

A long overdue update from Uganda.....

If you had asked me, before my recent trip, why I was going to Uganda, I may have given you one of the following answers: "I have always wanted to go on a missions trip to Africa" or "I'm really looking forward to experiencing this kind of trip with my son" or most probably, "I have no idea why I'm going to Uganda, God put it on my heart and I'm going". It took me only a couple of days there to understand the answer to this question, and the fact that it had nothing to do with me or my experience, but everything to do with God loving the kids in Uganda so much that he would send me to be his hands and feet, to love and serve them.....

Along with my son, Phillip a team of ten others, and 24 bins full of supplies, including shoes and clothing for the children, I made my way to Jinga, Uganda in the middle of January. The focus of our trip was to facilitate a week long camp for a group of 100 twelve and thirteen year old children. All of these kids have in some way been affected by the AIDS virus, whether they had lost one parent or both or were themselves infected.

Our days at camp were full. We began each morning with worship and a service led by a local pastor, followed by small group time, life skills (a curriculum by the peace corps), daily speakers on health related topics, crafts, games, washing clothes (a nightly ritual with the girls) and more worship and dancing. My heart grew everyday that I spent with these kids and was able to experience the joy and hope that is so much a part of them, in the midst of circumstances few of us can imagine.

One of the most amazing things that I was able to see on this trip was the affect of the child sponsorship program. When a child is sponsored through Children of Grace, not only are some of their most basic needs met, including medical care, food, and mosquito nets, but they are also given the opportunity to go to school. This is truly a privilege to them and one that will give them a hope and a future.

Thank you to all of you who donated shoes for this trip. I wish you all could have seen their faces as they put their brand new tennis shoes on for the first time, or the way they would take out the laces every night and scrub them until white again! For us this may have been just a pair of shoes we picked up while out shopping, but for many of them these were the first pair of shoes they had ever owned.

If you would like more information on Children of Grace, go to website at:

Children-of-grace.org

or call me at 704-651-9373

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