



Fall 2022



Trip to Uganda—cars, dishcloths, and pineapples

It was my pleasure to be able to accompany Jonathan on his fall trip to Uganda this year. Our son Anders and his friend Jamin tagged along as well. In spite of the usual jet lag and tummy troubles, we reveled in the warm and joyful welcome we received from the widows and team members alike. We are treated like royalty whenever we visit, and this trip was no exception. Our team is most accommodating, willing to keep us stocked up on bottled water and provide transportation whenever we need it (even if it involves attempting to fit eleven suitcases into a van).



This time we traveled with suitcases full of little wooden toys made by the “Band of Brothers” at Kars 4 Kids in Hitterdal, MN. This group of men meets once a week to craft toy vehicles inscribed with a Bible verse, and their toys have been delivered around the world. Needless to say, the cars were a huge hit with the children! We also transported hundreds of hand-knit dishcloths made by the homeschool co-op and Knit Together ministry group of Christ Is Lord Free Lutheran Church in Onalaska, WI. The widows were delighted to each receive a beautiful, yet practical, gift for themselves.



After a delicious feast of chicken, cabbage, rice, greens, matoki with peanut sauce, and pork, the women honored us with songs and kind words. One of the highlights of the day was getting to see the new sewing machines in action! We watched a



demonstration by five students (out of many) who showed considerable skill after only one month of sewing lessons. It won't be long until they will be able to sew their own school uniforms and move up to the more specialized machines (for leather, linings, decorating, etc.). In the meantime, they are practicing sewing on plastic feed sacks. Being able to sew is an invaluable skill that can bring hope for the

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“Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction.”

- James 1:27



future to the students graduating from primary school (which goes up to seventh grade) but who are unable to pay for higher education. The widows expressed heartfelt thanks, which we promised to pass along to our donors, for the machines, as well as the school fees and micro loans.

Another highlight of the day for me was getting to see the two new buildings. They are beautiful! The new bunkhouse for the farmhands is a huge upgrade from the old, of which you really need to see comparison pictures in order to appreciate.



While we were at the farm, we walked through the fields and admired the bountiful maize, bean, banana, matoki, and pineapple crops. Manager James handed each of us a pineapple to bring back to the group, and we ate pineapple so juicy it left pools of juice at our feet and sticky streams running down our arms. It was incredible.



Unfortunately, we will never be content with our Walmart pineapples again.

This trip we also had the privilege of touring the school the orphans attend and visiting the homes of six different widows. At each home we visited, we were enthusiastically welcomed and invited inside the tiny structures to sit on makeshift benches or mats on the floor. Each woman proudly shared with us the results of her micro loan, showing us crops of maize and cassava, baby pigs, cows, charcoal, coffee beans, woven items, and more. We were thanked over and over again for the help HCCA has provided for them.



Unfortunately, travel to D.R. Congo has become increasingly difficult. The plan for this visit was for the D.R.C. team to travel to Uganda to meet with Jonathan, but a couple days before their arrival, rebels attacked the area, closing off their travel route. It was with great disappointment we had to resort to meeting with them via FaceTime. They were happy to report that things are going well for the widows and orphans there, though. Please keep them all in your prayers, however. Eastern D.R.C. can be a bit reminiscent of the Wild West.

Next issue we will introduce you to a few of the widows whose homes we visited, so stay tuned!

Please prayerfully consider Hope Centers for Children of Africa in your year-end donations as the economy and inflation has impacted our ministry.

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- Give to the special project (listed above) _____
- Give to the gift of an education _____
- Give to the gift of a micro loan _____
- Give the gift of health to provide medicine _____
- Give to the general fund so we can meet the most pressing needs _____

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