

# Guitar Aid



# NEWSLETTER

## AUTUMN 2011

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Hi There!

Good things are happening with Guitar Aid. I feel God is encouraging us to place more emphasis on the person receiving a guitar, than on the instrument itself. We have been on 5 missions since the last newsletter. One of our most recent trips was to Ethiopia & Uganda. What a privilege to see what God is doing with his people in those nations.

### UGANDA



The contact we had been given in Uganda was Bishop Isaac. He's responsible for overseeing 1235 Churches in 13 regions of Uganda. About 4 months ago, he was in the Masindi region. The Church there were asking him, why they didn't have visitors from other countries. Isaac said, "The next time visitors come, they will be with you". Back home, we were praying about where God wanted us to go. My brother John & I both felt Uganda was the place. We contacted our friend Andy David, who sent an

e.mail to Isaac, just days after the promise Isaac had made to the Masindi Church. We all felt the sense of God's hand upon this mission. Isaac organized a 3 day conference. 11 pastors & more than 300 people turned up each day, eager to listen as we shared with them & brought the instruments they so desperately needed. The Church was surrounded by mud huts. No P.A. system, no electricity, open doors & windows, yet amid such simple & humble surroundings, we found a people, full of the Holy Spirit & a passion for Jesus that was infectious.

### ETHIOPIA

Our first experience in Ethiopia was not a good one. We arrived at the airport at 6.00pm, expecting no problems, as in so many countries we visit. The custom officials on duty were determined to make life as difficult as possible for us, by firstly demanding \$300 duty for the guitars, then by sending us in different directions, all to no avail. Eventually 6 hours later we finally entered Ethiopia, with our guitars, having paid just \$90 duty. For sure, Ethiopia is one of the poorest countries we have visited in our 21years of missions.





In spite of the poverty, they keep smiling and giving everything to Jesus. What an incredible experience, traveling for hours to get to our destinations. In most cases, the last 20 minutes of the journey was over fields, past remote villages, to even more remote Churches, where to our surprise, Church happened at whatever time we got there. It was humbling to find that 50+ had assembled at the Church, waiting for our arrival.

The Bishop said to us, how much

the people had sacrificed for their faith in God. Both in Ethiopia & Uganda, they told us we were the first people from England to visit their Churches. Its hard to imagine such remote places, when we live in such a modern culture, with instant communication at our fingertips. There are few places we have been that needed the instruments as much as Ethiopia.

## **EASTERN EUROPE**



Earlier this year I was in **POLAND** with a team from Riverside, Exeter. At a large meeting on the Sunday, I noticed 2 of the band members using Guitar Aid instruments. I spoke to one of them afterwards, he was in his mid twenties and what he said, I will never forget. "When I was a little boy, I remember you bringing guitars to Poland in a Landrover"

I sensed, what he was really saying was, you influenced my life. Sometimes it takes time to see the fruit of what we are doing. I believe only eternity will reveal what it has

meant to so many that have received our instruments. This is the kind of story that has encouraged many to become regular sponsors of Guitar Aid.

Our most recent trip was to **HUNGARY, ROMANIA, SERBIA & CROATIA.**

We gave away 32 guitars on this mission. Each year around 100 guitars are given. Now it's time to order more instruments from our suppliers. Any donation to Guitar Aid would be very much appreciated.

Thank you for making the difference & helping us to raise up worship leaders that will impact their own nations, right across the globe.



May God bless you as we sow together, seeds for the Kingdom.

Dave Sumner.