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Jambo Rafiki

(Hello Friend)

Putting Christ into the Crisis of Uganda

Fall, 2013

Shalom my dear friends and co-servants in Christ!! God is faithful to ChristAid always, but this year He has blown our small minds with nothing short of MIRACLES and BLESSINGS happening all around us!! Take a good look in this issue at what the Lord has done through your obedience and sacrifice. Yours for His Glory, David Mporampora

You will recall from our spring newsletter, that a 40 foot container was steaming its way across the ocean with X-ray equipment, mammogram machine, donated baby cribs, the long anticipated Block Press machine and much more. After the long voyage there was an endless battle with corrupt customs agents, a trucking strike in Kenya and the big challenge of getting the profoundly HEAVY block press off the container and again off the delivery truck in Kucina . (Remember we had only strong arms, thick ropes (and God's protection) to control its perilous slide from the truckbed to solid ground!)



Donated equipment by Vail Valley Medical Center and Colorado Mesa University put into use.



Many of these baby cribs were distributed to various medical centers in the community.



Also thanks to Telluride Family Practice for equipment donated for local hospitals.

Medical equipment was shared with Elshadai Clinic, Ageteraine Health Center, and Christ Medical Center. Some equipment was also saved for a future ChristAid medical clinic currently under consideration.



Elshadai Clinic receives exam tables and kids beds - Dr. Festo Magezi Is a ChristAid Graduate who donates his time and knowledge.



Unloading the Block Press "by hand" with help from ChristAid volunteers.



The miracle warehouse God provided for our use until the medical supplies reach their destinations.

Mission Team I - Led by Pastor Bruce Van Dusseldorp

Team I left Denver for Uganda on June 10, 2013 and returned on June 29th. The team was composed of five individuals, three from Denver and two from Iowa. We were blessed with good flights, great weather, accomplishing all our projects, and new or renewed relationships with the wonderful people of Uganda.

Prior to our trip, \$30,000 had been raised for a block press and it had been shipped to Fort Portal. The block press, made by Vermeer Manufacturing of Pella, Iowa, makes bricks from dirt and a small amount of cement. The goal was to train Ugandans to operate the block press in order to make bricks for building. Wayne Van Mersbergen, who does training at Vermeer Manufacturing and is an expert on the block press, was on the trip to do the training.

Presently, the majority of homes in Kicuna are made of sticks and clay and deteriorate rapidly. Homes built of bricks made by the block press are far superior to either those made of just sticks and clay or those made of the dried clay bricks made locally.



New trainees working with the block press - ChristAid Academy in the background.

A great deal of time was needed to evaluate the clay, sand and cement mixture needed to make the best and least expensive block. In fact, that testing is continuing



Wayne Van Mersbergen training Peter to master the Block Press controls.

yet today. Nonetheless, enough bricks (about 2500) were made to build the first house. (More information about that is available in the report from Team 2) More importantly, two Ugandans were

trained to operate the block press and to oversee the entire brick-making process. The process is time and labor intensive, requiring hand mixing clay, sand, cement and water before the mixture is put into the block press hopper. A video of the process may be seen on the Christ Aid website (christaidintl.org.) Because of the training done, the making of bricks for additional housing is continuing. The block press serves three very important purposes: 1) it makes solid bricks for building, 2) it provides an opportunity for employment for about 12 people, and 3) it provides the possibility of creating an income for Christ Aid Uganda as the bricks are sold.



Stacks of blocks ready for Grandma Ester's house!

A second and very important part of the trip was to do a health check for each of the 350+ children at the Christ Aid Academy. For nearly all of the children, this was the first health check they had experienced. Marilyn Van Mersbergen, a nurse from Iowa, and Maggie Van Dusseldorp met with each of the children to begin a health record for them. Their height and weight was recorded along with information about their general health. Where possible, medications were dispensed and other first aid was given. A month's supply of vitamins were provided for all the children to aid their health. Gratefully, most of the children were found to be in good health. Exceptions were brought to the attention of the Christ Aid Academy staff.



Marilyn Van Mersbergen checking a student's heart.

Pastor Bruce Van Dusseldorp also led a two-day conference for pastors and church leaders. Focused on the character of the Christian leader and based on 1st Timothy Verse 6, the conference was well attended and well received.

A great deal of thanks goes to Barry Charelle from Denver whose hard work with the block press and constant positive interaction with the workers and the children at the Christ Aid Academy was a testimony to the love of Christ. Barry also left Uganda with a heart to continue his impact by working on a solar power system and a sewer system for the school. You may be hearing more about that in the future.

All of the projects, training on the block press, the health clinic and the leadership conference, were accomplished successfully; but perhaps the most



Pastor Bruce speaking at the Leadership Conference.



Maggie Van Dusseldorp and Barry blowing bubbles with the ChristAid students.

important part of the trip was the building of relationships. There were numerous opportunities to demonstrate the love of Christ through being in relationship with people.



The team attended a number of events including a dinner at the home of a sponsored child, dinner at a Grandma's home, a birthday party and dinner for Resty (the Christ Aid Administrator), and a Christ Aid Alumni dinner. Relationships were also built throughout each day as the team interacted with numerous individuals.

Maggie encouraging leaders to rededicate their lives at the conference.



Grandma Esther's old house -is now being replaced by a block house.

ChristAid Academy kids who lined the path from the road to the school singing their greetings. This team included Terry and Darcy Oman, John Shea, his son, Steven Shea and friend, Betty Gurk. They arrived in the midst of total excitement over what Team 1 had begun.

ChristAid now has a vibrant and powerful ministry called "Shelters in the Storm". It started with Terry and Darcy Oman (two of our Board members) who have supported kids and a grandma over the years but had never come to

Mission Team 2 - Led by Terry Oman

Team 2 arrived in the village of Kucina on June 24th, and were welcomed by the smiling faces of the

Uganda to visit them. When they came in January of 2012, they were broken hearted to see the living conditions of the Grandma they support and set out to do something about it. This is where Pastor Bruce's vision of bringing a block press to Kucina met up with the Oman's desire to build homes for Grandmas. Isn't it amazing to watch God bring people and resources together in His perfect timing to accomplish His will????





It was the goal of Team 2 to complete a house for Grandma Ester in three weeks using the blocks made by Team 1!! This was a giant challenge but nothing

is too great when God is in charge!! The first obstacle to be encountered was in the digging of the foundation. A very long time ago, a volcano left a thick layer of ash under the Ugandan soil which had to be removed before a solid foundation could be poured. In the case of Grandma Ester's property, the layer was several feet thick. Bearing in mind, that all work done there is done manually (with a hoe or shovel) this amounts to a lot of hard work and time for a foundation approximately 20' by 30'.



Getting water to the building site for the mixing of concrete was "interesting". The orphan kids who live with Grandma Ester were excited to share in the work of building and began to carry water from the nearest well which was about a 1/4 mile down the road and then down in a deep valley. They brought water in containers strapped to bicycles or just carried water in containers on their heads according to their ability and strength.



Besides building the house, Terry's goals were to train a reputable local builder in the art of building with the new



large blocks (that fit together like leggos with cement and rebar in them) and to identify someone to be our ChristAid project manager for each future house to be built. He was well pleased with both persons who emerged as leaders in each area. Our very own ChristAid graduate, Samuel Musana, is our ChristAid representative on future job sites. He is a long time ChristAid volunteer, helping with the Grandmas for Jesus program for a number of years.

There were a number of emotional moments along the way in the building of the house, but one of the most memorable was the day Terry and Grandma Ester together raised the first block over the rebar and placed it on the foundation. (Even though Grandma Ester only speaks Torro (a form of Swahilli), there was no doubt about the excitement in her voice as she prayed and celebrated the progress on the house.)

On the VERY DAY that Team 2 left Kucina to travel home, the grand opening of Grandma Esters house was held. (The grand opening celebration of Grandmas house was such a news worthy event, that local media came from Kampala (four hours away) to cover it. The grandchildren who live with Grandma Ester performed a dance, there were speeches and a formal ribbon cutting. The last activity was stamping the concrete near the front door of the house with a rubber stamp that imprinted the words "ChristAid – God's Love in Action #1".

This block house will be home to Grandma Ester and 13 of her orphaned grandchildren and other abandoned children to whom she has opened her home across the years.

ChristAid house #2 is underway with the blocks already made and the foundation preparation underway.



1st ANNUAL CHRISTAID ALUMNI BANQUET JUNE 2013

Like I have always said, "What good are our efforts if there is no evidence of progress to show for them?" So we decided to host our "1st Annual Alumni Banquet" for kids who have graduated from various Universities and Vocational schools. Some graduates came from as far as 250 miles away, and boy did we have a ball!! These kids who were once poor orphaned and homeless kids are now grown up to be productive human beings, working or looking for jobs. We laughed, we cried, we ate and danced. We went totally nuts with so much joy and rejoicing.

We now have a powerful alumni association with a vision statement that is short and to the point. **WE ARE BLESSED TO BLESS!!** They have started to sponsor kids of their own. Yes, you read it right!! Together, they are sponsoring more children. The alumni did most of the work preparing for the banquet, but would like to thank Kent Stannard and ChristAid USA for their assistance.



Once young sponsored kids, now grown men at the first annual Alumni Banquet



Next day after the banquet, the alumni went to do some work at the grandma house construction site.



Once little girls, now young women in the work force. Nice work ladies!

Grandmas Piggery Project

This summer we enjoyed a great harvest from an income generating project we started a couple of years ago. The Piggery Project was originally funded by our beloved Brad Foos, past President of the ChristAid Board. (Brad gave us four years of very powerful and Godly leadership.) His legacy marches on, as many piglets were given over to the Grandmas to go and start small income generating piggery projects of their own. It was pandemonium as Team I member, Barry Charelle, officially handed over one pig after another to the grateful grandmas. The grandmas were VERY joyful and the pigs were VERY annoyed!! What a blessing!!



Grandmas getting their own pigs from the multiplying piggery project- good job catching them Barry!

Yo!!! Wuuussuup!!



Newly arrived oinklets who will someday belong to a needy grandma.



Another Granny getting her promised pig. She can raise it to sell or to feed her family.

ChristAid P7 Kids Shine

Our 7th grade kids were recently ranked #1 in the whole COUNTY, competing against kids from 60 schools and



Our first graduation seventh grade class.



Handsome and beautiful, Jesus-centered and intelligent kids!

obtaining the highest first and second division scores in the county wide exams!! They beat over 5,000 kids!! Pray for them as they sit for the most intimidating and nerve racking national 7th Grade "leaving exams." It is like qualifying for the Olympics for them!! This is the exam that is used nationally to rate the performance of a school and the determination

of its accreditation by the government. As you look into the eyes of these 7th graders, please start praying for

them now and through the first week in November when the exams take place. Pray that God will make His work shine through them, and make a bright place for them in the future of this country.



Thank you, our dear sponsors! We love you!

New Medical Clinic for the School

We have recently constructed a small school clinic building next to the ChristAid school. Parents came in their work clothes with shovels and wheel barrows to dig the foundation and people from the community donated used bricks and iron roof sheeting. Now we are in need of about \$2500 to finish and furnish it so that it can hold all the medications that the teams brought over for the kids on the missions trips. The building needs a floor, stucco

for the walls, paint for the roof to match the school building, windows and shelving, etc.

I told the volunteers that when they step out and work (stirring up the spirit of volunteerism which is

seriously lacking here) that "little" becomes "much" in the Master's hand.

We are hoping that their efforts will touch the hearts of our big hearted American family of sponsors to help us complete the clinic rather than sitting on our hands and waiting for something to happen.



West side of the clinic. Donated used iron sheets for the roof.

Please pray that a contagious joy in helping others will develop in the hearts of the people in this village for other projects as well.

Brand New Graduates

Several of our kids graduated from some top notch universities and about 10 more are all done with College, done with all their internships and waiting to graduate in October this year. This is evidence folks!! That's

what I am talking about.



(Angelica) The Dean Family from Colorado stood in the gap for me.



(Diana) The Roth's family (Colorado) changed my life.



Dorcas (right) The word "Thanks" will never be enough for the work done by my sponsors the Teskes (Colorado).

"GRANDMAS FOR JESUS" PARTY

During the time both mission teams were in Uganda, we held a gathering to honor the 110 "Grandmas for Jesus" who are partnering with God to care for large numbers of their grandchildren and other orphans. Thank you to the "Crocs" company who donated 110 pairs of Crocs for us to take to these hard working little ladies. They were thrilled to have new shoes-especially ones so comfortable and durable. Also, a big thank you to the many of the parents who have children at Little People's Landing Day Care Centers who donated funds for care packages for each Grandma. In these packages we were able to include sewing kits with scissors, reading glasses, soaps, toothbrushes and toothpaste, washcloths, pain medications, hand-made pot holders and two pairs of underclothing.



Five of the grandmas stylin' in their new Crocs

Darcy and Betty also visited the homes of about 25 Grandmas who were physically unable to attend the party. They delivered the gifts in person and also looked at the condition of homes which may be future candidates for new ChristAid houses in the near future.



AMERICA, THE BEAUTIFUL PRESENTATION

Betty Gurk and Darcy Oman spent an afternoon speaking to each class at the ChristAid Academy to give the children a glimpse of life in America. They showed the beautiful United States flag and explained its symbolism, as well as explaining world maps and maps of the "states" which were then donated to the school. The children were attentive and interested in the pictures of farming and ranching in the state of Colorado as well as pictures of

"Rockies" games and the Denver skyline. Although the children are all learning English at the school, the Head Master of the school (Frank-a past ChristAid graduate himself) translated every word Darcy and Betty said so the kids would not miss a thing! The enthusiasm and care for the kids which he and all the teaching staff displayed was heartwarming. Truly great things are happening in that school.



Ahimbisibwe Dennis

Please make me a member of your family.

THE MOST CRUCIAL AND URGENT NEED IN OUR WAY... PLEASE PRAY!!

Several kids have been dropped by some of our most loving and generous sponsors because of unexpected financial hardship. Ending sponsorship was never an easy choice for them because of their deep bond with their kids plus all the sacrifices they have made over the years. Our hearts go out to them and our fervent prayers from them are undeterred. We are looking for some loving sponsors for these kids whose hopes and aspirations have been raised so high. We do not want to tell them that this is the end of the road. At ChristAid, relationship is everything. Is it possible that you could open your heart and family for one more desperately needy kid? If the Lord lays it on your heart to give a cup of water to the least one of these, please shoot me a short email and I will send you the full profile of that child.



*Olive Kabagenyi
I pray that God will put it on your heart to help me.*

IN CONCLUSION:

There is no way we could have done this work without the power of your prayers and your sacrificial life. You have been there through the thick and thin of our struggles and together we have seen Jesus break all odds and banish every limitation. Together we have fought big battles and together we have triumphed. My friend, your involvement is not a coincidence in this outreach. Indeed we cannot thank God well enough for you. You mean the world to all the staff, grandmas, kids and ChristAid board in Uganda, and USA. At anytime when you get discouraged, disappointed or a little weary, remember we are praying for you because you are part of this team until Jesus comes.

More children in need of a sponsor!



Phoebe Aluka,
I would love to be your kid.



Edwin Nyakana,
You are welcome into my life

In His service;
David Mporampora
Country Director, Uganda
011-256-788-686960
www.christaidintl.org

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE SMILING FACE OF YOUR AHADI KID OR GRANDMA??? SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12th, 2013

This year's skype session to talk with kids and grandmas in Uganda will be held Saturday, October 12th in the gym at Christ Community Church. (8085 East Hampden Ave, Denver, 80231). The session will be held from **7:00-9:00 am** (here), which is late afternoon in Uganda. There will be (20) six minute slots

available for people at this end to talk (first come, first served). David Mporampora will be our on-screen interpreter, which ensures that it will be a fun time for all!!

If you would like to sign up for a time slot, please call Kent Stannard, Programs Manager at ChristAid by SEPTEMBER 30TH, so that he can add you to the list at the time which works best for you. Kent can be reached at 303-463-2932 during business hours. A free continental breakfast will be served throughout the morning and the ChristAid Board members will be present to answer any questions you may have about any of the exciting things happening in ChristAid!!

Your Ahadi child or grandma will be thrilled to learn you would like to meet them on screen!! Please consider "skype-ing" with your African family member.



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**Help ChristAid reduce
expenses. Send us
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