

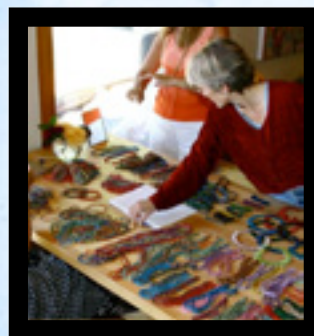


## Supporting FCM Was Never So Much Fun!

Creating businesses and jobs through entrepreneurial development is a more sustainable approach to poverty eradication than providing aid. With that in mind, FCM is beginning to create partnerships with women in Uganda that will allow them to build skills that can make them independent, rather than becoming dependent on handouts from Americans. You can be involved in helping create a brighter future for these women by hosting an African jewelry and crafts party. The first party is already scheduled for April 26th in Auburn, Alabama.



Contact Joy Carpenter at [joy@4cornersministries.org](mailto:joy@4cornersministries.org) for more information about hosting your own fundraising party.



Take action today by emailing Joy Carpenter at [joy@4cornersministries.org](mailto:joy@4cornersministries.org) to schedule a party at your house. It's easy, fun, and best of all you will be helping families overcome the huge challenges they face in Uganda.

## Answered Prayer and a Journey to Hope

The East Family and the call to Africa

Our journey to Africa began when I was in the sixth grade. My parents were short-term missionaries to Africa, so I did a social studies project on the Ibo people. After winning the state competition, I turned my research into a book that I sold at a medical mission's conference. Fast forward to high school. I am a lifetime Alabama fan who swore I would NEVER go to Auburn. Where did God send me? Auburn. Where did he get me a job? J and M Bookstore, where I had to wear Auburn clothes on game day (I always wore my Bama stuff underneath). Why did he send me to Auburn and J and M? To meet Matt East. The longer Matt and I dated and the closer we got to marriage, my question to him was, "Would you be willing to move to Africa to be missionaries at some point in our lives?" When he said "yes," I knew we were going to get married! We have now been married nine years and have two boys: two-year-old Tristan and nine-month-old Cole.



the process of becoming a secret service agent. We were praying for the process to move faster, but it's the government, and we all know how efficient it is! We were getting frustrated and did not understand why it was so difficult for Matt to find a job.

As we were waiting for the Secret Service Agency to call and offer Matt a job, a series of coincidences happened. I attended a FCM fundraiser in Opelika, Alabama, called a "Sip n' Swap." I am not a "girly girl" and do not care about clothes. Since a "Sip n' Swap" is all about clothes, I resisted going to the event but went out of my desire to support my friends. At the event, I was introduced to FCM and had the opportunity to listen

to Sarah Skipper speak. As I was writing my check, I just casually mentioned to Sarah that my husband and I have always wanted to live in Africa. Little did I know that her husband was Tripp Skipper, the president of FCM. A few weeks later, we had dinner together, and Tripp began to share the vision of Abaana's Hope.

After graduating from high school, Matt joined the Marines, with most of his platoon eventually being deployed to Iraq. However, God did not send Matt to Iraq. Instead, Matt ended up in Africa providing personal security for a general. After nine months in Africa, he came home saying he knew that we would live there together one day. Once he finished his time in the Marine Corps, Matt completed his degree at Auburn University in Environmental Design, but instead of pursuing a career, Matt felt led to become a stay-at-home dad. (I know....a marine and a stay-at-home dad just don't go together!) Is it possible God knew that if Matt had taken a job, we would have had to move out of Auburn? Is it possible God knew that if we had left Auburn, we never would have been introduced to Four Corners Ministries (FCM)?

Abaana's Hope will be a comprehensive children's village built outside of Kampala, Uganda, for some of the country's three million orphans. Matt and I are moving to Uganda with the intent of identifying potential house parents through the partnerships that FCM has established there. Once a couple is identified, they will enter into a discipleship process in preparation for becoming Abaana's Hope parents. Eventually, Abaana's Hope will be comprised of numerous homes, a school, a medical clinic, a recreational area, and a church.

As Tripp shared the vision, Matt and I could hardly contain our excitement. Tripp told us that within a few years, he would be looking for an American couple to move to Uganda to help make this dream become a reality. After that evening, we only heard from Tripp maybe once a month, until one day in May when he

After Tristan, our first child, was born, Matt felt led to start trying to get a job and was moving through

## The Journey cont.

asked us to meet with him in Auburn. Keep in mind that during all of this, I was having a bad year at school and went from loving my job to struggling through each day. Matt was trying everything he could to get a job and just getting more and more frustrated. As we drove to meet with Tripp that day, Matt said, "Wouldn't it be awesome if Tripp asked us to move to Uganda?"

We arrived to meet with Tripp and found out that Tripp's wife Sarah was at the hospital about to give birth to their third child. Tripp beat around the bush for a while, and we were starting to worry that he had just asked to meet with us to ask for a donation, but as Sarah's phone calls became more frequent, he got to the point and asked us to pray about becoming FCM staff and moving our family to Uganda to launch Abaana's Hope. He said to let him know in a few months, but we were ready to let him know in a few hours!

There was no question. God was very clear. We had prayed for ten years for an opportunity that would allow us to serve God and the people of Africa.

Our prayer had always been that of Audio Adrenaline:

*I wanna be your hands  
I wanna be your feet  
I'll go where you send me  
And I'll try to touch the world the way you've touched my life  
and I'll find my way to be your hands  
I've abandoned every selfish thought  
I've surrendered everything I've got  
You can have everything I am  
From now on, I'll go so send me where you want me  
I finally have a mission  
I promise I'll complete  
I don't need excuses  
When I am your hands and feet*

Why had God allowed me to become so frustrated with my teaching career? So I would be willing to leave it behind. Why had God not allowed Matt to find a job? So we would stay in Auburn and would be willing to pack up our kids a move to Africa. But remember that our God loves to laugh. . . In August of 2010, Matt went with Tripp and some other men to Uganda to explore housing and to continue the search for land for Abaana's Hope. Who called to offer him a job



WHILE he was in Africa? The Secret Service, of course. But, God had made it very clear what Matt's answer was to that!

While selling our possessions and moving to Africa is what God has called our family to do, it is probably not what he is calling you to do. God has shown us that everything that has happened in our lives has prepared us to follow him to Africa.

When is the last time you prayed for God to reveal His plan for your life?

There is NO excuse for you to not be serving God's people in some way! Christian author Max Lucado says, "God doesn't call the qualified. He qualifies the called."

God has called you to serve at a specific place, at a specific time, for a very specific purpose. Have you asked Him where He wants you? Is it at your church? Is it at your work? Is it at a community center? Is it in another state? Another country? Is it your money that God wants to use for His glory? Whatever it is, God has a purpose for each and every one of us! (Psalm 33:13, 15)

God does not burden us all with the same passion. What has He burdened you with?

My passion, my heart has been in Africa as long as I can remember. It took 31 years for me to get here, but that is God's perfect timing.

Don't be afraid to pray and ask God to reveal these things to you. He promises He will not give us more than we can handle. God knows that "no one can do everything, but everyone can do something."

Any work that you do in God's name will long outlive your earthly life. So, I challenge you to pray and ask God to reveal to you how He wants you to serve His people on earth. Then, I challenge you to follow through on His command! If it turns out that you are interested in the mission field, we would love to have you come stay with us in Uganda. If it turns out that God wants you to give more of your money for the work of His Kingdom, FCM (or any organization you choose) will always appreciate a donation. If it turns out that God just wants you to open your eyes and see the people He has put in your path, take the time to love on them! We serve Christ by serving needy people.

Remember, do not fail to do something just because you cannot do everything. When we help others, we serve Jesus. Who would want to miss a chance to do that?

Support Matt and Jamie by making a one-time donation or by supporting them with a small monthly donation. Visit the East Family tab on the donate page of the FCM website to make your contribution today: [www.4cornersministries.org](http://www.4cornersministries.org)



## New Website Coming Soon

We are proud to inform you of a new look for the FCM website. It will be filled with more video, photography, up to date blog entries, and so much more! Check it out later this month at [www.4cornersministries.org](http://www.4cornersministries.org)



Like your info quick and fast? FCM is now part of the twitter-sphere! Follow us under FCMAFRICA to get in the know. We are also on Facebook, Flickr and you can find us on the web at [www.4cornersministries.com](http://www.4cornersministries.com).



## 2010 Annual Report is Available Now

In 2010 FCM took some huge steps to cement our presence in Sudan and Uganda for generations to come. We added staff members, completed a feasibility study, launched a successful capital campaign, took our first medical team into South Sudan, expanded our child sponsorship program, and proclaimed the Gospel in both countries. Take time to read the 2010 Ministry Report that is online at [www.4cornersministries.org](http://www.4cornersministries.org) as we celebrate God's faithfulness over the past year.

Thank you for continuing to stand firm with us as we seek to make a generational difference in the lives of children in Africa. Remember, every challenge has a solution and by working together, every one of us can make a difference.

*Tripp Skipper*

Tripp Skipper  
President of FCM

## Noteworthy Art from the hands of Uganda's children

FCM is excited to introduce a set of six notecards that contain a drawing from a child that resides at Grace Fellowship Children's Home in Kampala, Uganda. The cards will sell for \$15 and can be purchased by emailing Joy Carpenter, Director of Child Sponsorship, at [joy@4cornersministries.org](mailto:joy@4cornersministries.org). All proceeds from the sale of these note cards will directly impact the lives of these children. So, write a note and impact a life today.

