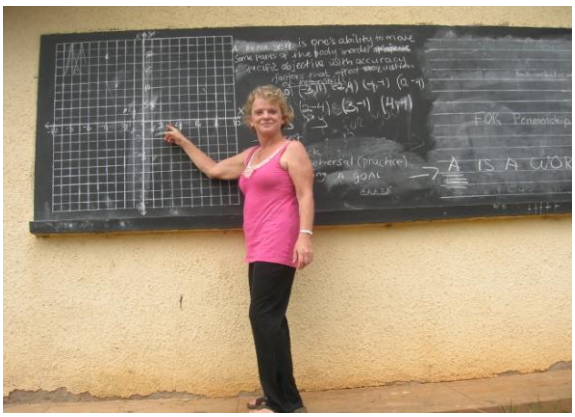
PCV works with Community to Build Bricks and Save Trees

Uganda will very shortly face both a demographic as well as environmental crisis as the intertwined pressures of population growth and deforestation produce detrimental effects in the face of scarcity of resources. Uganda's primary building material, burned clay bricks, consumes tropical hardwood at alarming rates, ever more so in the effort to keep up with the world's 3rd fastest growing population. The Interlocking Stabilized Soil Brick press is one technological solution to this problem. Using a mixture of murram - the Ugandan subsoil - and cement to stabilize the mixture, these presses produce a higher quality, more aesthetically pleasing, more cost effective building material than its competitors.

Recently, Volunteer Jonathan supervised a week long training of masons in the Kalisizo area. His primary project seeks to form a profitable construction business using a team of local masons working throughout the region. The method is very cost-competitive, offering a savings of 20-30% in standard construction and up to 50% in rainwater tank construction over the traditional method, in addition to the immeasurable environmental benefit. The first training was overwhelmingly successful, and interest from the community is very high.

Education PCV Judith helps new teachers with feedback and materials

Definitely some of my best times in Uganda were working with my students. My students at the Primary Teacher's College were all future teachers aged 18-22. The main emphases was to bring hands-on science learning to the campus. During my two years I developed many labs using local materials. For some of my students this was the first time that they had a real chance to enter a lab and go to the different stations and be allowed to touch and work on materials.



Probable the one activity that most of the pupils enjoyed was my supervising them during school practice. Observing student teaching is the one time the Ugandans had me one on one with them. They positively glowed when I came into their classrooms and they introduced the muzungu to their students. During the critique after observing they would be so pleased with the attention and advice. It was extremely difficult to say goodbye following graduation knowing that I would not be seeing these teachers again after being with them daily for two years.