

February 2018 Newsletter



When I come home from Uganda I often say something like, "I will never complain again." We have running water, flush toilets, toilet paper, electricity, refrigeration, and all the building materials a guy could ever need. It's just not that way over there in the bush.

February 8-18 was a short but very busy and blessed trip to K & K for us. Three of us went: Pam did a small children's clinic at the school, Mick Black guided the Ugandan team in putting up the two steel structures for the teacher housing, and I worked with the area pastors leadership, and the K & K Church women's ministry leadership. Much was accomplished, but MAN---MAN OH MAN---was it ever hot!!! It is the dry season there, and the temperatures were easily around 100 degrees every day...and night. Sleep time was abundant, but actual sleep came in "shifts" through the night, as the heat was so intense.

We had the awesome privilege of staying down at K & K with Pastor Mike and his wife Phylis. It was a true joy to spend so much time with them and their three darling children. Their third-born arrived just last December so he was a beauty to behold. I know it was a stretch for them to house, feed, and care for us, but bless their hearts they took good care of us every day. We are VERY blessed to have such a loving, caring, and honest couple to partner with: it is not always the case over there.

Pam's work was right next to the school, and over the process of the week she saw, and treated, about 100 people, nearly all children. Even though it is the dry season and the nearby river is nearly dried up---there is only a trickle flowing down it---she still found half dozen kids with malaria. That dreaded disease just never goes away there, and when the kids get it they are really sick. Chills, fevers, shakes, tiredness, kind of like having the worse flue you have ever had for a long

period of time. Fortunately, there is a treatment and she was able to administer it to them.

She treated a variety of skin diseases, respiratory illnesses, and bacterial infections as well. We thank the Lord that He provided the correct medications for her to treat these sicknesses.

TIA---This is Africa---is a term that we don't like to use, as it seems to excuse certain behaviors that we consider not good. None-the-less, TIA can at times give us comfort in knowing that we did all we could to make something happen, but either it didn't happen or it was not even close to our timeline. Such was the construction this trip. The steel for the two structures was scheduled---by me with the builder---last August. It was to be on the ground at K & K by the last week of January. The materials arrived late in the P.M. of Wednesday, February 14: Valentines Day! That left Mick and the boys just 2 days to put up the structures. They had used Monday-Wednesday to do all the ground prep, so they were VERY ready when the buildings arrived. The first building was erected on Thursday, and the second building was erected to the point on Friday that the locals could finish it after we left Saturday morning. We received a call Saturday P.M. that the buildings were both erected and concreted in. Those guys are a huge blessing. We love having a partnership with men and women who are "all in." That's how things really move forward for the Lord.

My time was spent in meetings, planning ways to promote the gospel and make disciples both nearby, and farther and deeper to the north where the people are classified as "least-reached." These "least reached" are the Koromajong, the neighbors to our Sabini tribe folks. Formerly the Koromajong were VERY hostile to the Sabini, raiding and killing at will. That is the reason our people hid in the hills and bush, for survival. Now that Christ has come to the Sabini, they want to share Him

with their former enemies. What a glorious example of love and forgiveness that is. We are partnering with Dr. Val Shean, originally from Fossil, Oregon. Dr. Val has been working in the area for over 20 years, and she speaks both Kupsabini and Koromajong fluently. We are looking forward to seeing how the Lord uses this partnership for His glory and the growth of His Kingdom.

As I met with the pastors leadership group it was clear that they all want to move out and spread the gospel, but they have very limited resources for doing so. I made no promises to them, but promised to pray for their true needs. It is always important to distinguish between true needs and wants. Prayer brings the Truth to light; the Holy Spirit speaks, guides, and directs, so we can know what is best. There are many good ideas out there, but our overriding question is what is best? The pastors have not been meeting together, and they expressed sorrow at that. Due to being apart, they have not supported each other in love and prayer. Probably the very best thing that the Lord guided me to do for them was to set up a regular schedule for them to get together to pray, plan, fellowship, and just enjoy each other's company and share each other's burdens. They went from no meetings in 2017, to meeting every 5th Sunday in 2018. That way they all know the date and time and place. I look forward to seeing what will become of this.

Meeting with the women's ministry leadership group was nothing short of inspiring. These ladies are busy ALL THE TIME serving Christ. They have the following very active ministries:1) Goats; 2) Farming; 3) Sewing; 4) Grinding; and 5) Famine Relief. There is not enough space to tell all they do with each of these ministries; suffice it to say that each is a clearly planned outreach to the community for the Gospel. As we speak, they are getting ready to implement two new ministries: Burial Outreach & Medical Transportation. Both of these are VERY high need and both provide loving opportunities to share the love of Christ in action. I am very excited to see how these new ministries move forward and hear the stories of people coming to Christ as a result of the love they receive from our ladies and men down at K & K.

Please be in prayer about future medical teams in Uganda. Recently the Ugandan Government has implemented new laws that greatly limit and/or restrict teams like ours from practicing in the country. In truth, it is not a bad thing that they are doing. They want national accountability for the medical practices that are taking place in their country and I don't blame them. We will take our time and go through all the necessary legal Ugandan channels to be certified before we do medical again. This will take some time and careful planning and structure, so please pray that we are able to get all the "parts" together to satisfy the Ugandan Government and of course practice excellent medicine while we are there.

How does all this happen? You! The Lord uses people who want to help people---folks like you---to make things happen. Thank you once again for your love, prayer, and financial giving. We know it is a sacrifice on your part, and God knows it too. We are greatly blessed that you continue help us in spreading the Gospel of Christ through love and action.

Serving Him,

D.C.