

MISSION

UPDATE



GREETINGS FROM ANDREW, TERRY, JOSHUA & GRACE

The third quarter has whizzed by very quickly. Terry has been raising our two little ones and also working with little Jacob who was a very small premie baby that was abandoned. Jacob went back to the orphan home as a strong 4kg baby and is doing well there today. We are sad to see him leave us, but we realize that we can't claim every baby in need.

I have been busy with travel, teams, and work over the past 2 quarters but it has all been very rewarding. Our work here has contracted some, we seem to be doing more in our new community and work outside our area has reduced. We see this as a positive thing. For some time we have worked in a wide area but not dug too deep. Now our work is going far deeper but the area we are covering has (by necessity) receded.

We have lived in the village of Lugala on the edge of Kampala now since the end of April. In the past 5 months we feel we have had a positive impact on a number of our neighbours. We have helped a family move toward self-sufficiency through a micro-loan, we have begun teaching a number of young adults professional skills, we have established a growing business, and we have blessed several families who were in need. Most importantly we are getting to know the people in the area and slowly understanding the issues they face. We hope to develop new ways to empower people through opportunity.

As we move into the 4th quarter, I am preparing to visit partners in India and planning additional technical training workshops here in our community. We will also be analyzing ways to begin training entrepreneurial skills to local young people using an excellent curriculum called EDUCATE!.

Thank you for your prayers and encouragement.

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. — *James 1:2-3*

2 SOUTH SUDAN WORK STOPS

Terry and I have been working in South Sudan since 2010 now. Over the years we have developed relationships with the leaders and general population of the little village called Wotakujong which is located about 20km from Wudu town in the county of Kajo-Keji.

Our work was leading to the creation of two social businesses. The first was a Maize Grinder. This business was to be operated by the community and for the community.

Once in place, we expected the grinder to save a 21km round trip journey for families to have their Maize ground, but perhaps more importantly we hoped the revenues from the business would be used to fund a primary school in the village.

In June this year, I drove into South Sudan and took the villagers building materials so they could construct a shelter for the grinder and a place for customers to be met. Unfortunately, in July this project stalled due to effects of civil war.

While war has not come directly into the Kajo-Keji area, the effects of an unstable government have created lawlessness and the area we were to work in is no longer safe.

Since our June visit, several people have been murdered in the village as a result of lawlessness. Even a Pastor from a Wudu area church

has been abducted and tortured. Even police and army can no longer be considered trustworthy.

As South Sudan sinks deeper into unrest and authorities no longer enforce the law, more and more incidents are taking place in villages or on the roads and it is unsafe for us to work there. Obviously, we cannot complete our social business projects until peace and order is restored.

We encourage our Christian friends to pray for the people of South Sudan. While it is impossible to be accurate about the deaths, there are likely hundreds of thousands dead. The UN reports that there are also several million people fleeing the conflict. While the armies and politicians fight over power and wealth, the general population is paying the cost.

In the meantime, a Maize Grinder sits here in Kampala waiting to go to work and we hope to resume this social business project when hostilities cease.

3 GIRLS: REDEFINED RETREAT

A highlight over the past few months was our involvement in the “Girls Redefined” retreat we were invited to present at.

This retreat allowed 55 girls from the slums in our community to be transported to a beautiful waterfront camp in Entebbe where they would receive great food, education, prayer, and recreation for 3 days.

On the first day Terry and I talked with the group about their identity. We told stories, taught, and played learning games. The girls were fun and friendly and really seemed to understand the message we offered them.

Our discussion with the girls covered topics such as:

- What is my identity?
- Who am I listening to?
- Who can I trust?
- What is my future?

The girls were interested and interactive and we had a great time with them.

On day two of the retreat, 3 ladies from “Remnant Generation” came and covered important topics such as avoiding and dealing with sexual abuse, STDs and pregnancy. It was amazing how straight forward they made this conversation with the girls and how significant these topics were to them.

The final day was lead by local leaders. The girls learned to make sanitary napkins from readily available materials and then church leaders recapped the messages and prayed for the group.

During the last day, about 20 of the girls made a personal decision to follow Jesus.

I was able to interview a number of girls after the third day and it was amazing to hear all that they had absorbed during the retreat. Many of these girls lives will be changed and vision for their futures expanded.



GIRL CHILD

4 OUR FIRST MISSIONS TEAM

It was great to welcome our first mission team to Uganda in July. We hosted a team of 10 people from Canada and the USA in our new Kosovo home and they fit in very well.

The team spent several days in a returnee camp in the west and then helped locals to build a house for a struggling family in our community. They then did some health education in the south and finally wound up the week with a day-safari in the north.

What a blessing it always is to host a team. It's hard work, but we also feel refreshed by the connection to our native culture and people.

This team had another role that previous teams haven't filled. This was the first team to stay in our new Kampala home.

As a result of this inaugural run, we had some plumbing that needed upgrading. Our sewers were inadequate and one shower sprung a leak. These were not the team's fault of course but the result of flawed initial work that needed redesign.

We also noted that 10 people was a very full house. While we have the beds and bathrooms, a team of 6 will be the perfect number primarily due to bathroom capacity.

We are excited to host our second team in December. This is a team of 5 people from the USA who work with our partners at Deo Ministries. Then we are hoping to host another Canadian mission team in the first quarter of 2017.

We are very comfortable in our new home and it is such a blessing to have rooms and bathrooms. In addition to hosting teams, we are now finding we are able to assist other missionaries we know by offering them short-term sleepovers when they are in transit through Kampala. This can be a huge help and cost savings for people.

The house has been so expensive and we are still improving the ground and driveways, but we are very blessed to have such a lovely home!

**MEDICAL CLINIC
SERVES HUNDREDS**



5 LIVING THE ADVENTURE

The African adventure is exciting at times but makes us heart sick at other times. I was personally shocked recently when I began connecting with the issues young girls face right at our doorstep in the local community.

Terry and I recently partnered with several local organizations at a retreat for 55 girls between the ages of 13 and 17. During our weekend with this team, we gained a far better understanding of the realities facing young girls in our own community. We learned for instance that ...

- Young girls will be sexually compromised in order to secure sanitary pads when they menstruate. If they have no money for pads, they may end up pressured to trade sex for the necessary funds.
- Young girls in our community may be forced by a parent to have sex with a stranger in order for the family to raise funds to eat and pay the rent.

Many stories were shared and a number of the girls we served at the retreat had been victims of this sort of exploitation. This was a huge eye-opener for Terry and I and we immediately resolved to engage with the problem and look for ways to help young girls around us.

Over the coming few months, we will be sharing the stories of young girls who have had their lives changed through sexual exploitation. We will also be fundraising to help girls who might be or have already been victimized. We hope you will engage with us to create options for these girls to avoid being exploited or to get the care they need after the event.

I have been working in Africa for more than 2 years now but these realities have taught me not to assume I have a handle on life here. Each new people group we engage with presents a new set of issues and challenges.



One of 55 young girls who attended the "Girls Redefined" retreat and live in Kosovo.

Real Life in
Kosovo