

BANMAN MISSION UPDATE
KAMPALA UGANDA
FOURTH QUARTER 2016

MISSION

UPDATE



GREETINGS FROM ANDREW, TERRY, JOSHUA & GRACE

The past quarter was full and the Christmas holidays were a very welcome opportunity to enjoy our African family and even partake of some recreation. We also celebrated our third New Year in Uganda.

During the quarter I saw a number of countries as I traveled to India and Canada on Arise site visits. I spent time in India in Mumbai slums and Balwadi schools and then went on to Canada for a family visit and to connect with a great number of partners.

Our home in Kampala hosted a number of guests for a few days to a few weeks and we learned that we really enjoy meeting and assisting people on missions here with our partners. It is interesting to hear about and help them with their work.

The fourth quarter provided clarity about our work here in Kampala and we were able to more clearly define our purposes. As we connect more and more with locals, we understand the community better. As we work more closely with our partners we see how we can make a real difference here.

We are full of excitement as we move into 2017. This year should solidify our mission and we expect to make a significant impact on the community we serve.

We are so thankful to all our partners. Thanks for standing with us in prayer and in practical ways. Thanks to you all for the encouragement you give us through Facebook posts and other communications. While we are a long way from our Canadian community, we still feel loved and cared for.

We wish you all a happy and prosperous 2017 !!

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” — *John 8:12*

2 Our Plans for 2017

We moved into the Kosovo community at the end of April 2016. Over the past 8 months, we have sorted out many issues with the house and begun to understand life here. Moving into 2017 we have a clearer vision for our purposes and are now able to share them.

Three interconnected objectives describe how we will engage our community:

BUSINESS OPPOSES POVERTY

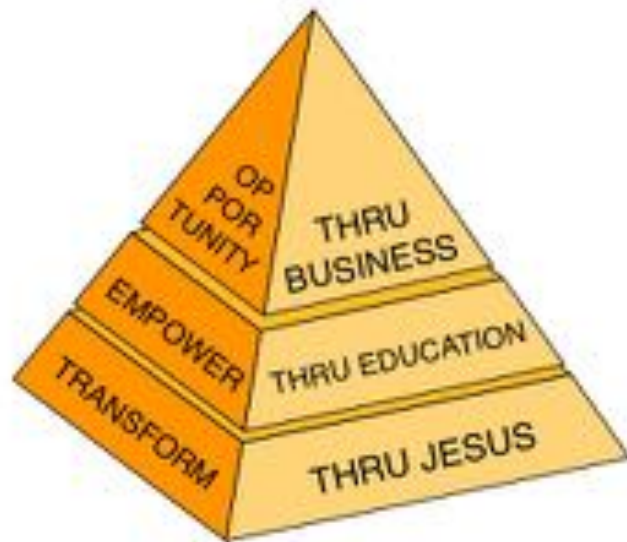
Many people in our community are hard working. They rise each day and wash clothes or sell fruit-n-veg or walk the streets peddling goods. These activities can help their families survive but are unlikely to provide them with more than a one room house or pay for their children's education. A business opportunity can be a life changer. 2016 saw two businesses started in Kosovo and we plan at least one more in 2017.

KNOWLEDGE EMPOWERS

So many here struggle to think creatively and this complicates their ability to see-and-seize an opportunity when it presents itself.

I was talking with a person here one day. This person sells tomatoes and cucumbers on a small stand. When I inquired how they felt they could improve their earnings, the person thought a little and then responded that perhaps onions could be added to the stand. Now this would be comical if it wasn't for the fact that many people here have not been taught to analyze their situation and think out-of-the-box about ways to improve things. In most North American schools critical thinking is taught as a standard practice.

We have determined to startup an entrepreneurial school this year. The school will target youth and provide them with business and critical thinking skills with the expectation that this will allow them to see existing opportunities and possess the skills to seize them and succeed.



TRANSFORMED LIVES

All the business opportunities and knowledge this world can provide have little meaning if a life has no love or purpose. Jesus is the answer to this as he brings faith, hope and love.

I have seen people helped only to have them drink or steel or spend the money on something other than their family. What good would it be to help someone gain knowledge and opportunity just to have them waste their wealth. The Kosovo community needs to reproduce people of character who will reinvest their gain.

Real transformation starts and ends with Jesus.

3 Life in a Mumbai Slum

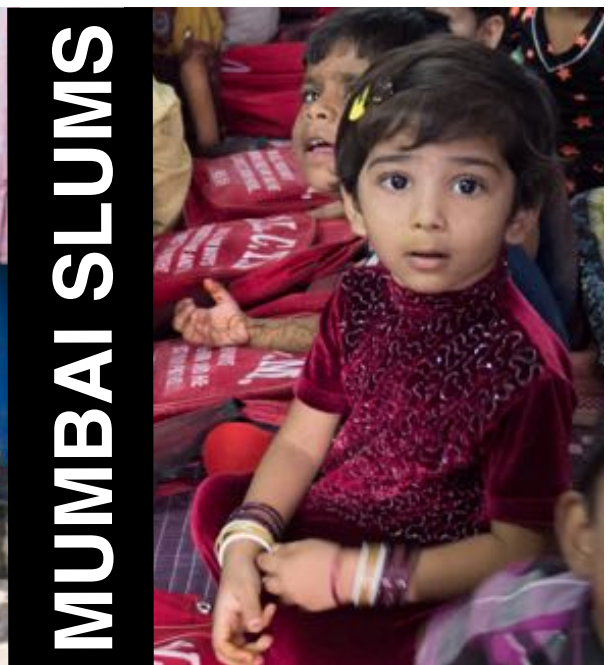
In October I visited Mumbai India and spend time in several slum areas where our partners there run Balwadi pre-schools. Pre-school for Indian children is important because these children must have a specific set of skills to enter primary classes. Without this jump-start to their education, it is highly unlikely the child will ever get an education.

Our partner Terrence met me and guided me through the area. We visited a school supported by Arise and I was able to watch teachers at work and meet the students. Teachers are highly connected to the community and provide a very interactive educational experience to the children. In addition, children benefit greatly from a nutritious meal while at school each day. Each day parents bring their children and pick them up after class.

During our visit I was in three large slum areas and Terrence briefed me on the people and life lived there. The people were friendly and responded to the camera happily. While houses were small and dark, people kept their small streets fairly clean and did their best to dress their families well.

Terrence and I visited several Balwadi's. I learned that small house churches often spring up in the communities around the Balwadi formed by teachers and local community families. I was impressed to hear that the Christian church in India place very high value on hosting Balwadi's in their communities and that they sacrifice to help pay for the education of the young children.

While dangers certainly exist for the children living in the slums, Balwadi's offer them a hope and a future. This initial education opens the door to primary school and gives them important nutrition.



MUMBAI SLUMS

4 Kosovo Christmas Outreach

It was amazing to once again be involved with the 92Hands youth team to help neighbours in our community.

We worked with 92Hands leaders before Christmas to plan the event and also publicized it so many of our friends and family could participate. By now many back home know about this annual event and look forward to participating.

After planning, this team goes to work and walks through the community to identify those families who are struggling and need help. They meet with the families and collect enough detail that we can clearly determine their eligibility.

With target families identified, the youth start fund-raising. This year the target was to feed 150 families. But more than just feeding them, the youth all agreed they wanted to stop and spend some time with each family. They would try to speak with the families, pray for them if needed, and make sure they were invited to come to our home church in the community. The goal was to "LOVE" their neighbours.

Early December 24th the entire team met at the church. The youth had already collected dried foods like rice but bought and carried perishable fruits and vegetables that morning so they were fresh for delivery.

Each striped bag was filled with staple foods as well as one or two extras like soda-pop to make the meal feel festive. The original goal of feeding 150 families had been exceeded and they would deliver 178 Christmas meals.

I get very inspired by these youth. They come from diverse backgrounds, some may not have known hunger but many have missed meals and can completely relate to lack. Regardless of their home situation, each of the 92Hands team sets aside this day (and others) to give back to their community and share what they have.

Thank you 92Hands for demonstrating what it means to be a neighbour.

FEEDING KOSOVO 2016



5 LIVING THE ADVENTURE

A mother and father came with their 5 children from Rwanda recently. This family was told they would find lots of work in Kampala and spent much of their savings on traveling here. When they arrived, they learned that there was no work and they ended up living on the streets in our community.

The family spent a number of weeks sleeping outside in Kosovo while they searched for a way to survive. Eventually someone who had a small 8x8 room free and allowed them to stay there until it could be rented. The family caught the attention of the 92Hands team when the children asked for prayer at a outdoor church service. The team approached me and we discussed how we could help this family.

The team gathered at our house and discussed a plan to provide some immediate relief as well as ways we could help this family start a small business to sustain themselves. Once again I was so impressed with how these youth reasoned out what could be done. Together we put together some clothes and bedding and found resources for some basic foods and cooking equipment.

With a list of basic home needs in hand, the 92Hands youth set off to purchase the goods we were unable to source for free. Then they visited this family and helped them get setup.

This family needed someone to help them get started. They were far from home and spoke no Luganda and were struggling to deal with their situation. Thankfully the 92Hands team saw that they could engage and were bold enough to step-up. And the team is still working with this family today looking for a business opportunity. The father has experience selling shoes and it seems likely that we can provide a micro-loan to get him started.

As peddling shoes on the street in Kampala is a little different than it would be in Rwanda, the team is sourcing a street peddler that can work with the father to get him started.

Terry and I love working with this group of 18 to 22 year olds. They inspire us as they care for families in their community.

Real Life in
Kosovo

