

## Some lessons learned after nine years

Our December 2004 visits to seven villages in southeast Uganda tore us up. We came home convinced that something had to be done in behalf of the scrawny, ill-fed kids. We told the story, and valuable partnerships were formed. Incredibly caring people—both here and there—have made some heart-melting things happen. A few insights gained over the years:

- Hungry kids can't learn. Pure and simple. If we want young brains to develop and young minds to expand, we need to make sure there's enough good food and clean water in the young tummies.
- If momma is sick, the kids are sick. If we want the kids to be healthy, we need to look after momma. That's why we try to check on momma each time we visit.
- Simply tossing around world hunger statistics can be numbing. We know the names and faces of the kids we serve. They're stuck in our hearts. We'll do whatever it takes to keep them alive.
- Getting kids—especially girls—into school is not optional. It's up-front critical.



## Christ Community Lutheran School, Kawete, Uganda

*Sent and sustained by Jesus, the Bread of life, we are currently involved in the following efforts at the Kawete school:*



**School garden project.** We've had our ups and downs maintaining a reliable oxen team, and the weather isn't always cooperative. We're looking forward, though, to the harvest of our first major maize (corn) crop. The school's four "houses" (St. Paul, St. Mark, St. Peters, St. Louis) are competing with one another to get the largest yield.

**Clean, accessible water supply.** We're drilling a second borehole well, this one for the exclusive use of our school (the other is going non-stop, used by the entire village).



**Kids Against Hunger.** This high-nutrition foodstuff is like gold in Kawete. The kids don't leave a grain of rice on their plate. School cooks, Rose and Justine, are very careful with the KAH supply, preparing the casserole twice a week and providing *posho* (corn flour porridge) the other three school days. We're hoping to ship off another Kids Against Hunger shipment later this fall.

*For centuries (millennia?), African women have prepared meals by setting a cooking pot on three stones, shoving tree limbs underneath for fuel. Problem is, this method means a lot of trees are being cut down, most of the heat escapes into the air, and the smoke causes eye irritation and respiratory ailments.*



**Rocket Stoves.** A carefully designed rocket stove uses very little fuel and significantly reduces emissions. WGLO has distributed a number of smaller rocket stoves to widows and single mothers in the Kawete area. Two larger units (with 60-liter pots) await installation in our new school kitchen.

**Fuel Brick Press.** Thanks to Arlie Ehlmann of St. Louis, Missouri, fuel cakes can be made from almost any biomass: dried leaves, peelings, sawdust, waste paper, even animal dung. Two of Arlie's presses are currently in use in Uganda. We're also hoping to purchase additional presses from Institutional Stove Solutions, Cottage Grove, Oregon.



*Sarah, caretaker at CCLS, Kawete, has been using her rocket stove every day for 18 months - she touts its usefulness to us every visit.*

*Jesse removes a fuel brick from the press, ready to dry and then burn.*



## Health

Dr. Kent Killian and Dr. Treena Sturgeon bring medicines, treatment, and consultation to the kids and women of Kawete. GYN nurse practitioner Cathie Albers and Violet (WGLO project coordinator) address health issues of women.



## Education

### **Sweet Dreams Girls Dormitory-School Dispensary**

A team of six (so far) plans to visit Kawete October 17-25. Two medical physicians, a nurse practitioner, a Lutheran pastor, and the two Schasers plan to be on hand to inaugurate the facility, visit the homes of villagers, and promote community health.



**Student Sponsorships.** These four children, orphans living with their grandmother, were not attending school because the grandmother could not get enough work for tuition and fees for the children. They now have a sponsor, and during our March trip, showed us their beautiful smiles. The youth of St. Cronan's Catholic Church, St. Louis, raised enough funds at a recent Family Fun Night to support this family with fees and supplies for education, mosquito nets, goats, and food.



### **Kyosiga Community Christian Association for Development, Bulenga, Wakiso**

We at *With God's Little Ones* are pleased to have provided assistance to this well-administered community development program northwest of Kampala. Collaboration with Director Derek Luwaga has included:

- **Community Training and Volunteer Center.** We provided partial funds for the construction of the center and installation of concrete water tanks.
- **Funding for poultry farm** (with 500 laying chickens) and **upgrade of the pig farm.** Within one year, this sustainable, income-generating program will have trained and equipped 25 family units.
- **Two spring wells.** Each well serves 500+ families.
- **Student sponsorships.** WGLO partners currently provide for the school costs of two elementary students, two secondary students, and one university student.
- **Rocket stoves and fuel presses.**



*Here in Bulenga, 20 people have learned how to make charcoal fuel bricks with Arlie's press, creating jobs and caring for the environment.*

## Licking Your Fingers in the Valley of the Shadow

We thought it was thunder rumbling in from the southeast,  
but it was actually the not-so-dainty sounds of celebration—  
oohs, ahhs, and burps—  
coming from 300 scraggly kids and other poor folk in southeast Uganda.  
This bunch of nobodies had just been honored  
with a luxurious feast.

Imagine the red-dusty place called Kawete,  
where hunger looms daily,  
where dirt poor older folks have to stand by  
and watch their kids wither.  
Maybe the name of this place could be  
Valley of the Shadow.

Now.

Imagine local widows stirring huge aluminum pots  
over a three-stone fire,  
joking among themselves, eyes watering from the smoke.  
Imagine the men fussing about, issuing orders, nudging logs into the fire.

This was a day of magnificent yeses.  
Yes, it was the barefoot kids who were served first.  
Yes, they tore into rice with meat.  
Yes, incredibly, Coke and Fanta to drink.  
Yes, the entire village turned out.  
(Yes, Yes, enough to go around.)  
Muslims and Christians lounging together on the ground,  
giggling,  
wiping off their children's mouths,  
licking their own fingers,  
gazing off into the distance.

For one brief tick in time, the last were first.  
Grace was tasted.  
And, yes, the angels sang.



*Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil, for thou art with me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies.*  
(Ps. 23:5)

## Cambodia Notes

**Broyouk.** The children at Emanuel Christian School in Broyouk strike us as spirited and well-cared for. The staff works well together. Mr. Chamreoun Srey has the facilities sparkling.

**Center of Peace Orphanage-Phnom Penh.** Under the loving care of Bophal Yos, the 65 children at Center of Peace are blossoming. Older youth entering college have separate sleeping facilities and serve as orphanage staff.

**Kandas-Vihear, Kampong Cham Province.** We simply can't let go of the 100 beautiful, scrawny kids in this impoverished, flood-prone place. We're learning that, in order to survive, many parents leave their children behind as they seek work elsewhere. And we're trying to find out who's responsible for them. The notion gnaws at us that many of the children are having to fend for themselves.



We are struggling to come up with a longer-term wellness plan. In the meantime, Chenda Srey and her dad, Chamreoun, are orchestrating a variety of short-term efforts, including twice-monthly visits by a Phnom Penh youth ministry team, pastor and teachers from Broyouk, and special attention from Rev. Juanito (development) and Mrs. Beatrice (medical) Basalong.

**Tong Neak, Prey Veng Province.** This village near the Vietnam border was one of our first project sites. Recently, we've provided books and materials for the school library, outfitted the village clinic, and provide bi-monthly visits by medical personnel.

### Some ways to help

- \_\_\_ Buy hi-yield seed and fertilizer for an acre of corn - \$150
- \_\_\_ Sponsor a CCLS-U feast for all the kids in the community - \$650
- \_\_\_ Buy a case (216 meals) of Kids Against Hunger foodstuff - \$50
- \_\_\_ Sponsor a Kids Against Hunger packaging event \$500+
- \_\_\_ Purchase and ship a fuel brick press - \$200
- \_\_\_ Provide a widow with a small rocket stove - \$65
- \_\_\_ Sponsor a student for one year - \$250
- \_\_\_ Buy a pregnant goat for a P-7 graduate to support secondary education - \$40
- \_\_\_ Provide bi-monthly nutritious food for Kandas - \$65
- \_\_\_ Purchase a water filter for Kandas - \$15

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