

Dear family and friends in Christ, greetings and much love:

I am attaching my final report, without photos. I am then sending a single file under my next email to just a few of you, with about 100 photos. If any of you does not receive that file who would like to see it, please reply to this communication with your request. I'll send my photo file (condensed from 450 photos to 110) to you as a separate attachment.

Again, thank you all for prayer support and encouragement; special thanks to those of you who, on very short notice, send in support money. I am happy to report that the CRWRC received enough funds to pay all expenses, with just a few dollars to spare. God knows our needs and it always delights me to see how generously, but precisely, He calibrates receipts from requests such as mine that are "cast out on the waters"!

Blessings, grace and the incomparable love of Jesus to you all,

Bob

June 8, 2007

Dear Family and Friends, greetings and much love from the Home Street Home:

I arrived home midday on Tuesday and am quickly recovering from the jet-lag blues! This journey to Uganda was by far the richest, most wonderfully blessed mission experience ever for me - and I think for many who were involved on the two wonderful teams I had the joy of joining during the past month. Uganda is much changed from when we visited in 2001. The economy is booming, highways, water and sewage systems are being installed and even malls and shopping plazas are appearing, fully stocked with a wide variety of goods (PHOTOS of Mall Entrance and Shoprite).

The construction and medical teams (PHOTO at bus) sent out under the leadership of Pastor Will Dungee (Grace Community Church, Greensboro, NC) were able to meet or exceed all goals; the veranda for the Good Shepherd Fold orphanage, near Jinja, was brought very near completion (PHOTOS), so that our Ugandan friends were easily able to complete the project the week after we departed. The medical team was able to restock the clinic pharmacy (PHOTO of me as pharmacist's assistant) and to serve the needs of more than 800 people - 110 orphans and nearly 700 from neighboring villages, including many Muslims, a large number of whom indicated interest in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, an interest quickened by "Evangelcube" presentations. We immensely enjoyed the interaction with the children and staff of the Good Shepherd Fold. The friendship, hard work, musical talent and heartfelt worship of the children, especially the GSF Hosanna Praise Choir (PHOTOS) were a tremendous blessing and encouragement to all.

At the end of this first leg of the trip I accompanied Adam, one of the GSF orphans now living independently outside the orphanage, to Uganda Christian University, in Mukono, to introduce him to our old friend Steve Noll, the University's Vice Chancellor. Steve graciously took us on a tour of the campus (PHOTOS of Steve and Adam on campus) and we talked about ways a path may be forged to provide scholarship aid to orphans for advanced education in a Christian setting. If you have an interest in helping with this endeavor, or know of a foundation that might be sympathetic, please let me know.

The second half of the trip was just as fruitful and even more varied in output. ENCOUNTER UGANDA, a ministry of Christ Church at Grove Farm, Sewickley, PA, in its eighth year of a ten year commitment to support and help strengthen the Church of Uganda (Anglican) in the Bunyoro-Kitara Diocese, again fielded a

diverse group of skilled and willing workers. Under the leadership of Eileen and Graham Hodgetts, with wonderful logistical support from Fred White and his wife Dorothy, the team was able to accomplish a wide variety of tasks in three cities and numerous small villages spread from the southern to northern borders of the Diocese (recently, the northern portion of the region around Masindi has been made into a separate Diocese - so two dioceses are now being served).

The Evangelism Team (on which I served a number of days) under the direction of Rick Kushon, using the E3 ("Evangecube"), presented the gospel to thousands of people in four primary and secondary schools, six churches, a business college, many "bota-bota" (motorbike taxi) stands in Hoima and Masindi (PHOTOS), an all night prayer meeting and the Hoima city jail, where we visited three times (PHOTO of the jail's praise team singing to us!). We prayed with dozens of people and confirmed and strengthened the faith of many. In one school, a nine-year-old girl made one of the clearest, most powerful presentations of the gospel I've ever heard, using the Evangecube as a visual aid. Hundreds of fellow students stood silently as she spoke, with our young team member Cheyenne West looking on, amazed! (PHOTOS)

The well-drilling team, on which I also served for two days, led by Graham Hodgetts (PHOTO) and two young Ugandans named Herbert and Malice (Max), completed a well project at the Kibbuse Vo-Tech school, drilled a new well for the Diocesan Medical Clinic, another in an outlying village and repaired a well for an Islamic primary school. In all these cases, we were always aware that we were sharing clean water for healing and health of the body and "living water" for the healing and health of souls. After repairs were made, the headmaster of the Islamic school offered a prayer which he closed, to everyone's surprise, "in Jesus' name" (PHOTOS).

The medical team (PHOTO) held clinics to inform and advise people about prevention, recognition, diagnosis and treatment of a variety of diseases prevalent in Uganda, from HIV/AIDS to malaria. Mosquito nets, medicines and printed information were dispensed. Seminar programs held in a number of churches and other meeting places, even in the open air, under wide-spreading shade trees (PHOTO) led to many perceptive questions by Ugandan participants and timely, well-informed answers by our medical team. I served as a "baby-sitter" for this team in two villages near the Kibbuse Vo-Tech School, where they did "adult content" presentations in an Anglican and a Catholic churches. I got to distract the children with songs and games (along with the gospel story) while the adults were dealing with information about STD's (PHOTOS).

While in Nyamarwa with the medical team, I met Arden and Mary Joy Van Norden, in their dining room at "FAITH HOUSE", (PHOTOS). A newly married couple *in their late seventies*, Arden and Joy have been serving at the Kibbuse Vocational Technical school for the past six months. I went there because Graham and Eileen had asked me to consider returning to Uganda with Brenda to continue with the investment made by the Van Nordens, who returned to the States with the team. After seeing the school (PHOTOS, being interviewed by the director, the Rev. James Adyeri, meeting a number of the students and seeing their work, and talking with Bishop Nathan Kyamanywa and our good friends Wilson and Sayuni Turumanya, I was very excited to call Brenda and share the invitation with her. I will be writing more later about the Kibbuse School; you can look it up on the web at "Kibbuse Foundation" or "Rev. James Adyeri" and related links.

Eileen Hodgetts (PHOTO, in blue dress) with the support of two very able Ugandan priests, organized and led the Clergy Conference in Masindi (PHOTOS, which hosted more than fifty pastors and their wives who had been bussed in from Kitgum province in the far north portion of Uganda, just south of the Sudanese border. This is a civil-war-torn area where most people are "IDPs" (internally displaced persons) - people who have been driven from their land and homes (most of which are subsequently burned to the ground by insurgent soldiers) and cannot return. They are struggling to survive in unfamiliar territory, burdened by disorientation, anger, fear, extreme poverty, hunger and disease. It is clear that the conference was a great source of encouragement for them all - an oasis of peace, provisioning and encouragement they desperately needed to be able to faithfully carry on the work of the gospel among the people they serve (PHOTO 10330).

I shared an overview of the Seven Steps to Freedom in Christ at the end of the two-day program (PHOTO #10328) and was immediately invited to return for an in-depth presentation next year. Dr. Judy King, a member of Madison Square Church and well-known to many of you for her work with Freedom in Christ Ministries, has already indicated interest in sharing leadership of a team to do this. Incredibly, a Ugandan named Moses Kaziba who heads the national Evangecube Ministry and had been trained for E3 work in Dallas, TX, was also (God-incidentally) trained for follow-up with Freedom in Christ materials - by none other than Dr. Judy King! God had made the connection between the two programs long before they came together in Uganda, clearly by His sovereign design!

I was also able to spend some time encouraging and being encouraged by a remarkable young woman named Arianne Folkema, a CRWRC missionary serving in the Bunyoro-Kitara Diocesan Development Office. She will complete her sixth month of service in Uganda this June (third year in Africa) and then return home to Renfrew, Ont, CA to be married in August (PHOTO #20437). She has represented the Christian Reformed Church very ably, has been "adopted" as a "daughter" by her boss, Michael and has won the respect and affection of many in the Diocesan office, including the Bishop, Nathan Kyamanywa.

Finally, under the leadership of Rev. Shirley Morris, an American serving full-time as an Anglican Deaconess and her colleague, Rev. Karen, I joined a team of Ugandans and Americans to build a house for a widow named Immaculate and her six children (PHOTOS of Immaculate, the house, me and Shirley). The project was undertaken on the last Saturday of my visit. Although we were delayed in starting construction until nearly ten AM, hard work and good leadership by the Ugandan carpenters enabled us to get the house "woven" up to the rafters, which the Ugandans hoped to install after we left - at just 4 PM. The mud was to be stuffed into the walls on Monday. It was fully anticipated that Immaculate would be able to move in by the end of the following week. It is a traditional mud and wattle house, but is far superior to the grass shack, little bigger than a large pup tent, that she and her children had been living in AND, she is now living just a stone's throw from the church she attends. What a blessing!

Although I have shared much about what we "did"; I have not shared and cannot in this already too long letter, the dozens of personal encounters all of us enjoyed, where the love and life of Jesus flowed freely between believers and non-believers of two very different cultures. Among them were Arianne Folkema (PHOTO, with me), a CRWRC missionary serving at the Bunyoro-Kitara Diocesan offices, Francis Kisa, a gifted young Ugandan singer and worship song writer with whom I sang on the Evangelism Team, Aidah Adyeri, Pastor James' wife and many, many others. I believe every person of faith came away blessed by the kindness, hospitality and encouragements of our Ugandan brothers and sisters - enriched and convinced that God's kingdom has been enlarged and strengthened by our mutual ministry.

Thank you all for your prayers and support. I truly believe your investment will bring dividends in the lives of many hundreds of people - starting with me and Brenda. As some of you know, we had originally gone to Trinity School for Ministry in 1984 in hopes of being sent to Uganda to help rebuild a seminary. Well, the call to help in Nyamarwa at Kibbuse Foundation Vo-Tech has some striking similarities; it is a Christian school on the growing edge, located in a remote highland village (though on the opposite side of Uganda), with a vision of "raising/growing up" (this is the literal meaning of the word "kibbuse") a generation of young people who are equipped to honor God through their vocations. Of course, B & I are also a quarter of a century older and have a very full life with many commitments here in Grand Rapids, MI, so there are more than a few concerns that need to be addressed and resolved.

However, we are uniquely equipped and talented to serve the current needs of the school for direction in administration, "cooking" and sewing programs (Brenda's strengths and experience) and the communications carpentry/construction and music programs (Bob's strengths and experience). Please do keep us in prayer as

we continue to explore the possibility of at last moving to Uganda for full-time ministry. We also welcome your comments, concerns and encouragements.

Hopefully and gratefully, in His love and service,

Bob and Brenda