

**By the time you read this even more will be gone.
There is hope. Sponsor a child and make a difference!**



Uganda Street Boys Child Sponsorship Program Launched

From the Words of a Witness to a Call for us all: Give Hope.

I recently returned from Uganda. It was my first mission trip and my first time to Africa. The few days I was in Uganda will impact me for the rest of my life. The wonderful team I was a part of traveled to five very different places around Uganda to hold medical clinics, and we were able to treat hundreds of people. Anna Morrow and I were also able to distribute reading glasses to the adults. Many of the people thanked us because they can now read the newspaper and their bibles.



day making woodcarvings and sleeps under the shabby, open-air church, which is less than fifty yards from the woodcarving factory. The other boys said his story is not uncommon.

Some other boys who make woodcarvings are part of the Grace Fellowship boy's home. This boy's home provides shelter, food, and a male role model for fifty boys who live in and around the slum. Most boys in the home also attend school. These boys, and the others I met in the slum, are some of the most joyous people I've ever met. They trust God

completely. They are truly grateful for what they have, and they wanted to share all of it with me. These young men have found a tangible hope (surely provided by God), and I pray that they continue to persevere in their work. If you would like to become involved in these inspiring boys' lives, you can sponsor a boy from the home. For just \$30 a month, you can help support these hardworking, lively young boys and help them reach their dreams. More information can be found on the Four Corners website.

But the mission trip isn't so much about us and what we did, but about those we met. On the second day we traveled to a slum to attend a church service and hold a clinic. As soon as we stepped off the bus, bouncing smiling children attached themselves to us. At the end of the long and fruitful day, a few team members were led into a rusty shipping container. Inside was a collection of beautiful woodcarvings and necklaces. Each of these hand-crafted pieces of art was made by a child living in the slum. It was amazing to see the intricate detail of the traditional sitting men, gorillas, giraffes, and boats.

Ruth Yuskat
Auburn, Alabama

We came back a few days later to see their make-shift "factory." We squeezed between shacks and came upon about eight children, each diligently working on a woodcarving. Some had just started hacking away the wood with a simple pick, while others were sanding their boats or walking sticks. The shack they work out of isn't much bigger than a walk-in-closet. The boys are taught how to create something from the wood. Then they come each day, make the pieces, and drop them off inside the shack. The pieces are later stained, painted, and sold. The money is distributed among the boys.

We met a young craftsman named Joseph. He told us he didn't always live in the slum, but ran away from home when his father began to beat him. He now works every



FCM's Child Sponsorship Promise:
100%
of what you give
TO EVERY CHILD
is given away.

Around the Corners



My favorite author, Mark Twain, once wrote, "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime."

It's utterly incredible how one week of travel outside your comfort zone can change every following week for the rest of your life. It's been a year thus far for me, and Africa is to blame. Signing up for the trip to Uganda was, like most trips in my life, a completely impromptu and impulsive decision. One day I was in Auburn visiting with my brother, and Tripp showed up. The next day, I was looking at flights to Entebbe and trying to wade through all of the vaccinations and sunscreen needed for the trip. And, yes, I still managed to get a stomach virus and walk away with a royal sunburn (please don't let this deter you from visiting; I just have no filter when it comes to food and am a jerk about thinking I don't need sunscreen).

Africa, simply put, changed everything in my life. I feel like my world was a snow globe that got tipped upside down and shaken by a three-year-old. The world instantly looked different. There were new issues that I didn't see before. Stereotypes were completely smashed. Walls in my heart were broken down. In truth, though, I found that it was not the world that became different; it stayed the same. It was me that was changing.

I have always prided myself on being a savvy traveler. You know, knowing the ins and outs of navigating airports and new cultures, adventurous but not overly so, and, well, knowing not to be a jerky American tourist. I considered myself...culturally humble. I was tolerant and loving of all people. I realized a need and wanted to help. All in all, I thought I pretty much did not need to be taught anything. Africa quickly and quite easily ripped all of that away, though. I saw real poverty for the first time in my life. I saw the devastating effects of potentially corrupt levels of government, war, and disease. I saw the thirsty and hungry, the homeless and abandoned. I saw an entire socioeconomic breakdown. I saw that I simply did not know anything. Most compelling, however, I saw hopeful, respectable people working tirelessly to cultivate change. I saw a community of believers being built. I saw bonds built on love and truth

forming. It was nothing else than sheer faith at work. I've had plenty of people tell me that going to Africa is a waste. It's an uphill battle, the continent can't be helped, and, hey, there are folks next door who need aid, too. I could have partially bought into this at one point in my life. But, actually going to Africa...well it debunked everything. Because of the existence of faith and the faithfully committed, Africa is not even close to a waste. Moreover, it abounds with hope and promise. It makes you know and believe in the deepest parts of your heart that every little bit of love makes a difference. Yes, it's totally God working and a clear reminder that we are insignificant in light of Him. But, we are His vessels, and He takes joy in our work for Him.

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I know I've mentioned love a few times at this point, (and I probably need to dispense with the touchy-feely stuff) but seeing love in every form became the point for me in Africa. I realized that God didn't just love me and my cushy existence...and that He certainly didn't love me more for it. I realized that the Ugandans are God's children, and they are my brothers and sisters. They are my equals. Each person I met deserved more love and respect than I (or we) could even think of giving. And that's where God comes in to carry His endless love through us. I just can't help but believe and know completely now that the existence of love breeds hope and faith.

1 Corinthians 13:8: Love never fails. Such a simple, simple thing that I've been told my entire life finally came to life for me in Africa. If love really doesn't fail and if we have the greatest Love of all in us, then our hope and faith for Africa can be endless.

In just one week, Africa changed the rest of my life. I only wish I had gone sooner.

Lindsay Johnson
Denver, Colorado

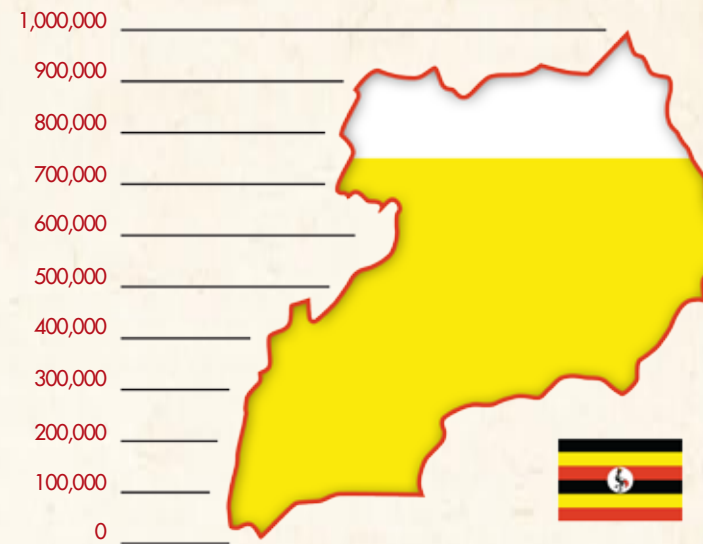
The Messenger goes quarterly.

FCM's monthly newsletter, The Messenger, is going quarterly starting January 2011. However, as long as you have signed up for email updates on the website you can still receive our monthly e-newsletter. Sign up today by visiting us online at www.4cornersministries.org

ABAANA'S HOPE
Building Hope. Adopting Life.

Campaign Current Total: \$750,000

Exciting News! As of this month, the Building Hope. Adopting Life. capital campaign has received an awesome response from our supporters and donors across America.



Lighting the Way
Hope shines bright as First Street Kid in Uganda is adopted.

Drs. Randy and Lisa Plaisance own and manage Dadeville Animal Clinic in Alabama. After their employees heard about the launch of the street kids child sponsorship program, they decided to sponsor a child as a group. What a great idea! Your Sunday school class, weekly

bible study group, civic club or business could do the same thing. Contact Joy Carpenter, Director of Child Sponsorship, to start your sponsorship today. Joy can be reached at joy@4cornersministries.org. Working together all of us can rescue children and help raise Christian leaders that can rebuild Uganda.

Still Room on Uganda Trip in April

In our September Issue, we talked about Uganda as the "Pearl of Africa" that had a landscape of beauty, but more but more impressive than the landscape is the beauty of the people. We are happy to announce that there are still spots available to join FCM in April 2011 for ten unforgettable days in Uganda. After arriving in Entebbe, Uganda team members will be given the opportunity to demonstrate the love of Christ to orphans and families in partnership with our ministry partner, Grace Fellowship Church. The ministries performed will depend on the skill set of the



group, but on most trips the work can include a carnival for children, medical mission, evangelism and prayer walking, discipleship training for men and women, as well as training Ugandans in sustainable lifestyle skills.

The group will perform at least one ministry day in Kampala and daily excursions to more rural areas outside of Kampala. Learn more about this trip at www.4cornersministries.org

Four Corners Ministries
Fundraising Dinner
at
Chick-fil-A
700 Quintard Drive, Oxford, Alabama
January 27th
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Plan a family night or just come on by and eat more chicken. This dinner date will not only fill you up, but also help support the ministry of FCM!

Chick-fil-A will share 20% of the collected receipts from that evening sales with FCM!