



UGANDA MISSION

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Team Report, Uganda Trip January 27 - February 19

This report has been a long time in coming. But finally we have reports from all the team members and I wanted to share this info. Our team left the US on January 27 and arrived in Uganda on the 28th. Some were there for only two weeks and others for three weeks. Thanks to all of you who helped the team with financial and prayer support. It was such a successful trip that we are already working on a follow-up trip in June/July of 2010.

The members of this team were McKenzie Buckley, Bill Huggins, Mark and Laura Knetzer, Rother & Cylle Howell and Bob Hayes.

I will let the team members speak for themselves:

I cannot express the thanks I give to God and to those who were a part of this team, by the giving of their prayers and support.

There are so many different experiences on this trip, it is hard to tell of everything that was a blessing and impact on my life and our brothers and sisters in the Lord, in Uganda.

The thing that comes mostly to my mind is the way the Lord took the projects we had planned and gave us new ones. One in particular was a blessing to the team. It was the building of school desks for a school where they had very few desks but many students.

God took a need and laid it upon the heart of a team member and it blossomed into a ministry for all to enjoy in. This is what is hard to explain through only pictures and ones presence not being there to see the impact and outpouring of thanks and love for something that is so easy for us to obtain and have, when these children don't even have adequate school supplies or facilities to go with desks to sit and write upon.

God directing our plans and intentions on this trip was a blessing in its self. What we have planned, might not always be what the Lord has planned. This just helps confirm in my heart, I want His plan to be my plan.

Thank you, Mark

I would have to say the following as my response to the trip. This was my second trip to Uganda, and was a very emotionally trying trip as I saw more pain and suffering than my earlier trip. Seeing a 1 year old with measles, malaria, and an ear infection all at the same time. Our team pitched in together to pay for the clinic visit and medication. It was also

difficult to be there when one of the young ladies at the maternity home, who was due any time, suddenly quit feeling the baby move. It had died and it took almost 3 days in a very poor hospital for her to give birth to her dead little baby girl. Then our trip to the village of the child headed family, where we took supplies to them...that was very difficult as we saw the 7 children with absolutely nothing, and the graves of their parents behind the hut.

I could list more of the same, but just want to say that God showed me things I needed to see, not what I necessarily would want to see. All of them were used to remind me of His grace in my life, and to help me see beyond myself to the needs of others. A lesson I continually need. I am thankful for this difficult trip and what God is doing in my life as a result.

Thanks, Laura

Building the desks for the schools had an immediate personal payback in the gratitude that was so generously displayed by not only the teachers but the glee seen in the eyes and actions of the children. Working with wood is always gratifying to me, but in this case it was much more so in that the need was so great and we were able to fulfill those needs with so little effort. I had an extremely rewarding trip with you. I found that my greatest rewards came from the efforts that were going on in the communities, especially where the children were concerned. I feel that I came away with much more than I was able to give. I am grateful to those who aided me in defraying the cost of my trip and hope that I was able to represent them in my small efforts.

Thanks for the opportunity. Bill

"Follow me." "Come and you will see." These words of Jesus as recorded in John's gospel are the words the Holy Spirit used to move in my heart and lead me to Uganda with Roth and the others. I had no idea what I would be doing on this trip which disturbed me a bit at first. But as always, Christ was faithfully waiting for me there ready to move in my heart and draw me closer to His. Every day that I spent in Uganda provided a new adventure with Jesus but if I had to pick the most memorable experience it would be the time I spent at Morningstar School, a ministry of Mutungo Presbyterian Church. On the first day of the new school year, I was able to spend the entire day with the 37 students that showed up for school on that day (that number had doubled by day 2!). We sang the ABCs with the baby class, worked

on addition with the lower primaries, then fractions and finally a little algebra with the upper levels. As that first school day ended with the rooster crowing around 5:15, I found myself feeling both exhausted and invigorated at the same time! This day had been unlike anything I had ever experienced in my 20 years of teaching!

I followed Jesus to Uganda - I came and I saw. Morningstar School has next to nothing in a facility, supplies, or food but is blessed with an abundance of children who are simply eager to learn. The hunger that I know they must feel in their bellies (lunch on this day was a piece of sugar cane for each child) was easily surpassed by their hunger for knowledge. I have returned home with an incredible love for these children and an overwhelming desire to help equip the teachers of Morningstar School. I am not at all certain as to what Jesus would now have me do with these newfound desires of my heart. So, as I wait upon the Lord for His leading and direction, my simple prayer is that God the Father will continue to make me more like HIM and less like myself and that by the power of His Holy Spirit, I will love Jesus well through the feeding and tending of His sheep in this one school in Uganda. I will always be extremely thankful for all who helped to make this incredible adventure with Jesus a reality!

They say the third time is a charm. This was my third trip to Uganda. I was blessed to share part of the trip and experience with Cylle. In the past, the trips have been about working at Dr. K's. house on a particular project. This trip was different in that we were to work on tasks in places directly for the Ugandans. My mind set was bricks and mortar, get it done. God showed me HIS way. HE does not need me to build in Uganda. The Ugandan people are more talented in their crafts than I will ever be. God needed to show me patience and humility. He also showed me how to have relationships with the people I worked alongside three years ago. Our last day was the eye opener. People I had met and re-met were coming by to say good-bye. I felt a true bond had been established. Since being home I have received e-mail from some of them.

I want to thank all of you that supported this team through prayer and financial support. I can highly recommend going to anyone able. Able means physical. God will provide the means. GOD will do great things in YOU.

Roth

Pastor Hayes,

First, I would like to apologize for not sending this letter to you sooner. Processing the experiences in Uganda has been challenging. It has been difficult to decide on a proper "Thank You!" Nothing seems quite appropriate, but I will do my best...

I left the United States on January 27, 2009, to take a trip to Uganda, East Africa. Unlike some of our team, I had no apprehension about the trip itself. I love travel and all that

comes with it, and I knew I was in more than capable hands. I did not know what I would find in Uganda, but I was ready to find out.

What I found were the most beautiful and welcoming people I have ever known in my young life. I never felt ill at ease amongst the Ugandans. If you have any uncertainty, they reassure you with the words, "You Are Welcome." I came in hopes of giving something of myself, being of benefit in some way, but I can say with some sorrow and gratitude that the people were the ones who gave to me.

I would like to take the time to thank the individual people, who burned in my mind such vivid pictures of love and charity. Dr. K, I would like to thank you for housing the entire team during our stay and for essentially making the trip a possibility. I am glad that I had the opportunity to meet you. Fred, Godfrey, and Doris, I would like to thank you for keeping us too full for our own good. I did not expect to come to Africa and gain weight! Rashid and Joy, I would like to thank you for taking me into your home, and for taking such good care of the entire team, during our stay. I do believe your upstairs bedroom has the most beautiful view in all of Uganda! Uncle Sam, I would like to thank you for allowing us to spend some time in your school, and I hope to spend more time there on my next trip. Those children are the hope for the future, and the future is looking bright! Pastor Sam, I would like to thank you for making me so welcome at your church and Morningstar School. My time spent there is the most treasured in my heart. Henry, I would like to thank you for welcoming us into your home for fellowship and swallowship! The meal and time with your family made for the perfect sendoff, and I thank you for that. To anyone that I forgot to thank specifically, know that I do thank you and love you, and my memory is poor!

Milestones mark our lives on this earth. Ones typical in the U.S. are things like baby's first steps, first words, graduation from high school, graduation from college, and so on. All of those go away in my mind. I can safely say that my two weeks spent in Uganda mark the major milestone in my life, thus far. I will never be the same again; I am not the same person who boarded a plane in Panama City on January 27. I cannot forget the faces, the hearts, or the love of the people that I saw in this place. I do not know when I will return, but I know, God willing, I will return.

THANK YOU!! Mackenzie Buckley

Thanks for your continue interest and support of missions in Uganda. Lord willing, I will make my next trip on May 7 to help Dr. Krabbendam who has a group of 17 college students coming over and has asked me to help him manage the group.

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