



Hayes Uganda Ministry

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Hayes Uganda Update:

It has been several months since I sent out any type Uganda update. This does not mean the ministry there has stopped, but circumstances have changed and what follows is my end of the year update. It is much longer than usual, and I know most folks don't read long email updates, but I ask you to please indulge me this time.

- **Amazon Smile:** If you plan to shop online with Amazon for Christmas gifts, please remember to use the ACTI Amazon Smile link as Amazon will then donate a small percent of your purchase price to ACTI. Just go to Amazon Smile and search for Africa Christian Training Institute. Since this program began, ACTI has received over \$800 from it
- **Christmas Baskets:** Again this year, we are working with pastors in Uganda to provide food baskets for very poor village families to be distributed week of December 21
- **Next Uganda Trip:** Nothing yet definitive, but my son-in-law, Fred Schreiber and I, are looking toward a possible trip in April or May
- **Aluminum Cans:** If you live in Bay County, save your aluminum cans for ACTI. Thus far ACTI has received over \$1,000 from recycling these cans. Either drop them by my house or let me know and I can pick them up
- **Building Fund Challenge:** I have a unique opportunity to expand the ongoing school building program (see history below) by a donor who has issued a dollar for dollar gift match up to \$10,000. For this and all contributions, clearly indicate the purpose. Donating portals below

On my fourth trip to Uganda, our team was scheduled to go back to Fort Portal to continue some work the previous team had begun with Sam Kasule. However, just three weeks before our arrival, rebels from Rwanda invaded Western Uganda, destroyed buildings and killed a lot of Ugandans. Our team had to move to a different venue which turned out well. However, this started me thinking about effective ministry with the prospect that my next trip might be my last trip. By God's grace, I have made over fifty more trips since then. While I enjoy returning to the same ministry venues again and again, as it fosters accountability, I have tried to never organize anything that depends on me in order to move forward.

This understanding of ministry has been especially valuable in the last year. With Betsy's cancer and the Covid-19 quarantine (even more strict in Uganda). It has been seventeen months since I have been in Uganda. My long absence from Uganda has not meant my ministry there has ceased. Many of you will remember back in March when all the covid issues began, I made an appeal for funds to help supply food for desperate families. In very rural areas, folks grow a lot of their own food, but even they must buy some items. Many other families must buy much of what they eat. Your response to that appeal was far greater than I ever dreamed. As the lock down has continued, I have been able to continue helping many families, especially teachers at schools with no students, so no income and no gardens to grow items.

For the last eight years I have been working with five villages on a regular basis. Dr. Kefa Sempangi left his position in the Ugandan Parliament with a vision to plant ten churches in ten rural villages in ten years. I have focused my efforts on five of these. A team goes to a village and sets up an open air crusade and began to gather a group of locals for a Bible study and eventually organize a church. As the group responds, we have also helped with starting a school, a medical clinic and a deep well. We do not just go in and do all these things, but first find the interest and personnel for these among the folks. Four have elementary schools, only one has a medical clinic as there was already a qualified medical provider there. At this time one village only has a church. We help train the folks in the churches to run these ministries. In constructing church and school buildings, the local folks have helped make the bricks and with other aspects of construction. A very early convert is an engineer (builder) and he has been wonderful in helping with the buildings. (On a side note, he wanted to take part in the Third Millennium theological curriculum and in only eleven months has completed the first two years of study).

The \$10,000 building fund challenge will help provide school buildings that will help educate poor and orphaned children in these remote villages for decades to come. Below are photos of two buildings which have been worked on during the covid-19 quarantine. The first two show different stages of a building that was begun in August of 2018 and has now reached the windows and doors stage. The second photos are of a school building started in 2017, but due to lack of funds is only now being finished. All that is needed is a coat of paint inside and out and is then ready to use. We will then be ready to start on the three more buildings in our long range plan.



New building next to existing classroom block that has been in use for 10 years



Current stage, needs windows and doors and plaster and painting



Classroom block in December of 2019



Building now finished except for painting