



Living Waters International, Inc. Advent 2012 Newsletter

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Jesus replied (to the Samaritan woman): **“If only you recognized God’s gift, and who it is that is asking you for a drink, you would have asked him instead, and he would have given you **living water.**”** - John 4:10

Mission Awareness Expedition by Eileen Hartl, Board Member

In June 2012, I made my fourth journey to East Africa. On this trip, one of our benefactors, Ann Peck, accompanied me. We met with many of Living Waters’ sponsored students and our site coordinators at four different villages in Uganda. Additionally, we visited two building projects, which we were able to support through grant dollars. The visit was very edifying, telling of a resilient lot who suffered greatly under the brutal dictatorship of Idi Amin Dada in the 70’s and subsequently the devastation and human rights violations of Joseph Kony and the Lord’s Resistance Army in northern Uganda. Equally telling and endearing are the convictions of the missionaries, their complete trust in the Lord and the simplicity of the faithful that you, the benefactors of Living Waters International, are physically, emotionally and spiritually serving.



Eileen, with her sponsored student, Micah in Mbuya, Kampala, Uganda.

After spending the first two days in Kampala, the capital city of Uganda, with my sponsored student, Ann & I ventured to St. Jude Parish in Osia village. I couldn’t wait to meet our sponsored students from the parish and to make a pilgrimage to a shrine that was constructed by parishioners and the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales. The story of the history of the shrine as told to me by Fr. Mathew Chavely, MSFS ensues:

When Very Reverend Superior General Fr. Agnelo Fernandes visited Osia Parish in 2002, he proposed to construct a cross on the tall hill facing the main road going to Kampala and facing the parish house.

It was the year of the Holy Eucharist and I would recite all the Mysteries of the Holy Rosary while sitting in front of the Blessed Sacrament. One day, it came to my mind about the cost of constructing such a cross. I hadn’t found the means of getting sufficient money for its construction. I really had nobody whom I could ask to fund such an expensive endeavor. I really didn’t know what to do, but I was moved by the Spirit to continue to pray ... I understood it was God’s will to see this mission through, though it wasn’t clear as to how it would happen.



Living Waters International received grant monies to help construct St. Jude Parish Church.

Upon the conclusion of my time spent in prayer that day, a gentleman was waiting to meet me there outside the chapel. He was Mr. Alphonse, who had recently come to Tororo from Goa (a state in West India) to work in the nearby cement factory. I welcomed him to the parlour and we started our conversation. He told me to be patient enough to listen to him. To my surprise, he told me about a cross, which his father constructed in Goa. To my pleasant surprise, he expressed his heartfelt desire to construct a similar type of cross in Uganda. ➔

I told him about my plan of constructing a cross on the hill and after showing him the hill, he promised to pay all the money needed for the project.

We obtained the necessary permission and building licenses from the local government, and with all due preparation by mid-year 2005, we initiated the work of constructing the cross. It was very intense because we had to carry the materials to the top of the hill. Some people think that the cross was carried to the top of the hill and placed there. Not so! A cross of forty feet can't be carried to the top of the hill. It was constructed with 58 bags of cement and took 20 men to erect it. Before the construction of the cross, our intention was to keep the cross as a sign of our Christian presence. We never thought the faithful would be able to climb the hill. When we climbed it that first time, we essentially crawled using our hands to cling to the hill because it is very steep. Later on, we found a way up from behind the hill making it easier to reach the top. Construction of the cross was completed by March of 2006 and it was blessed by his Lordship Charles Martin Wamika, then Auxillary Bishop of the Tororo Archdiocese.

Thousands of people from different parishes of the archdiocese climb the hill to participate in the Holy Eucharist and to venerate the cross. The cross on the hill has now become a center of pilgrimages; even non-Catholics climb the hill for a blessing. Many miracles are attributed to the cross. The First Friday of every month, we celebrate the Holy Eucharist on the hill where many people from throughout Uganda participate.



Yours in the Lord, Fr. Chavely, Mathew

PEW APPEAL



One of my favorite moments came when I was introduced to parishioners at St. Jude. For them, I represented the many faces of individuals here stateside that helped them to build their church. They were most happy to welcome me and to express their gratitude. The majority of the construction at St. Jude Parish was completed in late 2011. However, they're still in need of about 150 pews. The parish pastor, Fr. Sebastian Nirappel, MSFS, has stated that the cost of constructing the pews has gotten quite expensive, about \$175 per pew. If you're interested

in helping with this cause, please see the enclosed insert.



This season's intention is to, "awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope. The purpose of the church's year is continually to rehearse her great history of memories, to awaken the heart's memory so that it can discern the star of hope ..." (Pope Benedict the XVI)

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from Steve, Ann, Karen, Brian, Eileen & Tina

SPOTLIGHT by Eileen Hartl, Board Member

This issue's **SPOTLIGHT** is on Ann Peck of Antigo, WI - Benefactor of Living Waters



She's retired, not tired! Ann, a former employee of Langlade Memorial Hospital, continues to use her nursing skills with the Langlade County Aging and Disability Resource Center. She volunteers in her parish and numerous community organizations and in her spare time she loves to travel. Earlier this year, Ann was inspired to visit Uganda with me and after my departure, she stayed on for two additional months, volunteering her nursing skills with the Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross at the Ulrika Health Clinic and Hospital in Kiziba, Uganda.

Ann's primary responsibility at the clinic was to give injections to patients. Her only enemy (and a huge one for the local people) was the mosquito, the carrier of malaria: Uganda's most prevalent disease. "One day we saw 92 patients. Sixty-five were diagnosed with malaria and 15 of them were below the age of two. I learned just enough Lugandan to explain to patients what their treatment would be."

Ann witnessed firsthand the Sisters' arduous schedule of parish ministry, daily prayer and devotions, work (as clinicians, nurses, administrators and teachers) plus chores. "The Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross were kind, generous and very hard working. They grow most of their own food, raise rabbits, chickens and pigs, one cow and a bull. They operate a health center, clinic and hospital and teach vocational trades to women. Presently they have a construction project in progress for a new technical trade school with dormitories."

The people's love of God really inspired Ann. There, Catholics are very demonstrative in their faith. This was evident in the many adults and children that wore rosaries around their necks. The celebration of the Mass was always "... packed on Sundays and lasted for two and a half hours." The most unique demonstration of their joy was the clapping of their hands during the Eucharistic Prayer when the celebrant elevates the Precious Bread and Precious Wine.



Left to right: Margaret, Ann, Sr. Sylvia and Sr. Stella in front.

While people are totally adapted to their way of life, the lack of conveniences presented some challenges for Ann. "I had to fetch water daily from a tank for laundry, bathing and flushing the toilet, and it is not heated. Drinking water came from a well and the Sisters boiled and filtered it. Electricity is very unpredictable. Many were the evenings where my world was lit up by a battery operated lantern, or as the Ugandans would say, a **torch**."

In her boundless energy, Ann received more than she hoped for. "They showered me with respect and honor though I can't understand why. I was given the title, Mama Ann; Mama meaning great respect. I was also given the name Nakku Ann, after the Mother of a great tribal king from the late 19th century." Ann says she feels blessed by her visit to Uganda. She's found that the desires of the people are like all others, ranging from education to building a school, to better utilities and transportation, to health and wellness. "They inspired me to take fewer things for granted and to focus more on other peoples' needs and wants and less on my own. I'm so grateful to the people of Kiziba and I will always pray for them. Omakama Akuwe Omukisa – God Bless You."



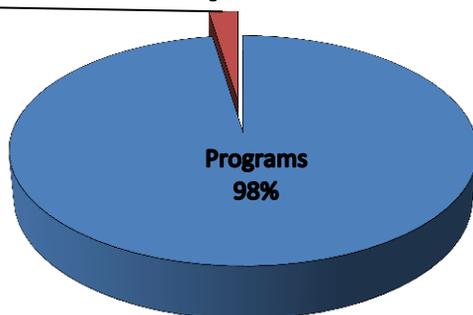
"In exchange for a friendly smile, this little boy did a dance for me."



Photos from St. Kizito Day & Boarding School, Kikyusa, Uganda. Upper left: Ann with Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross in front of a new boys' hostel that Living Waters International received grant monies for. Upper right: Students in line for a typical meal of posho and beans. Lower left: A secondary school student takes time for Sacred Reading before dinnertime. Lower right: "Any load, any road" - a student makes a delivery.

2011 LWI Annual Operating Expenses

Fundraising,
Awareness and
Administration
2%



Assisting Missionaries in East Africa & India in:

- Education for transformation
- Direct evangelization
- Constructing schools, churches, village chapels, hostels for orphans, street children and other marginalized children and youth, religious formation houses, convents, presbyteries, & health clinics
- Providing water, solar and wind power
- Food relief for needy youth and families
- LWI is efficient and effective. Ninety-eight percent of our expenditures go directly to programs that benefit the poor of East Africa and tribal areas of the Nagpur Province of India