



# Spring Trip Report

## 2013

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### EQUIP Leadership Training Graduations!

Our April 2013 trip to Uganda was filled with joy and celebration! Three different venues finished the leadership training courses and we were able to graduate almost 300 students. In Uganda graduation is held in

and hood. In Masaka we invited Pastor Peter Kasirivu, founder and CEO of Africa Renewal Ministries and Africa Renewal University, to travel from Kampala to be our guest of honor and speak to the graduates. SMPI provided the cakes for the festivities. We enjoyed hearing the graduates give testimony to the difference EQUIP has made in their lives. All in all it was a very moving time. We fought to hold back the tears. How very proud we are of these men and women who took the time to invest in their own development. I can tell you, after three years of teaching and training, to see the students so passionate and grateful for what has happened in their lives, makes it all worth while.



Handing out the SMPI certificates to the EQUIP graduates in Masaka



Graduation in Entebbe. Tents provide shade from the sun and add to the pomp and circumstance

very high esteem. They make grand plans for the ceremony and invite many different dignitaries to come as guests of honor. In Entebbe one of the local governmental

leaders was the guest of honor. In Lira it was the mayor of the city who came, dressed in his full graduation gown



Graduation cakes are a highlight of any graduation celebration



Graduation in Lira. Complete with gowns to celebrate the occasion.

## The Farm Produces!

The new harvest had been already collected before we arrived this time. The good news—there was still some



The crop matures—ready for harvesting

flour to make Posho from the previous harvest last October. That is a milestone! The farm is now producing enough corn to

feed all 600 children and the farm workers their daily staple food. Of course we want to grow other crops to supplement the Posho—beans, cabbage, watermelon. Maybe even some tomatoes although they are quite labor intensive. The current harvest will be available to sell to the public for profit. We are excited! That is the next step for the farm.



Clearing four more acres

The goal is to generate enough income from the crops to be able pay the operating costs of the farm. If that can be accomplished we will have achieved the goal of self sufficiency. The school will forever be able feed the school children their noon meal. How much is that

worth over the next 10, 20 or even 50 years. The school teachers and



Maize (corn) being transported to be milled

administrators report that the children are excelling in their studies in the national exams. The see a direct link



to having food in their bodies so they can learn and study well. That's the type of report that mere words cannot do justice. Wow! Amazing! Our effort and sacrifice are yielding results that are so rewarding.

Our forth crop in two years begins to grow

## The Needs

SMPI is forging ahead, expanding its operations in Uganda and now into Rwanda. Thanks to the supporters and partners of the ministry we have initiated the process of becoming a Non Governmental Organization in Uganda.

This status will allow us to continue expanding with official government status. We have hired an in-country coordinator for the EQUIP training classes. He will oversee all leadership training seminars. That will allow us to offer the courses in multiple places with out the need for Jennifer or me to be present. In other words, we are able to multiply the ministry all because you have invested in the work. Thank you!



New friends in Rwanda: Fidele (TR), Nathan (BL) and our friend Benon (BR), leaders spearheading the EQUIP Training.

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