



HOPE CENTERS

for Children of Africa

March 2015



If You Want To Go Far, Walk Together.

As I was leaving Africa in February, I came across a saying;

If You Want To Go Fast, Walk Alone.

Bwoba Oyagala Okugenda Amangu, Tambula Weka.

If You Want To Go Far, Walk Together.

Bwoba Oyagala Okugenda Ewala, Mutambulire Wamu.

As I contemplate our work in the Luweero area, the saying resonates in my mind. To walk with the widows, to talk with them, to visit with them in their homes and begin to understand the struggles of their journey in this life, I sensed I too was being blessed. Blessed to be a blessing and yet blessed so much more in return! To know we can make a significant impact in their lives within a short time is a rich blessing indeed. The Ugandan team worked many hours to establish a priority list of those most in need. Monday through Thursday we visited the homes of those on the list. Each morning we stopped in the small community of Kiwoko (Ch wo ko) to purchase supplies.

Saturday afternoon we met with the widows to discuss the micro loan program in detail. As they came to understand the concept of the program and the benefits of being in a group, excitement grew. By the end of the day, 16 people, 15 widows and 1 man, received their loans. The loans will be used in a variety of ways, some will purchase more laying hens and others will invest in goats, pigs, material for making mats and brooms. The amount of each loan is \$100. Over the course of one year, they will pay back \$110. Once the loan is paid in full, they can borrow \$110. Each year they will pay back an additional \$10 to keep ahead of inflation and increase their purchasing power with the goal of self-sustainability for their family. They formed their own groups with 4 in each group. They are excited to be in groups, knowing the others will pray for them and help them in time of need when they are sick or caring for a sick child. They will keep each other accountable for their monthly payments.



Two men traveled with, Ted Lloyd on the left, and Pastor Nate Nash on the right, both from Northwood, North Dakota. They are new board members for HCCA.

One of the widows lost her husband just 1 week prior to our arrival. She was still in shock over her husband's death. He was working some distance away at a school. He died suddenly and unexpectedly. They have 8 children. Their home was nicely painted and the whole compound was clean and orderly yet her life was torn apart. Our home visit and enrollment in the micro loan program gave her hope for the future.



Before the week's end, mattresses, mosquito nets and school supplies were distributed and school and uniform fees paid.

As funds become available, we will add more people to the micro-loan program. We will eventually have about 100 people involved in the micro loan program. Some of the widows are quite old. They are in their high 80s and 90s. For those who no longer have the ability to work, we will use a small percentage of the farm income to support them.



Pictured here, another widow is standing in front of her new home. The walls of her old house began falling in on her. HCCA purchased the materials and volunteer labor kept the cost at \$360

for her to live in a safe and secure home. The Vice Chair of the local council told us of another widow that lives in a house that is falling down.



We visited her and found the rear wall collapsed. After her husband died, she found he had leased the land they farmed and built a house upon. She lost her husband and her home. She is confused and unable to care for herself. The land we purchased has a small wooden house on it with two separate living quarters. We moved her to our house. The caretaker of the farm will live next door to her. Her new living quarters are small but safe and secure.



We built a shelter on the farm land to be used as a gathering place. It is pole construction with open walls and a thatch roof overhead. Next to it, we placed the irrigation system and test plots to show the difference this can make in their lives. We will not tell them what they need. We will only show them what we will use and let them determine for themselves. Each small drip irrigation system (garden size) can be set up for less than \$25.



A 5 gallon pail is filled twice daily and the drip hose delivers the water to the plants, one drip at a time.

As we farm the land, we will introduce **drip irrigation** (The water is not broadcast so we are not watering weeds. Seeds are planted where the drip comes out, creating efficiency and effectiveness) and **grain storage** (Plastic containers with sealable lids. The harvested grain is placed inside the container, a board is placed on top of the seed and a candle is lit. The lid is placed on the container, sealed and when the candle inside the container burns up all of the oxygen, the flame will go out and any bugs in the container will die. Bugs and moisture/mold destroy approximately 40% of the harvested crops in 3rd world countries. This system is a proven way to prevent much of the loss.

HOW CAN I HELP?

Immediate Needs:

- Farm truck - \$20,450
- Irrigation systems (1/4 acre kits @ \$350 each, for 5 acres \$7,000)
- 2 motorcycles, 125 cc for local transportation for farm work and Evangelism \$3,000
- General Fund, \$10,000

Checks can be made out to HCCA, 500 Rudy Lane, Buffalo, MN 55313

Thank you! Glenn & Sherry Mork