

# African Christian Fellowship, East Region

## Uganda 2012 Summer Missions Report

The African Christian Fellowship (ACF) 2012 summer missions' team travelled to Uganda for two weeks between July 27 and August 11. During the first week, the team went to ACF's program site in Kumi District in the eastern part of the country, and for the second week, the team travelled to another program site in Kabarole District in the west. The missions' trip to Uganda this year was a huge success, and the team experienced the presence of God throughout the period of the trip. The team included 32 brethren from the United States and our partners in Uganda, including the young adults from ACF USA and Kampala. The team members had transforming personal experiences during the trip. One of the young believers



from the ACF Kampala fellowship, who joined the team for the first time, experienced the power of God during one of our morning devotions in Kumi. He testified how he felt the power of God rip through his body from his head to his feet, and he felt like fainting. This was his first experience of the overwhelming presence of God in his life as a young believer.

### **Meeting with graduates and current students of ACF Child Sponsorship Program**

The team had a meeting with graduates of ACF Child Sponsorship program in Kumi and Fort Portal. We had about 40 graduates who attended the meeting in both program sites, discounting those who were not able to attend the meeting. It was amazing to meet the children who graduated from our program. One of the children, Wilson Kwikiriza, recently graduated from Uganda Christian University in Kampala, and is teaching in a secondary school where he is able to serve as a mentor to our sponsored children in that school. Two other girls who graduated from the program are teachers in primary schools. We also met with the graduates who are based in Kampala before the team left the country back to the United States.

The meeting in Kumi became emotional when the children gave testimonies about how God changed their lives through the ACF Child Sponsorship Program. The children came from child headed homes, and were enrolled in the program after their parents died of HIV/AIDS. There were no dry eyes in the room during the testimony of one Okodel James who was one of the children first enrolled in the program. Okodel was a helpless child, living with his siblings in a thatched house as the head of the family after their parents died of HIV/AIDS. Termites ate the house every year when he returned home from school. Today, Okodel has graduated from the

program, got admissions to go to a University, and living in a brick house with a zinc roof. Other children have similar stories of a changed future as a result of the work God is doing with ACF missions Inc..

The meeting of the graduates was a dream come through for Wilson. When he was in the university, he observed the alumni groups of different organizations having meetings. He desired to be in a meeting where there was a common purpose uniting him with others. The meeting of the graduates of ACF Child Sponsorship program fulfilled that dream for Wilson, and he volunteered during the meeting to serve as the coordinator of the graduates from the Fort Portal area with the help of Elizabeth, another graduate from the program.



The meeting of the graduates marks the dawn of a new era in our program in Uganda in the two sites. God is building a new army of young believers, and we already have such a group in Kampala. The Kampala group is growing through their evangelical activities, winning new souls to the kingdom of God. Many of these graduates of the program got admissions to the university, and we are currently looking for sponsors for them. Please pray for these children as they conduct their meetings. You can let us know if God is leading you to help sponsor any of these children in the university.

After the meeting with the graduates, we had a combined one day camp meeting with the graduates and current students the following day. The purpose of the meeting as in the past, was to have a one on one counseling with the students. We did the counseling in a class and age appropriate breakout groups. We also utilized the time to discuss with the current graduates of our program what next to do for their future. This was very important for the graduates who are not able to gain admissions to the university. For those who gained



admissions, we discussed what other things they can do if they can't get sponsors for their university education. We specifically discussed economic activities the graduates are able to engage in to generate resources to support themselves.

Before the breakout counseling sessions, we had a general session that included praise and worship. This was followed by admonitions from the bible by the team members. In Kumi, brother Josiah Agbo and our two young adults from the USA team, Jessica Chibueze and Takor Njang , gave some admonitions, and in Fort Portal, the two young adults, our child sponsorship coordinator, Sister Grace Bassey, and the president of ACF

Kampala Henry Katongole, who is also the national coordinator of our programs in Uganda gave the admonitions. In Fort Portal, the theme for the combined meeting and the admonition is from Matthew 5: 14-16- "...You are the light of the world..." After the ministrations in Kumi and Fort Portal many of the students and graduates dedicated their lives to Christ. Two of the graduates, one from Kumi and another from Fort Portal who rededicated their lives confessed during the counseling session that they backslided from their faith after going back to the village. We are trusting God that the meeting of the graduates that we inaugurated this year will help to eliminate the problem of the students losing their faith after graduation from the program.

The program in Fort Portal ended with another segment of praise and worship that spilled into a praise jam with everyone dancing in a circle on the floor. It was truly a reunion fellowship for the graduates, current students, and the missions' team. The graduates and current students were grateful for the opportunity to know each other. The re-union was a symbol of what the future of the child sponsorship programs could look like, as the alumni fellowship for the graduates of the program takes off. We encouraged them to organize such re-union meetings when the students are on break to help strengthen their faith.



### **Evangelical outreach- Open Air Crusade in Kumi and Fort Portal**

Because of the recent activities of terrorist groups in Uganda, public activities without prior approval by the government were banned. We had to get approval from both the local and regional governments to be able to conduct open-air crusade this year. The open air crusades were held on Monday and Tuesday nights for each of the weeks we were at the two program sites. The crusade in Kumi was held in Kokwech primary school in Malera, while that in Fort Portal was held in Kiko village. We used the Jesus film for the crusades.



The turn out for the crusade in Malera was amazing and more than 200 people gave their lives to Christ during the two days. Our program coordinator in Kumi testified that this is the first time a gospel outreach of this magnitude is taking place in this village. The Lord confirmed his word during the crusades, as we battled the forces of nature. We had a wonderful weather the first day of the crusade and many people including the

children gave their lives to Christ. On the second day, immediately we arrived at the crusade ground, the weather changed. Brethren went into prayers and we reminded God we visited this

place a few years ago when there was drought, and He sent rain after more than three months of draught. We told God to defend His name and testimony, and that if He could send the rain three years ago when we came to this village, He also has the power to stop the rain. It continued to drizzle slightly, and within a moment, the cloud began to move away, and the sun started shining. Brethren mounted up the stage and began to sing. The crowd that evening was even bigger than the first day and many adults raised hands to give their lives to Christ. We had to request the children who came out the previous day not to come out again to make sure we are able to control the crowd that surged to give their lives to Christ.

The crusade in Kiko village in the Fort Portal areas was also very fruitful. Many people gave their lives to Christ after the ministration and God confirmed His word with signs and wonders. He held the rain that threatened our ability to carry on with the crusade; a woman carrying a small baby was struck by the power of God during the prayer sessions at the crusade, and people had to take her child from her as she was visibly shaken and crying under the influence of God's power. She experience peace and healing to her problems after the prayer sessions.



## Meeting with Pastors and Church Leaders

The team met with pastors and church leaders from different churches in Kumi and Fort Portal to plan for the counseling and follow up of the converts from our crusades and medical outreach. From the evaluation of our past missions trip, follow up of the converts was an area we have not done very well, and we were determined to do a better job during this missions



trip. It was going to be difficult to conduct effective follow up without the support of indigenous churches in the areas. We requested our program coordinators to mobilize pastors and church leaders on the ground. We received maximum cooperation from the Pastors and church leaders. Before we arrived in Kumi, the pastors and the leaders were already divided in groups and assigned roles to play during

the crusade and counseling sessions. They were all excited about the crusade and were happy to be part of such an evangelical outreach in their village.

We organized two sessions including a general session where the ACF East Region Missions Director explained the purpose of the meeting and shared from some portions of the scriptures to encourage the pastors and church leaders. After that, we had breakout sessions with the

men and women to discuss more the challenges they face in ministry. The breakout sessions revealed the importance of organizing a more comprehensive training and counseling for the Pastors, especially the women leaders. Many of the pastors lack adequate knowledge of the bible to teach the congregation, and the integrity of the word is compromised. In the breakout group for women in Fort Portal, there was a report about a woman leader in the church who is sleeping with someone who is not her husband and does not know how to get her self out of the problem. The basic truth of the word is not thought in the churches, and people can not distinguish cultural practices that contradict the word of God. In spite of these inconsistencies, the kind of joy and zeal they exhibit is charming, and it is obvious most of the things they do are because of ignorance of the truth about God's word. We are hoping to organize a more detailed training for Pastors and Church leaders next year, addressing important biblical principles to help restore spiritual sanity in the churches.

### **Children's program in Kumi and the Generous heart of Kumi people**

One of the young adults, Jessica Chibueze organized a special program for the children in Kumi. During the missions' trip last year, she connected with the children and was touched by how the children looked very dirty and wore thorn clothes. She planned a special program to give the kids bath and dress them with clean cloths during the first day of our medical missions. Although the team was not sure how this program will turn out since this was a new program, it turned out very well, and the children and their parents alike got emotionally connected to Jessica, and began to call her mummy Chibueze.



A mother was so appreciative of the love exhibited by Jessica towards the children that she presented her a big chicken as a gift. The team received other gifts, including a big bag of peanut from a grand parent of one of the children in our program. Two other persons gave a big chicken each to the missions' team. We were informed that you cannot refuse a gift from a Kumi person, because it is a sign of acceptance to them. We had no choice than to

accept those gifts and prayed for God's blessings for the givers.

### **The Medical Outreach**

The medical missions this year was very successful like in previous years. We had two days of medical outreach in the Kumi and Fort Portal sites of our missions program. In Kumi, we had the medical outreach in another primary school in Malera village where we held our crusade. We used the services of five clinicians who consulted for the two days. We also used the



services of one pharmacist and a nurse who came with the USA team, including five other nurses from Uganda who worked in the pharmacy departments and took vital signs of the patients. We had a huge turn out, and we were able to provide medical services to 997 people including children during the two days. Unfortunately, because of limited resources and time constraints, we were not able to provide services to

everyone that came to the medical outreach. We could not finish with those that came the first day, and we had to see them the second day. It was very painful to send home those that came the second day, after we realized it will not be possible for them to see the doctors.

We did the medical outreach in Fort Portal in our ACF clinic site in Kigarama village. We also used the help of five clinicians, one pharmacist and three nurses from the United States, and five other nurses from Uganda. We had a more difficult time doing the medical outreach here because of the Ebola outbreak in that region of the country. We considered cancelling the medical missions because of the Ebola problem. After prayers and consultation with the District Health Officer, we decided to carry on with the medical outreach. Since the Ebola disease is contracted through body fluids and sweats, we took necessary precautions to avoid over crowding at the medical outreach site, by limiting the number of people we planned to see and avoiding contacts to prevent people contracting the disease. The members of our team wore protective gloves to avoid contact with the body fluids of the patients. This extra precaution affected the number of patients we were able to treat. We were able to treat about 800 people during the two days medical outreach.

The counseling unit of our medical outreach is an important component of the outreach. Every patient that saw the doctor will have to go through the counseling unit for prayers before going to collect their medicines at the pharmacy. During the counseling, we briefly introduce Christ to the patients. We believe that while drugs are



capable of helping sick people, God is the ultimate healer. Some problems have spiritual roots, and they are dealt with through prayers during the counseling sessions. In addition to the converts during the crusades, many people gave their lives through the counseling sessions.

It was not an easy decision to send people away from the medical missions without proving them with services. It was observed that 2 days medical missions is not enough to take care of the medical needs we encounter, and with the availability of more resources, including human

and financial resources, we can plan independent medical missions, or prioritize our activities each year to give us greater opportunity to attend to more people. A more permanent solution would be to build health clinics in the remote areas where we do our medical missions, given the availability of funds.

### **Medical Clinic in Kigarama and Kamenya**

The missions' team including members of the ACF medical team, on the missions' team, visited the District Health Officer for Kabarole District in the Fort Portal area of our program site to discuss government regulations and requirements for operating a medical clinic in Uganda. The ACF medical team also had the opportunity to inspect the medical clinic that was recently completed in Kigarama, to determine how the rooms in the two building blocks will be utilized based on the services that will be provided when the clinic is officially opened. The team recommended a few amendments to help make effective use of the rooms in the two building blocks. To get the clinic running, we need to install two water tanks, do the land scarping of the clinic site, erect a fence with gate, and rebuild the pit toilet that collapsed. Finally, we need to equip the clinic with medical equipment and supplies, and hire medical personnel to run the clinic. It will cost additional \$40,000.00 to complete the remaining tasks. The clinic is projected to start operation before our next missions' trip in August 2013.



The team also had a meeting with the Kamenya community leaders in Kumi district to finalize arrangement for the survey of the property they donated to ACF to construct another medical clinic in the second ACF program site. The meeting was emotional, as the whole community turned out to welcome the missions' team for the meeting. The people surged towards our van singing and dancing with leaves tied over their bodies as we entered the meeting site. The community is overwhelmed by the joy of the plan to construct a medical clinic in their community. The survey of the land will cost less than \$1,000.00 and the community has volunteered to levy the members to raise one third of the cost, and is requesting ACF to assist them with the rest of the cost. This is a very poor community, and they are willing to do anything within their reach to make the project take off. Availability of health care services is a major problem, as there is no medical facility within 8 kilometers of the community. We are

trusting God that people will be able to support this project so that work can start at the site, once the survey work is completed and the building plan made available by our partners in Uganda. The community was willing to double the size of the original property to enable ACF use portions of the land for agricultural investment to raise funds to support other ACF projects in Uganda.

## **Meeting with new converts**

One of the great accomplishments during the missions' trip was the follow-up meetings for the new converts on the last day of our missions' trip. We organized the program at the two sites on Friday mornings before we departed to Kampala, the capital of Uganda. The follow-up meetings were very successful. Despite the fact that the converts had to work for miles to get to the meeting site, 64 people turned up in Fort Portal for the follow-up meeting. We obtained the Scripture Union follow-up bible study series through the help of our National Director for Passing the Legacy, Chinedu Ukwuani. Our partners in Uganda are conducting follow-up classes for the new converts with the material.



In conclusion, ACF Missions work in Uganda is growing and maturing. This has reached a stage where we need to begin to build a sustainable program by harnessing local resources, and building a sense of ownership in the hearts of people of Uganda. The structures are being laid and we need to build on those structures. The formation of the alumni of our Child Sponsorship program is a new

dimension in our program to build the capacity of Ugandan youths and young adults to take the ownership of the program. This has opened an avenue for the youths and young adults of ACF USA to build a connection with their counterparts in Uganda and subsequently in other African countries as we expand our program. This will help to create a path way to the long sought spiritual, social and economic revival in the continent.

The missions' team is grateful for all your prayer and financial support during the period of the trip. The team will welcome an opportunity to share their live testimonies in your fellowships and churches.

Compiled by:

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For the Missions Team