



Newsletter August 2008

Africa 08 Team's July Visit a Big Boost to Partners and Projects.

In July, a team of 9 visited 6 HOPE Schools and a number of churches from Bugadde in Central Uganda to Goma in Eastern DR Congo. What was bare land as little as 1 to 2 years ago, now has stage 1 of 3 – 4 classrooms and latrines nearly completed and hundreds of children studying each day.

Rooms with dirt floors or no roof does not seem to phase the determination of these children to learn, belong to a school community and develop a deep assurance that they do have a future.

The slogan of the schools indicate the spirit with which each child arrives each day... "Let me try!", "We strive for the future!" and "Give me the future!"

Altogether we treated 600 children for worms, tinea and infected ears. Some children suffering from syphilis were given help to receive special treatment.



Going up! Building progress in the HOPE School at Nakivale.

The biggest surprise was to arrive at the HOPE Nursery and Primary School in the refugee camp at Nakivale and find 409 children in unfinished classrooms, in mud and stick temporary structures, and in classes under trees. The new latrines are finished and are the talk of the camp with the UN staff saying they have never seen such excellent latrines!

Now we need to support all our partners and see the buildings completed and stage 2 commence. Already 1,500 children attend schools being pioneered with our African partners' vision and our financial and close relational support.

It was great for members of our team to see how and where their hard work and fundraising had been spent and the early results of their support.

Children in the camp are not yet able to pay any fees. HOPE has agreed to offer some support to the 6 teachers who work there every day, instead of tending their gardens to provide themselves with food.

The work here is a credit to the overseeing of Ps. Willy and Anne Tumwine who have coordinated the building work and to the heartfelt vision for the refugee children of Rev. Aloys who coordinates the churches in the camp.

Right now we have 8 schools under construction in Uganda and DR Congo. They all need much more help from Australia and other places where we have so much. Please enquire how you can help these exciting new projects and stand with our faithful partners in the field. Our goal is for 10 classrooms at each school.

The impressive latrines with doors always shut to keep the cattle out!



Helping Others Possess Empowerment

Trouble for HOPE Partner Mwamba and Family in Goma, DR Congo.



Heavy burdens are all too real for the people of Goma.

Our visit to Goma was challenging enough with long sometimes tense negotiations at borders and our FOL partner leader only recently arrived back in his home town after 3 years of exile in Uganda.

The beauty of the volcanic landscape and the acidic Lake Kivu bordering the town was great to see and provided balance for the impact of being with a war weary, battered community. Our hosts showed us some great church communities, most challenging was the FOL churches placed under huge UN tarps right in the middle of each of the 4 main refugee camps on the outskirts of the town. It was great to share,

though briefly, with these courageous people who gathered in the hundreds as we arrived at each camp.

Tragically, 1 week after our visit, Mwamba's family was attacked at night by armed soldiers who bound and gagged the 15 children in the compound, threw them on a truck and threatened to kill Mwamba unless they could give money they were sure we would have left them. Somehow Mwamba convinced them he would go to the bank the next day and get it, and in the early hours of the morning 22 traumatized people filed onto a borrowed truck and fled to Uganda, sadly, a ritual they have all done before.

Thankfully no one was seriously hurt and the 25 churches in and around Goma are in good care of a strong team of committed leaders. We are hoping to be a practical and spiritually positive influence to the thousands of refugees currently living in the squalor of the camps at Goma through the strategic placement of the FOL churches in and around the camps.



Sorting precious beans for supper in the refugee camp at Goma, DR Congo.

HOPE is continuing to provide emergency relief to some people of Goma and surrounds and any support for these communities will be appreciated.



The FOL Church made from UN tarps in the centre of the main refugee camp at Goma.



Crowded conditions and hardship is the day to day reality for the new arrivals at the Goma refugee camp.



Refugee Mamas Band Together for Small Income.

Women from a project sponsored by HOPE in Nakivale, southern Uganda, have spent days making beautiful paper and varnish necklaces and bracelets to sell in Australia. All proceeds from these sales will be sent straight back to these mothers and widows who are determined to make a small income to help educate their children and lift the quality of life for their families. You can support these refugee women who have fled Rwanda, Burundi and Congo, by purchasing their handiwork for yourself or as a gift for a friend. Please enquire with our office for purchases of these beautiful items.



Our Africa 08 Team sort the handcrafted necklaces, bracelets and wrist bands for selling in Australia.

Australia HOPE International Inc.

132 Princes Hwy

Nairne. South Australia. 5252

P. +61 8 81880143

E. hope@ahi.org.au

W. www.ahi.org.au

Bill Osborne. Chairman

Our purpose is...

To alleviate the devastation and humiliation imposed on the poor, the war weary, orphans and AIDS widows in developing nations.

We bring hope through the generosity of Australian individuals, businesses and churches.

The HOPE Project assists partners to develop ...

- Land for schools
- Child education sponsorship
- Medical assistance
- Buildings for schools
- Teachers sponsorship
- Training and small businesses for AIDS Widows

Internet Donations: BSB 105—025 Account 050219640

For other ways to donate or sponsor a child, HOPE School class or AIDS widow, please visit our website 'Donate' page. Thankyou for caring!

Mission, Church and Outreach News.

(Please note: Giving to this work and projects is not tax deductible)

HOPE Missions participates in planting churches, supporting and standing with pastors in poverty, and outreaching through street work and open air evangelism.

This July, we saw hundreds come to a new experience in Christ and dozens healed. Jono Osborne who is spending 6 months in DR Congo and Uganda has seen some **great miracles**. One was a blind man whose white eye turned a healthy brown during prayer. A crippled teenage girl was carried to our night outreach in a refugee camp and after was seen running around with a very excited crowd after her! Many babies with high fever were prayed for and some had immediate cooling and relief.

It was exciting to see **new churches** going up in the hardest places. One 1/2 finished building in Goma DRC, will seat a few thousand. In Nakivale, the new arrivals from Burundi are building a church hall from large unbaked mud bricks. We gave out clothes to the Congolese new arrivals in a new church building of sticks and mud. Each people group has their own building techniques for a place to worship God together. Notable in the camps is when the refugees, on arrival from their homeland, will build a church before their own houses are even thought of.

A wonderful **work of the African churches** is their deep concern for orphans, AIDS widows and evangelism. Churches like Holy Spirit Fire Church in Mbarara sleeps and feeds street kids in a 'shed' at their church. The younger boys are now housed in a rented house and the girls have been 'adopted' by widows who may have up to 15 children living in their humble dwellings.

In Kibogo and Nakivale, we **showed movies** on a projector donated by Southern Gateway Church, Victor Harbor, SA. While the eager viewers watched their first movie ever, with Jono's new sound system blaring out for miles, their responses were amazing. When the scenes of the scourging of Jesus in The Passion of the Christ were on, hundreds wailed loudly and children reached out to the suffering Saviour. There was great rejoicing and cheering at the scene of the risen Christ after His



resurrection! Dozens of people surged forward for prayer for salvation and healing each night.

Africa 08 team member Suzi brings Beth gifts from her new sponsor. She is 1 of 8 children whose mama was HIV +ve but after prayer has been tested -ve!

"Africa is the place where we will confront our own humanity, our morality, our purpose as individuals and as a country."

Dr Jeffrey Sachs, Economist



LEFT: In 2003, we found this thin shy little girl in a village where they had never seen white people. Dressed in rags, she danced to village drums and gazed in amazement at the 'whiteskins' who had come to her village. Her days were spent digging in the garden for food and preparing for her 1 meal a day at night.

RIGHT: In July 08, we found her again. A strong confident girl, sibling on back and dressed in her new HOPE Primary School uniform she stands before the unfinished permanent classrooms knowing she is cared for and loved. Child Education sponsorship gives real hope for her. You can share the joy of sponsoring a child like Patience. Please enquire today!

