is “never give up”. With great success, John Peter learnt to grow fruits and vegetables that others had not perfected. He has mastered strawberries, chillies, bananas and Irish potatoes, just to name a few. Perhaps the most inspiring story from John Peter was how he educated his children. The 2 acre property was host to numerous musizi trees (*Maesopsis eminii*), a tall deciduous species (picture top right) that grows throughout Africa’s tropics. Musizi trees are highly valued in Uganda for their open grained, light weight timber, which is used in construction and joinery. John Peter proudly recalls that the harvest and sale of each mature musizi tree was enough to pay for two semesters of university tuition for his children.

This is a fantastic reminder of the value of trees in many Third World countries, often being somewhat-of a bank for people to utilise when funds are needed for important things like education and healthcare. As a further bonus, the musizi trees regenerate easily from the cut stumps, so John Peter’s property will continue to host these beautiful trees and he can benefit from their shade and shelter again whilst they accumulate valuable diameter for the future.

John Peter’s story is a wonderful example of the possibilities for local people to move beyond subsistence farming on very small blocks of land with hard work, the right knowledge and valuable trees.



Uganda



Uganda is a small landlocked country in central Africa

Its population is approximately 28 million people in an area about the size of the state of Victoria. Uganda borders Kenya to the east, the Democratic Republic of Congo to the west and Southern Sudan to the north. In the south, Lake Victoria (second largest freshwater lake in the world) makes up a significant portion of the country as do the borders of Tanzania and Rwanda. Uganda enjoys beautiful sub tropical weather most of the year round. Daytime average temperatures are about 26° C with little annual variation due to the country’s high elevation and position right on the equator. Rainfall generally ranges from 500 mm to 2500 mm year⁻¹. The relative humidity is 70-100%.

Like many African countries, agriculture is Uganda’s main industry, engaging approximately 80% of the population. Important crops include sweet potatoes, millet, sorghum, maize, coffee and fruits such as bananas and avocado. A number of Australian eucalyptus species are grown in Uganda for timber production. Uganda has a major need for trees to compliment agricultural production as well as producing valuable firewood for cooking and timber for building.

Beyond Subsistence has engaged in an exciting new project to create sustainable firewood and timber supplies for local farmers in Uganda. More in our next edition!

FROM THE CEO



Educating and training national people is vital in alleviating Third World poverty.

In 2012, Beyond Subsistence will expand its National Scholarship Program to provide opportunities for several young Africans to visit Australia so that they can gain valuable experience and training in the forestry industry.

This initiative developed from the realisation that many people educated in Third World countries lack opportunities to gain experience or even observe positive examples within their field of expertise. In Australia, tertiary agriculture or forestry courses have significant components of industry training where students gain valuable operational insights to complement their studies.

Most Third World countries lack these opportunities. When visiting Australia, these young people will have the opportunity to participate in a Master Treegrower course where they will see examples of agroforestry, observe a commercial tree nursery, an operational sawmill and a range of timber markets.

We believe this initiative will provide a tremendous boost for these young people, empowering them to facilitate similar training courses in their countries.

Thank-you for your support in 2011.

Jon Lambert
CEO Beyond Subsistence

In Partnership with HCJB Global, our northern Australian acacia trial is progressing well

To value add to the work of Beyond Subsistence in Niger, a three-species acacia trial was established in Kununurra in 2009. Over the last 12 months these trees have grown extremely well.

In time, this trial will enable us to make important further assessments on these species. In particular, which trees provide the best wood for building materials, fuel for cooking, seed for human consumption and characteristics such as shelter, to improve agricultural productivity.

While identical trials have been set up in Niger to specifically assess growth performance and interactions with local crops in an agroforestry setup, the Australian trials have an important advantage. Undertaking

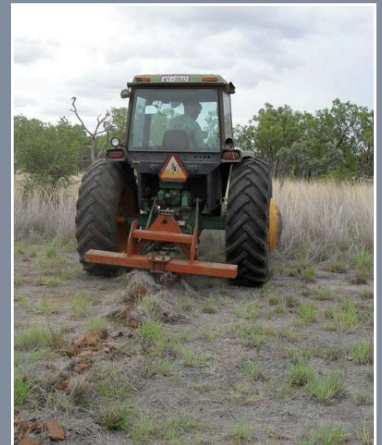
research work in Africa involves great traveling costs and can be hindered by a lack of scientific laboratories and facilities - not to mention the challenges in protecting the trees from roaming domestic animals! By establishing trials in Australia, Beyond Subsistence is undertaking much of the required research in a more cost-effective manner.

One of the reasons that a number of Australian acacias perform so well in West Africa is that the climate is similar to parts of northern Australia. Beyond Subsistence has been extremely blessed to have formed a partnership with HCJB Global (a Christian media and healthcare organisation) to make use of a small parcel of their land in Kununurra in northern WA. Thank-you HCJB!

Picture Below: Dale Stagg from HCJB Global with Jon Lambert, CEO Beyond Subsistence



KUNUNURRA



LEADERSHIP JOURNEY

In November 2011, Beyond Subsistence board member Michelle Tepper travelled with a group of seven Australians to visit Beyond Subsistence projects in Ethiopia. She returned with a new outlook on life.



WORLD VISION TIGRAY ACACIA PROJECT

It was really exciting to visit this project where World Vision and its partners are researching and trialling Australian acacias. The national staff were very welcoming and eager to learn as much as they could from our group. I soon realised the enormous potential for Beyond Subsistence to assist the project through improved research techniques and by passing on relevant information already researched in Australia.

We visited several demonstration areas where we saw large-scale revegetation works, bee keeping, agroforestry and examples of villages working together to improve their landscape. It was inspiring to see what the people had achieved with the right guidance and support. The need for firewood was overwhelming.



SIMAIID INJIBARA 5Fs PROJECT

The 5Fs Project (Fruit, Forestry and Forage for Farm Families) is based in a fairly remote area in Ethiopia's central highlands. The SIMaid staff demonstrated how they are researching and introducing new fruit and vegetables for local use; teaching landholders sustainable farming practices; revegetating erosion areas with native plants; and training national people to use a portable sawmill. There are many areas where this project could expand including bee keeping, timber production and livestock management. It was really encouraging to see the amazing progress which had been made and the exciting plans for the future.

HEART CHANGE

Before our first child was born, my husband had heard a lot about childbirth. He read plenty of information and knew physically what was involved. He'd heard a lot of stories about other peoples' experiences and if you had asked him to describe the process, he could have given a fairly accurate description.

Now that he has witnessed child birth, his description is very different. What was previously just head knowledge is now an intimate first hand experience of the whole process. He has seen it with his own eyes and felt it with his heart.

This is how I felt about visiting Ethiopia this year. I had seen hundreds of images of poverty stricken people. I had heard the statistics and knew how fortunate I was to have been born into the life I have. I gave to charities because I felt I should.

Then I walked through the streets of Ethiopia. I heard the sound of a woman howling in grief, I saw the rows of shops filled with coffins ready to hold bodies, I held the hands of children who thought I was special because I am white. I wandered through a village market and shared a meal in a grass hut. I listened to the stories of local people. I saw poverty with my own eyes and felt it with my own heart. My compassion became real. Nowadays I no longer give because I should, but because my heart longs to.

Perhaps one of the surprising things for me was that, despite the poverty, the not quite 5-star accommodation and the separation from my family, I loved my time in Ethiopia. I felt so alive. It almost felt like fiction coming to life – only there was no fiction about it. I was fascinated by the incredible differences and yet the many similarities. The countryside was beautiful, the people so real and the culture so interesting. I experienced and learnt so much in such a short time, and although my head came back swimming, my heart certainly came back inspired.

Here are a few short points from my experience:

- I am wasting too much time, money and energy on things which really don't matter;
- Despite the overwhelming needs, there are very real and worthwhile things we can do to help;
- I am unbelievably wealthy in comparison to most of the world and I have opportunities most people can't even dream about;
- One of the most worthwhile things I can do with my life is to help those less fortunate;
- The majority of the people I met were happy and generous despite their poverty; I should be more content, value material possessions less and give more freely;
- Visiting a Third World country has generated a passion I could never have experienced from home;
- I can really only do a little, but that is infinitely more than doing nothing.

Can You Help?

Invite us to share

We are passionate about what we are doing and would love the opportunity to speak to your organisation.

Support our Scholarships

Help us to train and educate national people.

Take a Leadership Journey

A trip to a Third World country can be a life changing experience and a great opportunity to see first hand the needs and the possibilities.



Donate

Donations are tax deductible. If there is something which inspires you, you can specify where you would like to see your donation used. Consider a Christmas gift or a regular donation.

Pray

Journey with us as we strive to love our neighbour as ourselves.

Learn more

Have a read of our website to find out some more information or contact us personally - we'd be more than happy to have a chat with you and answer any questions you have.

OUR MISSION

Beyond Subsistence is a non-profit Christian organisation established to specifically provide forestry and agroforestry support to aid organisations operating in third world countries or among people groups living in poverty.

DONATE ONLINE

Donations to Beyond Subsistence are **100% tax deductible** and can be made by direct debit, Paypal or credit card by visiting our website at beyondsubsistence.org.au. Alternatively you can deposit direct to our bank account:

BSB number 083-841
Account number 89-376-7494

Please email us your details to ensure you receive a receipt for tax purposes.

Contact Us:

Write or send cheques to:
Stephanie Lambert
Secretary, Beyond Subsistence
17 Stirling Street, Warragul, Victoria 3820

Web - beyondsubsistence.org.au

To Donate by Cheque - please cut out and send

Name of donor:

Tax deductible receipt - YES or NO (please circle)

If yes, receipt to be made out to:

Mailing address or email address for receipt:
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