

Set Free Update

A Monthly
Publication of
**Set Free
Ministries**



OCTOBER 2006

Set Free Ministries Trip to Uganda - 2006

With tears in her eyes we were welcomed by the wife of Edward, the man who last year fell from the roof while working on the children Sunday school room. Everyone thought he would be paralyzed permanently from a compressed neck. Our Gracious God has been performing a great miracle in his life. Edward now is able to hobble on crutches for a very short distance. He also cannot be very long from home because he has no control over his bowels and can only be fed at home. His fingers are gnarled and cannot grasp anything small. Since the Ugandan government does not provide a financial safety net, this family is completely dependent upon the church and other people. As his wife pointed to her stomach and said they are constantly hungry, our hearts went out to them. We found out that there is a treatment that he can receive that has been successful 75 out of 76 times. They tell us that he should be able to go back to work after the 30-day treatment. The only thing that prevents him from getting that treatment is the cost. For them it is a great deal of money, 900,000 Shilling, which they don't have (about 2-1/2 years of income for them, if Edward was working). The cost in US currency is \$500.

We were invited to preach in one of the small churches in the middle of the Muslim section of Kampala. Several people were converted already to Christianity. The Muslim children were standing outside the door of the building, listening. We were welcomed by the choir singing, all children. It was just heart warming. After the service was over, it is normal to be invited to the pastor's home for lunch, but we had another commitment already, so the pastor said they would give us a present, a collection taken for water. They gave out of their poverty a very generous collection. The equivalent of \$2.26 toward water bottles (they know if we drink their water we would get sick).



As we taught the principles of freedom in Christ, as we did last year also, people were convicted of a sinful lifestyle, and repented of such things as worshipping ancestor spirits, witchcraft, multiple cohabiting situations, witchdoctors, etc. In fact, several couples who had been cohabiting will have a mass wedding next month.

As we taught many pastors the principles of freedom in Christ, and later taught 4 selected pastors to become teachers of these principles we were happy and grateful to God that during the last day of teaching, they asked to teach the last lesson, and they did

a splendid job. It was good to see that those pastors took hold of these concepts and began to own them. Several said that they would go home and teach their families first and then would teach these concepts to their congregations, so that it would not only be something that people heard about but that it would become a lifestyle now.

Many people in Uganda have been treated shamefully and brutally by their own people, such as tribal chiefs, police and the army, and they carry a lot of hatred for people, such as Idi Amin. Ephesians 4:26 says, "In your anger do not sin, do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give the devil a foothold." We heard many requests from pastors on this subject. "Teach us so we can tell our people how to truly forgive. People are in such bondage".

Some of the contributing factors to the tremendous poverty are the large number of children whose parents have either abandoned them, (some died from aids), or the corruption by local and national governments. Many people live on starvation diets. The CRWRC is working hard to alleviate the poverty. We have been working with CRWRC. During one of our meetings, the local CRWRC representative, Francis, came and presented to us how they hope to improve the diets of the people. SFM will be a contact and information point for farmers to get information on Amaranth, a very high protein crop that can easily be grown in areas prone to drought.

One of the areas we worked in is the district of Rakai. The drought is very severe in that area. In fact several children have died recently for lack of water. Last year when we visited that area, as many as 60 children would walk around with nothing to do. They are the children of parents who died of aids. There you find children taking care of children, with no adults available. In one area close to where we were, there was one adult left out of the whole village of 62 adults.

Because of the prompting of the Holy Spirit and the work of Set Free Ministries in that area, a Christian school was established with a present student count of 220. The students receive one meal a day and are taught in English and the Uganda language. The poverty is almost too painful to describe. In order to get water they scoop up mud out of an almost dried up riverbed and pour that into a Jerry Can. When the mud has settled on the bottom of the Jerry Can, they carefully pour the water into another container to be used for drinking, cooking, etc. Needless to say, almost all of the crops are failing. There is no water for irrigation. Can you imagine living without electricity? You can see the hopelessness in the expression and eyes of the people. Last year, we were the first white people they had ever seen. They welcomed us with open arms and expressed gratitude that we cared enough to visit them. They said, now we know that we are not forgotten. We were glad that in all the poverty, the students and teachers showed love of life in Jesus and happiness.

Another area we ministered in was the Kibale area, a town way back in the mountainous region close to the Congo. This area seemed to be better off economically, because they seem to get a better rainfall during the rainy season, but the poverty is still very marked. One afternoon we visited the home of a pastor. His living area was maybe 6' x 10', no electricity, but just a storm lantern. This is where they live with one child. All the pastors have other fulltime jobs, such as shopkeepers, farmers, etc.

There are many heartbreaking stories because their lives do not line up with the biblical teachings of marriage structure, family relationships, forgiveness. Jesus taught truths that are applicable for all generations and cultures. The purpose in Set Free Ministries teachings done here and in Africa is to bring people in conformity with all that the Bible teaches on how God wants us to live to bring hope and joy to our lives. One of our great joys was to see the people in Uganda love the Lord, and our hope now is that they will begin to live on a daily basis as Jesus taught us to live. We were pleased to see that the Bibles we distributed were being used.

We had a very pleasant stay in Uganda, but the very last day was trying. Being stuck with a Van in red clay in a gully and pushing ourselves out of the clay and up a 45° road full of very slippery clay is no picnic. We slid off the road 3 times and had to push and pull up and down slippery hills for about 5 hours before we arrived at a paved road. God was very gracious and provided a united team and local people who used banana plant leaves, tree stumps and branches to help us get back on the road.

Our desire is to match up a church in America with a church in Africa. We have so much and they have so little.

Paul and Anne Taming