



MISSION REPORT

the Banmans



Andrew & Terry Banman
Lugala, Kampala, Uganda
Qtr4 2019

Adoption

In October 2019, Terry and I went to court to present our case for adoption to an Ugandan judge. We were accompanied by Joshua and Grace of course, but also by their grandmother, an aunty, a social-worker and our lawyer.

Our lawyer presented the details of the case and argued how we had fulfilled the requirements of the laws associated with adoption. Of course, he summed up his presentation with our request to be allowed to adopt Joshua and Grace.

The judge heard testimony from each of us, including the children. She had some hard questions which were aimed at getting to the truth and we actually felt she represented the courts interests in this situation well. We felt she was careful but fair.

Today, we are waiting for the judges response. It is taking a long time to get the result but we are told it is likely to come before the end of March. As you can imagine the wait isn't welcome.

Joshua and Grace have now been part of our family for more than 5 years. This is longer than either of them had known any other life. Grace arrived at our home at 2 years old weighing 4.2kgs and unable to walk. She had no teeth and little hair and was suffering from serious malnutrition. Joshua was also malnourished but not as badly.

Since their arrival in our home, Joshua and Grace have transformed our lives. We love them so much and can't imagine a life without these two amazing individuals. We hope 2020 will see the adoption complete and allow them Canadian citizenship so we can travel home and introduce them to family and friends.

“Children make our lives important.”





A Beautiful Life

Almost 4 years ago, Robinah and her little boy Danny moved into our home. Robinah was about to start university and needed a family who could help her to complete her education and then stand on her own two feet.

[CLICK HERE](#) for video of Robinah telling her story

Today, Robinah is completing her final year of a business degree and Danny is speaking in full sentences. They have done so well and we are proud of them both.

Terry and I are now working with Robinah to help her launch. In the coming year, Robinah will complete school and begin her life as a business woman. She desires to start a stationary store and she has learned to make exercise books she can sell to students and schools. We look forward to cheering Robinah on as she steps into business.

As a step toward independence and the many additional responsibilities of life on her own, we have relocated Robinah into a small home on our property. Here Robinah can test her independence while remaining safe and close to the family.

We are proud of the lovely lady Robinah is. She is beautiful, and capable, she is a good mom and a hard worker. Robinah loves to bless others and never gives up. There will be struggles in her life, but we are sure she will show courage and persistence and will be successful.

Robinah and Danny shortly after they arrived at our home.



A surprise birthday lunch at university.

"Success is not final; failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts." - Winston Churchill

EVERY CHILD DESERVES THE OPPORTUNITY TO THRIVE

Mission - To transform the Ugandan system of education so that children may be fully equipped to thrive in a constantly changing world.



Education Must Be Good Business

In Uganda, there are 3 categories of schools. The Government schools are the ones no human wants to go to, they are attended only by those with no other option and are very badly spoken of by locals. International schools offer excellent facilities and school standards but are very highly priced and inaccessible to most families here (ours included). Finally, there is a huge number of privately operated schools. These are the schools most Ugandans attend and their standards vary widely.

As the Arise team plans and progresses a school solution for Uganda, it is these private schools who are the target of our solution. Our goal is not to compete with these schools, but rather to lead a revolution from within the pack. Uganda needs a revolution in the way it sees children and how it equips them. Our school must do more than improve government exam results. It must generate extraordinary youth and demonstrate to the educational community that educational excellence is good business.

Our goal is to make the business of educational excellence so financially appealing that schools are adopting these new methods as a business strategy. And once a critical mass of schools are bought-in, transformation will become inevitable.

Extraordinary youth taking their place as business people, politicians, teachers, and professionals of all kinds will create the necessary environment where real societal transformation may occur. In order to have the impact intended, this new breed of Ugandan school must:

- Provide Excellence in Education - The school cannot just use memorized facts as the bar for success. It needs to ensure actual understanding for learners which will underpin real capacity as they enter the marketplace.
- Develop Integrity and Character - The school must grow youth who will see the benefit in honest straight forward dealings with others and recognize corruption as being counterproductive to everyone economically and personally.
- Demonstrate Financial Profitability - The school books must demonstrate that the tuitions of a school of excellence warrant the change of methods. Our school must become profitable and be ready to prove it to others.

Our purpose then is to create a school that can deliver on these three goals. This school will demonstrate 21st century educational methods and catalyze a revolution in the way children are educated.

“He who thinks he leads, but has no followers, is only taking a walk.” — John Maxwell

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