



November Trip Report

2017

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Keeping the Vision on Track!

The trip to East Africa went really well with the slightly unfortunate situation that our luggage decided to spend an extra day in Amsterdam. We were reunited 24 hours after we arrived. Lessons learned, pack an extra set of clothes in your carry on luggage. :-)



We always enjoy our time in Rwanda teaching the leadership classes at the Africa College of Theology. This class marked the completion of the course for several students while others are right in the middle of the six booklets. We were able to graduate several students. Here is a picture with 19 of them. Others were already gone when we posed for this shot. The Africa Col-

They Arrived!

lege of Theology is a ministry of Africa New Life church. We appreciate Pastor Charles Mugisha for giving the students the opportunity to study leadership principles..

From Kigali,

Rwanda we journey to Kabale, Uganda. The views along this drive are pretty amazing. Rwanda is know as the land of a thousand hills. And the countryside is all terraced for



Graduating students in Rwanda

farming. All along the way you see local residents carrying things on their heads and loitering half on and half off the highway. It is quite a sight! Our next leadership training is with Pastor Johnson Bakashaba and other ministerial leaders in Kabale. It is always wonderful to hear their testimonies of the difference studying leadership has made in their lives and ministries. While in Kabale we had the privilege of speaking to the students of Ebenezer Christian School. What a joy to see these children passionately singing and dancing in their chapel time. Jesus knows everyone of them by name!



Ebenezer School—Kabale

From Kabale we begin the long trip to Kampala. We are grateful for cities along the way where we have had previous training classes. We were able to visit with some very good friends. Pastor



Pastor Evary in Mbarara

Evary in Itara is the man who arranges for people in his area to make the baskets for us. Pastor Willie Tumwine is pastor at Holy Spirit Fire church in Mbarara. One of his associates is Pastor Benon, our long time friend and student of our leadership classes. And then we visited with Pastor Sam Mukabi in Masaka. Another great friend and amazing teacher of the leadership materials. God has used him mightily and given him great opportunities to continue training groups of people all over the nation of Uganda.



Pastor Willie Tumwine



This trip we had a special treat. We were able to visit with our sponsored girl Ruth for a few hours. We met Ruth when she was in P3 and now she has reached S4. So amazing to see her grow up.

Treasured Kids Primary School is the school in which our child sponsorship program operates. Currently we have 152 children and 14 teachers sponsored. TKPS is located in one of the slums of Kampala (Kosovo) and because it is located in the bottom of a valley it floods every time it rains. Consequently the school compound is very muddy. The team of ten people who came with us in April 2017 funded several upgrades to the school yard. They paid for paver stones to be put down between the two school buildings which gave the children a place to play that wasn't muddy. While we were there this time, thanks to generous friends, we were able to fix broken windows (44), transform a room into a computer lab and arrange for 3 days of teacher training this coming January.



The farm is a work in progress. The new irrigation system is working well though they weren't using it while we were there because it was the rainy season. We have some challenges though. The well has broken down again. This will be the fourth time it has needed to be fixed. One of our goals is to try to understand why it is breaking so consistently. We may have to make an adjustment to the delivery system to see if we can avoid these mechanical failures.

The passion fruit has had a set back as well. A worm has destroyed the second harvest. By a miracle of God

we came in contact with some experts in farming passion fruit. They visited the farm, identified the problem and helped us treat the plants. When we visited the farm they were regenerating so we are thankful we did not have to start over and plant new plants. Hopefully they will be ready to produce again in six to eight months.

On a more positive note, the ginger is ready to harvest and we will use it to increase the size of the ginger garden. We now have four acres of matoke planted—approximately 1600 trees. Matoke is the local banana that is such a staple in their diet. There are beans ready to harvest. Sweet potatoes and corn are also growing well. We are potentially going to add coffee plants in between the matoke trees, vegetables in the valley and double the size of the passion fruit plantation once we get it growing well again.

We had another special blessing this trip. Pastor Luke Eicher travelled to Uganda to be with us for the last 8 days. Luke is the man whom God called to be the lead pastor at our church in Sturgis. He had been to Uganda once before with a youth team but now was able to visit as part of SMPI's work. Luke had the joy of meeting and visiting with the young man he and his wife



Moses and Pastor Luke

Amanda have been sponsoring for 7 years. It's hard to describe the emotions of finally getting to meet the child you have invested into for so long. Moses was equally excited to meet his sponsor. It just serves to

underscore once again how valuable a sponsorship is to the children. Moses is now in Secondary school. He and his three brothers live on their own trying to make ends meet and do their studies at the same time. We hope to help them start a business so they can support themselves in the near future.



A typical Chapati stand. The type of business Moses and his brothers hope to operate.

As always, thank you for your continued support. We consider it a joy and privilege to be your representatives in East Africa

Love and Blessings!

Ross & Jennifer