



August 2018 Newsletter

Let me begin by thanking the many of you who responded to last month's newsletter. The support and encouragement I received from you was both overwhelming and heartening. You are truly a blessing to me.

I mentioned at the end of the June/July newsletter that I would inform you about the August Uganda mission. There were three parts to the trip:

1. The one-week Sipi Pastor's Conference 6 (SPC6),
2. Erecting the steel portion of the last large school building at K & K,
3. Meeting to plan our future involvement in medical camps. Three of us traveled together: Larry Andrews, Mick Black, and myself. Larry and I taught at the conference, Mick worked with the Ugandan villagers to erect the steel structure, and I met with appropriate people to see about our involvement in future medical camps. Larry was there for one week, and Mick and I stayed for two.

SPC 6 was a great success. Ordinarily we invite only pastors from our tribe, the Sabiny. We mixed it up a bit this year however. Over the years you have heard us talk about the raiding tribe to the north of K&K---the Koromajong---who stole cattle, wounded, and killed the Sabiny people for many many years. Needless-to-say, there has been "no love lost" between these two tribes. BUT, now, there has been

love FOUND! Christ has come to the Koromajong! People like Dr. Val Shean and her husband Waffle, and Bob Wright and his wife Martha, have brought the love of Christ to the North, and the result is amazing. While Dr. Val was in Oregon this spring she and I got together and decided that it was time to mingle the pastors together, so we invited two of the Koromajong pastors to join us. What a true joy it was to see the love and acceptance when the pastors of these two tribes---previously enemies---enjoying one another, teasing one another, sharing meals with one another, sharing ideas with one another, sharing their hearts with one another, and sharing the love of Christ with one another! That alone would have been enough to make the conference successful.

Even so, Larry spent the week teaching 12 sessions about God's Grace, and I spent my 12 sessions teaching on Contagious Disciple Making. Both Larry's and my teachings were well received, and we absolutely loved working with the men. The Koromajong do not have the name "Larry" in their vocabulary, so Larry received the name of "Loduk" (pronounced Low Duke) from the Koromajong pastors. (Apparently the Koromajong DO have an alphabet, because their Koromajong for me was D.C.) The pastors said over and over again how they were blessed just to be a part of the conference, BUT, the real truth is that Larry and I were the ones who were blessed. Just being there with the guys and encouraging them in Christ was the greater blessing.

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Each day while we were hosting the conference, Mick traveled to K & K to lead the men there in erecting the steel structure for the next secondary school building. Mick mostly serves as a guide now, as he has done a GREAT job of teaching the men how to do the construction. As a matter of fact, Mick has done such a great job that we have ordered our next two smaller structures---the kindergarten classroom and the secondary school office---and the guys from the village are going to erect them without any help at all! They have become self-sufficient in this area, and we are VERY happy for that result.

After the first week, Larry flew home. Mick and I stayed for an additional week. Mick worked on Kabum Coffee business, helping the farmers learn how to use natural fertilizers and teaching them about composting. He is looking forward to going back in October during the coffee harvest. I spent the remainder of my time in meetings, trying to figure out the best way for us to help with medical camps as we move forward in the future.

In 2016 the Ugandan medical authorities established new rules and guidelines for outsiders---like us---who want to sponsor medical camps in Uganda. The application is lengthy, and quite honestly, the application as found online does not tell everything required by the authorities. The rules get added to the farther one gets into the process. Then, the fees get very expensive, so expensive that it is quite prohibitive for medical professionals to practice there. After having carefully gone through the process, filling out all the forms, and meeting with high level medical personnel, it became very clear that we would need to find another way---legally---to serve the poorest of the poor, the people of K & K, medically.

But...as Sister Maria says in "The Sound of Music," "When God closes a door he sometimes opens a window!" We are still working with two Ugandan medical doctors who believe they know a way---within the Ugandan system--- to make it possible for us to help with a medical camp. We are still in limbo waiting to see if they can make that happen or not. Either way, we give God the glory for all that HE does to take care of the people there.

One other special blessings of this trip was taking the 100 cook stoves--- purchased by the PBCC Vacation Bible School kids---down to K & K. They were distributed via a random drawing, and nearly every family received a stove. As soon as I find out how many didn't receive stoves, we will purchase that many more from other donated funds. The women of the village gave a thunderous applause and shouted and yelled and laughed and thanked us over and over for such a gift. The stoves will cut their wood needs by 60%, and they are very efficient for cooking. May the Lord our God bless those children who brought their pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters to VBS in July to make this happen.

As always, thank you for your blessed support. We love and need your prayers every day, not just when we travel over seas. I talk about our KMI supporters all the time with the people in Uganda. They KNOW that you care!

Serving Him

D.C