



The Kitchen

The farm has a modern kitchen, they said. I have a modern kitchen, I thought. Modern kitchens have under-cabinet lighting and refrigerators with ice dispensers in the door. But I couldn't imagine such a thing in Luwero, Uganda. There wasn't even electricity. Probably modern meant indoor running water and a nice wood stove. The government had promised piped water to any building with a modern kitchen. Although the project moved at a snail's pace and appeared to have ground to a halt, the farm was prepared. We were warmly welcomed by colorfully dressed widows and orphans lining the road to the farm. They sang and gave us hugs as we hopped out of the vehicle to



walk the rest of the way with them. Our day consisted of touring the farm, admiring the rows of beautiful produce coming along nicely, listening to the kind words shared with us in a little program (through a translator, of course) and songs accompanied by joyful dancing. Then it was time for lunch, and we were invited to sneak a peek at the modern kitchen. I peered through the door into a dark little building. On the floor were bricks and logs nestled amongst piles of ashes and topped with metal pots. Outside the door sat women plating our lunch out of huge vats: beans, rice, and matoki (mashed bananas cooked in leaves and topped with a peanut sauce). It was delicious, but I did wonder about the kitchen. "What makes it modern?" I asked. "It has a door that closes to keep animals out," I was told. So no running water. No stove. But a door. And inwardly I rejoiced with those women. They had one of the finer kitchens around and no fear of animals getting into it. God has used Hope Centers for Children of Africa in ways you may not have even realized. Thank you for your support and your part in blessing the widows and orphans of Uganda and DR Congo.



A Hand Up

What's even better than a handout? A hand up. And who better to extend that hand to than women who are struggling to provide for and single-parent not only their own children but orphans they have taken in as well. After all, James 1:27 says, "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world." That's the heart of Christ at work right there. And that is the goal of HCCA is to assist widows in Africa in order for them to get on their feet and be able to support themselves and their families. Through the extending of microloans, these



ladies can start home businesses that provide for their families' needs--school fees, medicines, college tuition, etc. The earlier mentioned farm is a great example of this. Through small loans, the farm produces enough to benefit many people. And this most recent harvest was bountiful, especially with eggplants. Praise the Lord for His provision!

Meet Charlotte

Having lost her husband, Charlotte found herself alone in trying to provide for her seven children. She had no money and therefore no way to even get started in a business. She was desperate. Then HCCA stepped in. They offered her a microloan. "It was like God providing a way for Moses," she said with a smile. Today Charlotte has a business in Bogoro, DR Congo. She buys cassava while the root is still in the ground, harvests it, processes it (soaking it in water and leaving it to dry), and then sells it. She makes enough money to support herself, her seven children, and the eight orphans she has taken in. Her desire is to eventually be able to afford a real house instead of a thatched hut. But she isn't worried. She has seen how God supplies, and she trusts Him with her future. Your giving is what makes stories like these possible. Thank you.



--Jonathan Unverzagt (and Hope)
Executive Director, HCCA

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