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Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 9:04 AM
To: Bob@ugandamission.net
Subject: Monday, January 25 Uganda Update

I have some free time this afternoon so here comes another update. First good news, from the last update. A friend in the U.S. has raised the \$300 among members of his church for the lady who needs a new prosthetic leg . Our Ugandan staff here will see she gets excellent care at one of the best orthopedic hospitals in Uganda which is located in the Kumi area.

Today we are in Serere (misspelled in last update). I was last here in 1999. The pastor is James Elimu. He remember me and my daughter Dabney and Katie Rowell who were with me then.

Pastor James was in a very serious auto accident a few months ago. When he was taken to the hospital, he was thought dead. As he was being carried by gurney to the morgue, someone notice he was still taking shallow breaths. He was taken back to the emergency room where a member of his church saw him and arranged for immediate help for him. Uganda has government healthcare, but you must buy your own medications and often have to give a doctor a few shillings to get immediate care. James was in a coma for four days. His left hip was replaced at the hospital in Kumi and when that is fully healed, they will either replace or rebuild his left knee.

Our conference here continues until 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday at which time we will begin our seven hour drive back to Lookout Ridge.

Yesterday several of us worshiped at a small Pentecostal Assemblies of God Church (Canadian background) outside of Katakwi. It was a very good service. I personally think American Christians have done a disservice to Ugandan churches by bringing over electronic keyboards and loud public address systems.

Those familiar with keyboards will know they come with a large number of preset rhythms which once selected, will play endlessly. I am tired of that. I have been in locations where the same rhythm play for over an hour. It also seems that the microphone must be at full level in order to sing or preach.

This was not the case yesterday. A very simple setting with only the steady beat of a native drum. You could hear and understand the singing, at least when they sang in English. It was certainly a taste of simple authentic African worship.

The church is also slowly by slowly (Ugandan lingo) building their first permanent building. The interesting thing is they are building it around their existing church which is no more than a dozen poles holding up a grass roof. This is the first time I have seen building around an existing structure.

Bringing the first fruits of your labors for tithes and offerings often involves bring items from the garden. After the service, these items are auctioned and converted into shillings, or divided among needy families.

One young lady in the church is Stella. She is a graduate of Ugandan Christian University and works for a Colorado Springs non-profit, **Children's Hope Chest**. This ministry is working with orphans and impoverished children in the Katakwi area. Stella has an infectious smile.

Here are some photos:



New sanctuary under construction



Existing facility inside the walls of new building



Hard to see but they have beans, seed corn, and eggs as well as shillings in the offering



A fertilized turkey egg sold for 1500 shillings (\$0.45)



Stella and her happy smile



Saw this little boy with an IV port in his hand. No one knew what it was for

