

Jambo Rafiki/Hello Friend

The Newsletter of ChristAid

Volume 1, Issue 1 February 2008

The American Experience

The American Experience is a unique program filled with blessings for everyone involved. It is so incredible to observe the ripple effect that happens with each journey. What the experience does in the lives of the children blessed to come to America is almost beyond words. While visiting Uganda in October 2007, we spent time with the children from the first group that visited in May 2006. It was encouraging to hear from their teachers, guardians and pastors how they have grown and shared about all they learned and saw on their visit. It warms your heart to hear how their hopes are glowing and ideas overflowing about the future.

The second group has recently returned to Uganda after spending the holidays filled with love and their American families. They



experienced the cold weather and snow, Christmas trees, lights, the Denver Aquarium, the museum, zoo lights, bowling and many other American traditions. It was such a joy to watch them encountering new experiences like how a washing machine works or a dishwasher, how there is a toilet that flushes on an airplane, shopping in a Super Target or Wal-Mart, let's not leave out all the choices at Country Buffet just to

mention a few.

These beautiful children and adults that come to visit touch our hearts with a wide eyed and mystified look at our everyday world. We touch their hearts with our unconditional love and acceptance. They go home overflowing with love, encouragement, and filled with stories, lessons learned and dreams of their future to share with friends and family. Acting as beacons of hope filled with the light of Jesus' love they shine bright in the villages of Uganda.



Did You Know?

Uganda has been called "The Pearl of Africa". Uganda offers exceptional diversity combining some of the best features that Africa has to offer. It is a country blessed with contrasting physical features ranging from extensive plains with undulating hills, to snow-capped mountains, waterfalls, meandering rivers and spectacular flora and fauna. Uganda is the source of the Nile River and Africa's largest body of fresh water, Lake Victoria. Its great beauty led Winston Churchill to refer to it as the "Pearl of Africa". Most Americans are familiar with Uganda, as it is the home to the Silver Back Gorillas in Banded National Park. In fact, Uganda considers its environment as one of its most important resources.

Grandmas for Jesus

The grandmas in Uganda are treasured jewels!!!! These women are unbelievably determined, filled with a purpose and given strength by God to take on all that they do in what should be the sunset years of their lives. It is astonishing how they do so much, with so little, for so many.

The community spirit of the grandmas is inspiring. They have weekly Bible study, group meetings and a community garden so those who do not have land can grow their vegetables. I wish all of you could experience being present on "payday", they all come together rejoicing in song, dance, reading from the Bible and giving thanks to God for His provision. One of the things they have started is on payday celebration they all give back a few shillings and have a drawing and 2 grandmas receive a bonus blessing. They don't need electricity, the glow of Jesus' love is shining through them. You can feel the presence of the Holy Spirit. Thank you for loving them and their families.

Mosquito Nets Save Lives

Malaria is a silent killer carried by mosquito's who are out in abundant forces due to the heavy rainy season Uganda experienced this year. When the October team was there we were blessed with some donations for nets. I am happy to report 265 nets were purchased and distributed.

Thank you for your support.



Ann Dean, an October Team member, hands out mosquito nets to some local school kids

A BIG Thank You

First off we would like to extend a huge thank you to the sponsors of the children that were here for the American Experience visit. Without your dedication, love and financial investment in these children we all would not have been able to share this incredible time together. Next we want to extend a big thank you to everyone who came and supported all the different events with our Ahadi Kids and Country Director John Kusumerwera, they all felt very welcomed and loved. Also thank you to the following who hosted events, the children and staff: Christ Community Church, Engwood; Church of the Rock, Castle Rock; Gracious Savior, Edwards; Mike and Katherine Berry, Edwards; Pastor Dan and Kathy Rowhling, Edwards; Bob and Linda Isbell, Gypsum.

And a special thank you to Anne Dean who dedicated so much time, love and resources to make the American Experience an extraordinary success.

The Pay It Forward Project

This mission gives another kind of opportunity to improve the lives of the people of Uganda, Africa. What we do is collect physical donations, load them in a 40 foot container, and send it by steam ship to Uganda. A team of volunteers clear the container through customs and then distribute donations across the country. God's grace has been abundant through the enormous challenges that come up throughout this process. This has been a working hands on mission for 5 years. I would like to share with you a few of the miracles; approximately 15,000 books have been sent to date including hundreds of Bibles, hymnals and Christian literature. Libraries have been set up in villages and schools and classrooms have been filled with encyclopedias and supplies. Hundreds of soccer balls, uniforms and other sports equipment has given the youth a new outlook. Sewing machines and sewing supplies, garden tools with thousands of packs of vegetable seeds have helped change the lives of the poor of all ages in many villages.

Right now our focus for collecting donations are in 3 basic categories: Education both spiritual and general, Vocation and Medical. By centering on these 3 areas we hope to give them the tools to help themselves. Our goal is to reach into villages to give the poor of Uganda a "hand up" not just a "hand out". This task can only be achieved through the kindness and generosity of caring people like you, taking the blessings given to you and paying them forward and I thank you.

We are busy collecting physical donations along with financial support which plays a large part is the frequency of shipments sent. As you can imagine with the fuel shortage in Uganda, this is a challenge in itself.

If you would like more information or have donations please call the Christaid office 303-463-2932.

Ahadi Kids Program

Did you know that Ahadi means covenant? This program gives you an opportunity to make a big difference in a child's life by making a covenant to partner with a child to help achieve their dream of getting an education and having a family that cares and prays for them. At the present time we have 297 children sponsored in our Uganda program. Thank you to all who have been so dedicated to changing lives and giving hope for the future to these children of all ages.

Colorado Here We Come

Praise for answered prayers, two of our Ahadi Kids will be coming to Colorado to attend school for 4 years by God's grace. Joel Kakwomya will be attending Vail Christian School and Brian Sunday will be attending Denver Lutheran High School. Both boys will be

living with their sponsor families during this time. Although they have their paperwork, please hold them in your prayers that the American Embassy in Uganda does not spoil this opportunity for them. Thank you God for Your plan for their lives.



God employs ordinary people to do extraordinary things