



HOPE CENTERS

for Children of Africa

April 2016

Written by HCCA Board Member

I have had the opportunity to travel to Uganda on two occasions. Why Uganda? The simple answer is this: I have a daughter who was 16 years old at the time of her first of three mission trips to Uganda. This was enough to spark my interest. I felt this was a perfect opportunity to strengthen our father-daughter bond by experiencing something that she loved but I had no idea to what extent the impact of my first trip was going to have on my life. During my first trip to Uganda



in February 2015, I was accompanied by Pastor Nate Nash, HCCA board member, and Glenn Mork, Director of HCCA. The area of our focus was a village in the Luweero District; an area that was greatly affected by war, which left many widows and orphans in its wake. We first met with the widows at a place that is referred to as "the farm". The farm consisted of one old building on about 19 acres, of which none were currently in production. Shortly before our arrival, a stick-built shelter with a grass roof was erected. While I don't recall what my expectations were regarding the people, I do remember they were extremely friendly and warmly welcomed us. We spent most of our days visiting the widows at their homes. It was during those visits that I was most touched. To see the conditions in which the orphans and widows lived was heart wrenching. It became an emotional roller coaster for me. One minute I would be laughing and the next minute I couldn't hold back

the tears. Every visit was bookended with loving hugs, but it was the hugs when we were departing each home that I felt Jesus had his arms around all of us, as if to say, "This is what I meant by loving your neighbor."



During one of our visits to a widow's home, we met Grace. Grace had become a widow about one week prior to our arrival. She had 9 children, little means to take care of them, and an injured knee. While visiting, we could sense the emptiness within her. I had never witnessed anything like this. She had no other family, few friends, and many concerns. Grace was lacking hope. Fast forward to February 2016 and my second trip to the same area. On this trip I was accompanied by Dean Hoiland, Northwood, ND, and Glenn. Our first item of business was to meet the widows at the farm. Upon arrival, we stood in awe of what the widows and HCCA staff had accomplished in one year! The only thing that appeared the same was the shelter. All but





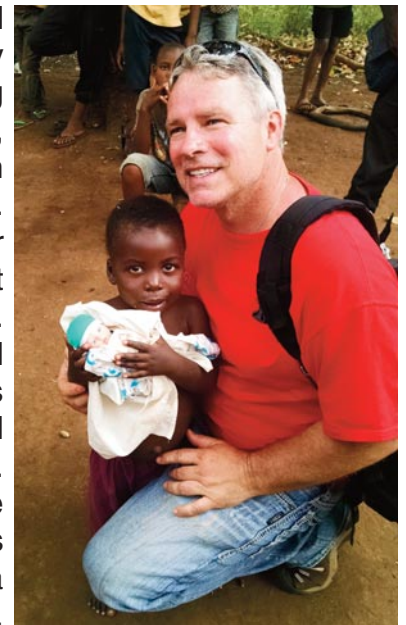
about three acres of land had been cleared and were in production, there were many types of animals, a 2-stall bathroom, a building for storage, offices, and sleeping quarters, and pens for all of the animals had been built, an amazing transformation had taken place. This transformation was not just limited to the



Alexa and James pumping water from the new well on the farm!

land and buildings, but also included the widows. There was now a unity among them that was not evident during my first trip. A synergy was present due to their communal efforts. The transformation could also be seen in Grace. She has so many friends now who care for her and show her God's love. The whole village abounded with hope. As we were being introduced to the newly added widows to the program, a widow named Jessca, who was 6 months pregnant, shared her tragic story as her face flooded with tears. Jessca lived in South Sudan with her husband and

five children. Her husband recently passed away while working. Having been left with nothing, she and her children immigrated to Uganda. Jessca's story is similar to Grace's story, but there is a big difference. Jessca has formed friendships with widows who have been involved in the HCCA program. They will be by her side to reinforce that hope is omnipresent. During a church service in Uganda,



Ted with one of our little ones.

where this hope comes while we were singing the chorus to a worship song: "Weebale Yesu..." (Thank you, Jesus). What I experienced during my trips to Uganda was very humbling. The people with whom I have had contact in Uganda have left an indelible imprint on my heart. God has richly blessed me with the opportunity to be a part of these mission trips and I look forward to embodying the hands and feet of Jesus Christ during many more trips to Uganda. Ted Lloyd, HCCA Board of Directors.



Ted and Dean with the children waiting for lunch to be served.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP; HELP US FUND THE AREAS LISTED;

FOR THE ORPHANS AND WIDOWS:

- _____ Household and school supplies for one child @ \$55/child
- _____ Solar powered lantern for each widow @ \$20 ea.

FOR THE FARM:

- _____ Maize grinder (turns maize into flour) \$3,035
- _____ Generator \$2,321

You can send your tax-deductible gifts to HCCA @ 500 Rudy Lane, Buffalo, MN 55313 Thank You!