

“Back to the Source” of the GSOC: Mbeya, Tanzania



The Rev. Dr. David and Janet Stenner visited Rev Robert Mbinda in Mbeya, TZ, this June. It was the relationship with Robert that started GSOC in 2002. David writes: “We arrived in Mbeya where we settled in our room at the Karibu Center hostel. The following day we drove to the orphanage where we were welcomed by singing, dancing, and a drama preformed by the children.”

“Janet and I were moved to tears seeing the difference the orphanage made in the lives of these little ones. Many of the children we encountered in the villages showed the effects of extreme poverty and malnutrition. Their clothes were dirty and worn and there was often a look of hopelessness in their eyes. The children at the orphanage all were smartly dressed in their clean green uniforms, their skin was clear, all wore shoes, which was not the case in the village, and many had a sparkle in their eyes. We were told that if left alone the girls would most likely end up in prostitution and the boys in street gangs or some other form of crime.”

“After lunch with the children we were taken on a tour of the nearly completed new facilities. The new girls’ dorm was opened and the boys’ would open in two weeks. “

“The children...had a sparkle in their eyes.”

“Previously six children crowded into each 8 by 8 dark room, now there would be only four in a room measuring 10 by 10. Each dorm will have a toilet and washroom along with a large common room for study and prayer. “

“The really exciting news is that both dorms are fitted with solar panels and the lights were turned on for the first time during our visit.” The new dorms are only the beginning of what is planned over the next few years. About ten acres of land have either been donated or purchased for the orphanage with plans for a new dining facility, housing for staff, land set aside to grow food and raise chickens and pigs, and an area for the children to play.”

“Everyone at Good Samaritan Orphanage is truly grateful for the support they have received thus far, and Janet and I are thankful for the privilege of representing the people who have made all this possible. With the prayers and support of our friends around the world the vision of providing aid to 200 of the most needy children will become a reality!”

Thanks to all the friends of GSOC who have given over the years to make this change in children’s lives.



GSOC Project Profile

Founded in 2002, Good Samaritan Orphanage Charity (GSOC) provides funding for African faith-based organizations that provide food, clothing, and education to victims of the AIDS epidemic.

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Summer Visits to Successful GSOC Projects

Close Up: Rev. Robert and Marion Mbinda

- Robert trained as a teacher, was ordained in the Anglican Church, attended seminary at TESM in Ambridge, PA
- Marion is a nurse.
- After raising their own 6 children, she brought 56 AIDS orphans into their home and started Good Samaritan

During June and July Rev. David Stenner, his wife Janet and son Jonathan spent three months in Africa on a Lilly Foundation Grant visiting Tanzania and Uganda. Their highlight was a week with Rev. Robert Mbinda, a seminary classmate, his wife Marion, and the 56 children they care for with our help at the Good Samaritan Orphanage in Mbeya, Tanzania.

They enjoyed the many spiritual experiences that come from living in a land where much is unpredictable and out of your control, which opens opportunities for God to intervene in ways that regularly turn your expectations. They are writing a diary of their trip that will go on-line at our website.

Following Mbeya, they spent a month at Mityana visiting the children GSOC supports at Ebenezer Ministries, and helping lead a marvelous intervention for the



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malnourished children of Kabule village we featured in a previous newsletter.

Trailing the Stenners by a few weeks, Dr. Christopher Raab, a pediatrician from A.I. DuPont Children’s Hospital in Wilmington, DE, donated a week and considerable amounts of medicine to attend to children in Mityana, Kabule, and Kalunji, Uganda, small rural clinics where children receive medical care only sporadically. On one very busy day, Chris attended 137 children and parents with maladies ranging from malaria and dysentery to an old- fashioned set of stitches for a girl accidentally struck with a rock at school recess.

Bill and Vickie Innes and their son, Alex, accompanied Dr. Raab, and stayed on for another week to visit other children and do some microfinance work. Read on!

Medical Mission fulfills a Lifetime Dream for Dr. Raab

**"HABA NA
HABA,
HUJAZA
KIBABA"**

**LITTLE BY
LITTLE, THE
POT FILLS**

During his Pediatric Residency at Temple University, Dr. Chris Raab thought it would be inspiring to visit Africa and treat its children. But job, family demands, and the usual life issues intervened, until he decided 2007 would be his year. Chris donated a week and a lot of medicines, and flew with GSOC to Uganda, where he worked in four rural health clinics.

"You don't see much malaria in Delaware, or intestinal parasites either." But

children are the same world-wide, and so is their parent's love and concern for their health. Chris, accompanied by translators and African health staff, attended 60 to 130 patients a day. A big part of his legacy was improving their diagnostic skills and taking back to his colleagues in the U.S. the recognition of how much good they could do.

"I was surprised by how much we can accomplish with our skills and small amounts of our resources."

Two stories followed on from his work. First, in Kalunji, Uganda, he worked with a health center GSOC aided in 2005. Led by their dynamic "medical in-charge," Peter Kizza, they had won grants from Geneva Global and Coca Cola to install solar power and pump running water 3 miles from Lake Victoria. Peter needs to find \$25,000 in funds to upgrade various aspects of his center by December; if he does, the Japanese Government will equip the clinic to become a

Kabule Village: Medicine and Nutrition Help its Kids



Hospital. Chris was featured in the Wilmington "News-Journal" for his work. He dreams of bringing a team with him next time. "There is absolutely no dental care in these rural areas, and I was asked to attend to teeth extractions and abscesses that I was unable to help with. In addition, there were many minor surgeries that could have been performed."

Chris supervises pediatric residents at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, so he is already planning his next trip in 2009. "I presented the story of my trip to the hospital and the medical school, and I am amazed how many people wanted to share the same experience."

At present Jefferson does not offer a "term abroad" for residents, but there are breaks in their study program and Chris wants to make sure an experience like his will be part of their options in the future.

GSOC Improvements in Children's Health at Kabule



We reported in 2005 what a desperately poor place Kabule Village was. It is on an isolated dirt road, there are many homes where the parents have died of AIDS and children are raising each other, and few children have shoes and get chiggers in their feet.

By 2007 the situation was on the mend. First, All Saints Episcopal Church in Maryland funded a school lunch program that was supporting the 360 children with beans, rice, and vegetables. Before that, only 65 children were able to afford a basic lunch of millet porridge.

Within four weeks, attendance at the school zoomed to 500, as other children were attracted by the lunch program. Still, Dr. Raab found many

"In Uganda we have many needy people who run to the Church for support, and this gives us an opportunity to care for them and evangelize for Christ"

of the children suffered from anemia and protein deficiencies because their diet had been exclusively starch.

With contributions from All Saints', money was invested in creating a large garden and planting spinach, kale, and soy beans. The local headmaster and Anglican priest, the Rev. Eriya Tembo Mutahwa, will offer reduced school fees to farmers to grow and supply the school with beans, requiring cash only for rice. They also supplied funds for plates, cups, and some huge cooking cauldrons, plus wages for a staff.

Teachers commented how much more alert the children were since the improved lunches began. The quality of school work also improved, and Kabule has become a magnet, attracting students from other local schools. Again, it shows how very minor investments in U.S terms (\$3,000) can change the lives of 500 children half a world away. Your Church can do the same as All Saints.



Business as a Mission?

Africans need your help and advice to create their own small businesses. We

have financed women in tailoring and animal husbandry. Other opportunities exist for business people to mentor African start-ups.