



Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1374
Arvada, Colorado 80001-1374
E-mail: christaid@qwestoffice.net
Phone: 303-463-2932
Fax: 303-432-6291
www.christaidintl.org

Jambo Rafiki

(Hello Friend)

Putting Christ into the Crisis of Uganda

Spring, 2013

MEET YOUR 2013 BOARD MEMBERS

On January 12, 2013 new officers were elected to serve the Christ Aid Board of Directors. They are: Diana Wallace, President; Bruce Van Dusseldorp, Vice President; Arlen Nordhagen, Secretary; and Paul Ehizuelen, Treasurer. Three new members have joined the Board this year for two year terms. They are Bruce Van Dusseldorp and Terry and Darcy Oman.

Kent Stannard continues to serve Christ Aid as our Programs Manager. He is responsible for managing communication and financial accounting for our Ahadi Kids and Grandmas for Jesus programs. During the past year, Kent has steam-lined our accounting system and made valuable enhancements to our reporting system. The Christ Aid office, where he works, has moved to a new location in Arvada at 9989 West 60th Avenue. He is currently working on updating our Christ Aid website. (Keep up the great work, Kent.)

The accounting services for Christ Aid are handled by Michelle Chaffin. If you have accounting questions or need a copy of your year- end taxable donation statement, please email her at mchaffin18@gmail.com.



Left to Right in the back row: Pastor Bruce Van Dusseldorp, Pastor Paul Ehizuelen, Arlen Nordhagen, Terry Oman

Left to Right in the front row: Diana Wallace, Kent Stannard, Darcy Oman

A GIANT- SIZED THANK YOU

A big thank you to Brad Foos, retiring Christ Aid Board President, for his giant-sized Godly heart and his tireless efforts as a Board member for the past six years. Brad was our President for most of those years and is responsible for restructuring our financial reporting and enhancing audit controls to improve our tracking and distribution of funds in Uganda. Brad was an excellent facilitator of board meetings using his expertise in working with people and money management to inspire focused policies and procedures for the Board going forward. May God smile on Brad for all his days for the contributions he has made toward the Christ Aid mission statement of "Serving Christ by aiding impoverished children and elderly women in Uganda." Thanks and God Bless, Brad!!

Container Loading Day—A Great Success!!

On February 16, 2013 an impressive group of volunteers loaded our boxcar container headed for Uganda!! Pastor David Banister of Grand Junction, CO brought his highly organized team of bubble wrappers and crate builders who prepared all kinds of medical equipment for safe travel to Fort Portal. Others packed up such things as thirty baby cribs, office chairs and bundles of used clothing.

Right in the middle of the boxcar (to help balance the weight) the Vermeer block press was loaded by forklift, along with the spare parts kit and many items which will be needed for house building when the block press is functional. These items include things like screens for sifting soil that goes into the bricks, wheel barrows, shovels, metal concrete foundation forms, a rebar cutter and many pairs of work gloves!!

A big thanks to Dennis Templar, of Fort Collins, CO who took on the responsibility for planning the entire loading process and creating the manifest to accompany the container which had to detail every single item that was included and its value.

The container left Denver by railcar and arrived at the port in San Francisco on March 3rd. The cargo is presently steaming towards Mombasa, Kenya on a 10,000 mile ocean journey with an arrival date of approximately April 28th. (The math would indicate that the average speed of the ship is a blistering 7 miles per hour.)



The final leg of the journey will be across Kenya to Kampala, the capitol of Uganda and then a five hour drive north and east to Fort Portal. Your prayers for safe passage and good success clearing "customs" would be greatly appreciated!!!

A HUGE thank you to everyone who helped fund the block press and to those who provided funds to help with shipping costs. Read on in the newsletter to learn about the mission trips that are planned once the container has arrived!!



Back row: Pastor Bruce Van Dusseldorp, Rodell Moeckly, Dennis Templar, Pastor David Banister, Kent Stannard, Terry Oman
Front row: Darcy Oman, Diana Wallace, Joe Moeckly



MISSION TRIPS PLANNED FOR JUNE 2013!!

There are two related mission groups planning trips to Christ Aid Uganda this summer. On June 12th, Pastor Bruce Van Dusseldorp and his wife, Maggie, will lead the first group who will arrive with the purpose of setting up the Vermeer block press and starting production of the blocks!!! Pastor Bruce has been very dedicated to raising the funds for the block press and shipping costs. (It was a BIG DREAM that many of you have helped bring to life!! Thank you so very much!!) The block press left Denver for Uganda on February 18th, 2013.

Assisting Bruce with the block press set up will be his longtime friend, Wayne Van Mersbergen from Pella, Iowa, who works at Vermeer and is an expert on the operation of the block press! Their wives are coming along to set up a temporary medical clinic to give some basic health care assistance to the students of our Christ Aid Academy under the guidance of Wayne's wife, Marilyn, who is a nurse. (What a lot of blessings ..happening all at once!! God is soooo good!)

Within 2 weeks, the second mission group will depart for Fort Portal led by Terry Oman, who with his team, will be kicking off our newest Christ Aid ministry called "Shelters in the Storm". It is the goal of "Shelters" to provide new homes for as many of the poverty stricken "Grandmas for Jesus" as the Lord will provide. It is hoped that the group will celebrate the grand openings of the first TWO homes during the three weeks that this group will be in country.

Helping Terry will be his longtime friend, John Shea. They are currently working hard on perfecting the details of the house design that will be used over and over for each home including a solid foundation that accounts for volcanic ash prevalent in the soil of the Fort Portal area.

Terry's wife, Darcy, is planning to tour the Kucina village with our missionary in the field, David Mporampora, taking pictures of future homes to be replaced and collecting information about the families and Grandmas who need our assistance most. This will allow us to identify where the next houses will need to be built.

If you are interested in helping with future homes to be built, please send your check to Christ Aid with the memo line of the check reading "For Shelters in the Storm".

Please join us in praying for safety and determination for both groups to get this long term building project off to a great start.

Friends and Co-servants of Christ,

I greet you in the name of Jesus, our Great Commissioner to Uganda. You mean the world to us because you have truly stood in the gap by funding our work for the glory of God. We love you and you are constantly in our prayers. Thank you more than words could possibly say for your great labor of love and sacrifice. In this newsletter, you will see a few of the hundreds of gifts that were sent as Christmas and New Year blessings from USA. We were blown away by our sponsor's generosity and kindness. We would need volumes of pages to show all of them. We received everything from livestock to mattresses, food baskets, bicycles, beddings, solar systems, soccer balls, Bibles and much more. Indeed there are still some amazing Godly people whom you can truly count on to go those extra miles to make a difference. All the amazing gifts reached their respective recipients creating so much joy and celebration.

David Mporampora - from the Mission Field



One of the grandmas showing off her Christmas cash gift. Her life and that of her grandchildren has changed forever because of her faithful sponsor.

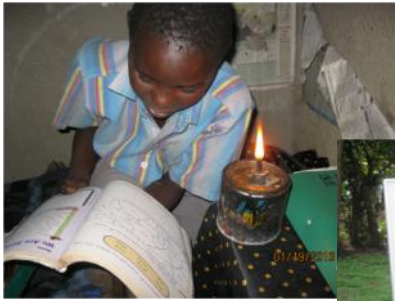


One of the kids swimming in God's blessings from a sponsor at the Christmas Distribution.

Meet Mary Kobusinge our brand new graduate from a very prestigious (MAKERERE) university. She is our pride and joy... a ChristAid success story indeed. She came on our program when she was in third grade, worked her heart out and was very faithful with the resources from her sponsor. Now she has a secure job at National Water and Sewerage in the big city, Kampala. Thanks for the years of sacrifice from Debbie Henn in Colorado.



This year ChristAid added grade seven to ChristAid Academy. After the board sent us some money to prepare for P7, we got busy right away. We had the needed furniture made and worked very hard to do all the remodeling. In the photo, you can see the truck delivering some of the furniture. Notice the new library furniture and the new staff room where the teachers work together.



Let there be light!!
And there was SO-
LAR at Solomon's
finger tips!!



Solomon Kihuumuro used to do his school home work using a kerosene lamp which caused him a lot of congestions and breathing problems. The Vigils (Solomon's American parents) in Colorado compelled by the love of Christ said, "No way! We will send him a solar system." And so they did. Now we have one smart kid in school and no more respiratory problems due to kerosene fumes. He also got a cow, a soccer ball and a couple other gifts. God bless the Vigils. The solar system came as a major blessing to the whole family. Amazing how God's blessings can stretch!!



Meet little Einstein (Victor Alinaitwe). Ever since 1st grade he has always been on top of his classes with nothing but straight "A" in every subject. He has been on the honor roll in every grade with several awards for his hard work including the cherished "ChristAid Academic Excellence Award." He also made 7th grade (a crucial one) where he was the top kid in the whole district beating around 6,000 kids from all the region schools combined in the national, very intimidating "mock" exam. When he did his actual nation wide exam, he had a perfect score which won him a position to a major exclusive school of the elite where the rich and famous Ugandans went and their children still go. He is our kid at ChristAid. Thank you, Resurrection Anglican Church (Colorado) for Sponsoring a Champion!!

At Christ Aid, we currently have an urgent need to "re-sponsor" quite a number of our Ahadi school kids and Grandmas for Jesus whose sponsors, through circumstances beyond their control, have recently become unable to continue sponsoring their "African family members". It is truly devastating for us to tell a child they can no longer attend school or to tell a previously sponsored Grandma that her support will no longer be coming as she struggles to feed and supervise the many orphaned grandchildren which have become part of her household. If God puts it in your heart to help with this serious situation, please check out the Christ Aid website to see Grandmas and Kids who need your help—either by sponsoring someone or giving a one-time gift to help while other new sponsors are being found. No other new sponsoring will be happening, until we have found new hope and love for those needing to be "re-sponsored". God bless you with His gracious love as you consider how you may be able to help!!



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