

BANMAN MISSION UPDATE

MITYANA UGANDA

FIRST QUARTER 2016

MISSION

UPDATE



GREETINGS FROM ANDREW AND TERRY

Life here in Uganda has been active this quarter. We have spent a lot of time working with our contractor to prepare our new Kosovo home and make it ideal for hosting individuals and teams. Terry has almost finished packing up the house and we are now just days from moving. The whole family is excited to get this new adventure under way!

I selected a picture of our Joshua playing with my glasses for the front page this quarter because it reminded me that we often need to look at things through a new lens to be able to see the correct path forward. As Terry and I consider how we can engage with this community in a supportive and productive way, it becomes very clear that existing strategies are only going to take us part way. We are going to have to grow our understanding of the community and develop new strategies for engaging people.

The balance of this report will relate one way Terry and I have already begun engaging. We believe that youth are a key to transformation and so our efforts are beginning with young adults. We also believe that it is best to empower people to change their own circumstances rather than to just give handouts or develop programs of support. People in charge of their own futures are generally more positive and productive.

Social business is therefore a primary mean by which we hope to help people take control of their own futures. By starting businesses and looking actively for ways to help locals direct and grow these businesses, many can be employed and begin to direct their own futures.

Read on to learn about our first social business solution ...

This quarters scripture is out of James 2 where the Bible discusses faith and works. This passage reminds me that real transformation in peoples lives takes place not by Faith alone nor be Works alone. Terry and I need to link our faith and our effort together in order to have a lasting impact on lives. Our prayer for ourselves is that we can walk with people and feel their needs. Then lift them to Jesus while we reach out our hands in practice ways.

But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe and shudder! Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? — James 2:18-20

2 SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS

I have often told the story of a young girl 14 or 15 years old approached by a community worker in my new neighbourhood. She had begun prostituting herself to make ends meet and he was worried for her. In an effort to dissuade her from this path, the worker asked "Don't you worry about being infected by AIDs?" to which the young girl replied "AIDs is 2 years from now, I have to eat tonight."

This story has stuck with me because it reminds me that we have to operate within the realities of the community. To share my faith with this girl is unlikely to have any impact at this point. Unless it can offer her something practically better than the options she sees before her (prostitution), this girl is set on a course to destruction.

People living in slum communities often live with little and are forced into poor choices in order to survive or support their families. And these poor choices can often lead to worse circumstances.

Transformed lives is the goal. As we continue to analyze how we can make a real difference, I am convinced that James 2-14-20 is speaking directly into my efforts.



There are three possible methods Terry and I could employ:

- We could become evangelists and preach Jesus to the community. This might be welcome because there are many Christians here. But how would my preaching change this girls options. And would she really see Jesus love and have a different life if she were still trapped inside prostitution?

- Or perhaps we could start a sponsorship project to pay for her food and send her to school. This would have at least a temporary impact on her circumstances. But would it actually transform anything? Nope, this is likely to teach her that someone else will pay and as long as she follows their program she will be cared for. She is not really empowered by this handout.

We think the actual solution is far harder than either one of the options above. To actually transform lives we must invest in individuals, walking with them over time to help them stand on their own two feet.

This is why Terry and I are becoming "Social Entrepreneurs". We are convinced that to actually see transformed lives, we must invest our time and even our finances to help them step out of their current circumstances and build a future for themselves. We need to help provide work opportunities and along the way as relationships are developed, we will also be in a position to share what motivates us to care for them, Jesus.

3

BUSINESS THAT BENEFITS EVERYONE, PART 1

Our first venture into business in our community has been under way now for a number of months. One of the people we work with in Kosovo all the time is named Emmanuel (Emma) who goes by the alias Trinity Heavenz. Emma is an awesome young man who invited us to be a part of his life. As we walked with Emma he shared his desires and we got to know him.

Emma and I share a love for media technology (design, photo & video). As it turns out we also share a desire to be successful in business and to serve our community. Over time, Emma shared vision he had for business and I shared my desire to see business used as a vehicle for many to be trained and have a future. As if from Heaven, Emma and I began to see something significant emerging and we began to work together with purpose to define and establish Era92, a media company with young energetic youth at its helm.

Today, Era92 has been established as a legal business with Emma as the owner, myself as financier and advisor, and 3 talented founding team members. These youth are skilled, enthusiastic, talented, and most importantly fully bought into the mission "Doing Business that Benefits Everyone".

Era92 will provide both training and opportunity. These 4 individuals will hopefully be the first of many youth who will learn about technology, experience working in media, and earn a living. And as the founding team develops the Era92 business, they are committed to investing into their communities as well.

Era92 will provide media services starting with wedding photography, and web and graphics design. We will then add other video work and events management to our services.

Today the team is hustling to get ready for serious client activity. In fact, the team has already booked 2 weddings and we are in discussion with several clients who have asked us to produce episode-based blogs and online shows.

In order to launch properly, the team is working on the web site, a company brochure and our pricing matrix. In addition, we are establishing business foundations including banking and accounting.

These are exciting times and we are completely amazed at the talent and enthusiasm we see in these young people. Once fully established, we expect Era92 will support its founding members as well as benefiting many other young people.

In addition, a primary philosophy built into the fabric of Era92 is to invest in its community through its sister organization 92Hands. You will read more about the organizational relationships in the next section.



Web sites for these organizations are being created now.

era92.com

92hands.org

4 BUSINESS THAT BENEFITS EVERYONE, PART 2

One of the amazing things Terry and I see happening is the relationships between individuals and organizations. In fact, Terry and I were forced one day to try to chart the relationships and objectives of all the players in order to appreciate how interconnected business was becoming with community service and our ultimate goal to share our faith.

There are essentially 3 players working collaboratively here:

ERA92 – which represents a local media business providing photography, video, graphics design, and marketing for weddings, businesses, organizations and events.

92HANDS – which represents a group of like-minded locals who wish to improve their community and assist the families who live there. 92Hands cultivates community care in its workers.

ITSALLABOUTME – is a component of 92HANDS that aims to showcase leaders working within 92Hands. By telling the stories of these individuals, we provide role models for others to follow.

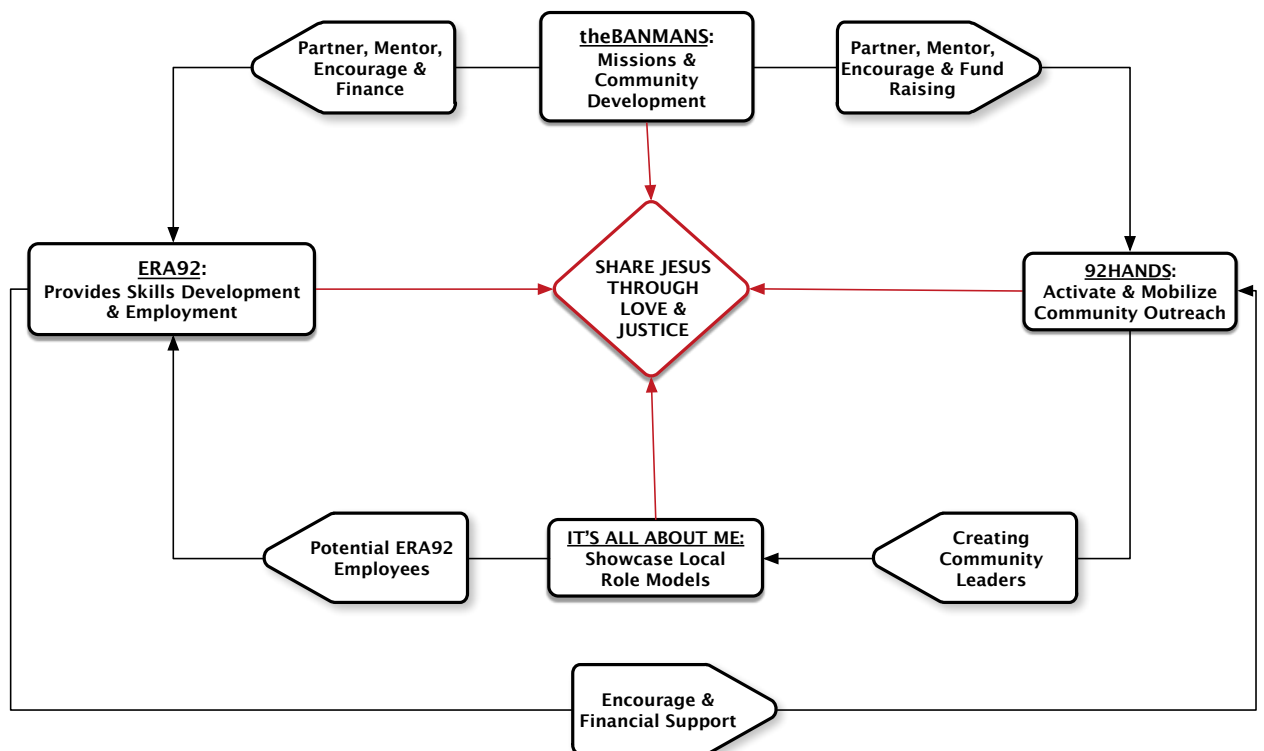
THEBANMANS – which represents us (Andrew & Terry Banman) who are missions workers in Africa and who wish to support and empower locals to transform their personal circumstances and the circumstances of their families and others in their communities.

Era92 provides skills and opportunity. 92Hands engages locals in helping each other and offers healthy role models for youth. Terry and I provide financial and business leadership as well as walking with the individuals involved.

All these players have a common goal, to share Jesus by sharing love and justice. Together, business, community and ourselves are working toward changing life circumstances and transforming lives.

As Terry and I stood back and reviewed how all these relationships worked together, some intelligent design seemed obvious to us! We're so pleased to be allowed to walk with these players and see their communities transformed.

MANY RELATIONSHIPS
ONE OBJECTIVE



5 LIVING THE ADVENTURE

Every quarter Terry and I try to share something of our personal journey here in Africa. This quarter, I want to share an experience I had helping a pregnant Ugandan lady during a recent medical clinic at Sango Bay.

Sango Bay is a camp located near the Tanzania border in the Ugandan district of Rakai. The people living in this camp have been caught in a land dispute between the two governments. These families have been without homes for several years now and are waiting for the Uganda government to provide them with land. Families in Sango Bay live with little opportunity in mud homes covered by plastic. In wet months, their homes are wet inside and out. They live with little food and no healthcare so it was a blessing to join partners and provide food and medical care to these families.

On December 19 2015, I took part in a medical clinic in Sango Bay. A number of Ugandan doctors were treating patients when a lady in distress was brought into the tent. People were helping her because she could not walk on her own. As doctors prioritized this lady and began to examine her, they quickly decide she needed hospitalization. As I was the guy with the car you can guess who became an ambulance driver.

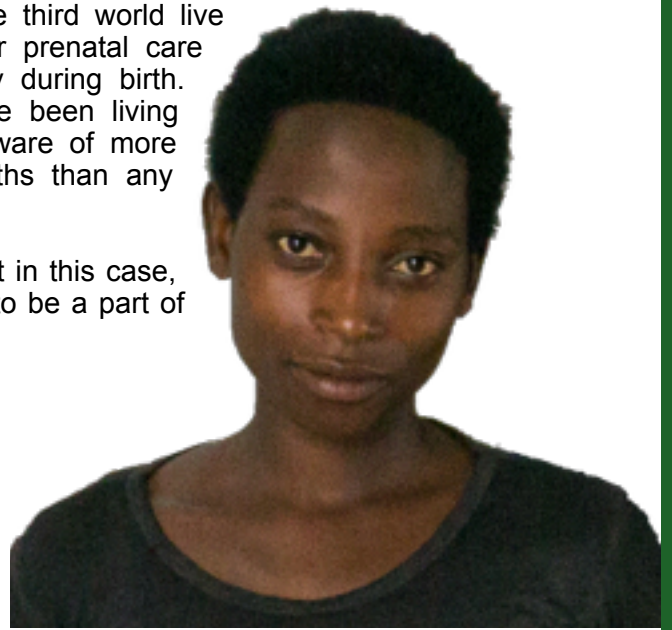
I set off to the hospital about 10km away with this lady and a nurse. Trying to avoid bumps on rural Ugandan roads is impossible and by this time the lady was acute and would groan in great pain each time the truck went through a pothole. We eventually made it to the hospital and found the resident surgeon leaving. Mercifully, the surgeon turned back and examined this lady almost immediately. Examination was followed promptly by emergency surgery.

After surgery, the doctor explained to us that the lady had an ectopic pregnancy (her baby was growing in her Fallopian tube rather than in her Uterus). He explained that she would have not survived long without intervention. What a blessing our doctors diagnosed her needs quickly. What a blessing that someone with a car was on-site to transport this lady. Medical treatment doesn't often work out so well for the people of Sango Bay.

On January 14, I was back at Sango Bay with members of Impact Nations to establish a water filtration prototype project. While training was taking place, I was introduced to this lady once again, this time she was healthy and greeted me with a smile.

Pregnant women in the third world live with the reality of poor prenatal care and often face tragedy during birth. Since Terry and I have been living here we have been aware of more pregnancy related deaths than any other type.

While the baby was lost in this case, it was such a blessing to be a part of saving a life!



REALITY CHECK