

November 2011

Mallari on Mission

New Hope Uganda Newsletter



Goodbye for Now

My bags are packed, my passport visa has expired and I've said farewell to long, sad faces all over Kasana. It's hard to believe this day is here. I finally felt so settled and at home that I've told my kids from Ebenezer that "I'm only going to my *other* home for some time." God has really worked in me while I've been here, and it's been difficult to say goodbye. So I know my calling to New Hope is not finished. No exact date of my return has been set, nor the length of my stay, but the friends and family I have here will not soon be forgotten.

It's been a battle these last few weeks letting it sink in that Hannah and I are coming back to America. She often asks, "How are you feeling about going back?" I usually gave a mundane answer, but now I see I just didn't want to recognize that I'd be leaving this family. God has blessed me, more than I could have imagined. He is amazing in that way, isn't He? I came to Uganda with the idea that I was coming to help. To help Hannah with teams and visitors, to help the children at Kasana, but in reality it was me that *received* the help. So many people, including my family parents (pictured to the right), were the hands of God at work, molding me into who I am, a humbled servant of the Lord.

Now that they are a part of me, and I of them, Lord willing, I will be back. I have found an addition to my family, my brothers and sisters in Christ. I have found love in New Hope and my heart rejoices with praise.

Comments, questions, or just a quick 'Hello'. I would love to hear from you!

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Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa Team

The month of November began with this team from Southern California. Some of the members on this team have been coming to New Hope for more than 20 consecutive years. Others that were here for the first time. The entire team spent time in different areas around Kasana including the clinic, children’s ministry, and painting the new Hope Family house that will be home to more than 20 babies in the next few months. The team then enjoyed going on safari before leaving to go back home.

Holiday Traditions

The Christmas season without the snow, jingle bells, and homemade fudge was hard to imagine, but a little tradition goes a long way.

I wanted to give a fun gift to the Ebenezer Family and bring a little Christmas tradition from America to the Uganda culture. A week before my leaving, our family enjoyed a day baking cookies and decorating an artificial Christmas tree. The five ‘little ones’ of the family came over in the afternoon to help Auntie Jennie and I roll out the cut out cookies. I believe there was more flour on their noses and hands than actually on the table. They’d puff some flour on their face and say they looked like a *muzungu*, Luganda for a white person. After all the dough was rolled out, we had made 99 trees, stars, hearts and gingerbread men cookies and a rainbow of brightly colored frosting.

That evening, as a family, along with staff associates and the team visiting from Clay Center Church in Kansas, we had a Christmas extravaganza. I bought a 3-foot pre-lit tree and gave each of the kids a Christmas card and a star ornament with the message from Matthew 5:16 “let your light so shine”. Most of them were thrilled about the glitter on their cards, they rubbed it on their face.

Everyone had the chance to decorate a cookie and hang his or her star on the tree. The rest of the night we taught the team some games like *Who saw me, Sir?* and *Statue*. We enjoyed celebrating the traditions that come along with the Christmas season, but remembered the reason for why we celebrate, the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Central Church Team

This members of this team from Washington state were quite the travelers. In less than two weeks they drove from Kobwin Children’s Centre, on safari, to Kasana Children’s Centre, to Musana Camps and back to the airport. They ‘enjoyed’ hours of driving and a window seat to see most of the country of Uganda. The team’s expertise was counseling, water purification and treatment, nursing and, of course, visiting the Andersons as they travelled from their home church. Though a small team, they had so much spirit and grace about them.





Chronological Bible Reading Celebration

For the past year and some months the children and staff at Kasana have been reading from a daily Bible compiled in chronological order to be read in one year. It has taken more than that time because we read together only Monday thru Friday in school or at the office. In celebration of completing the Bible, a theatrical competition of biblical events was performed. Representative Ugandans, both staff and students, from their tribal region, split into Northern, Western, Eastern and Central groups and selected a story in the Bible to reenact. The four events were (1) the creation and fall of man (2) the children of Israel (3) Noah's ark and (4) the life of Jesus Christ. As seen above, I was part of the judging committee, scoring each tribes performance of the Bible story. The winning team, the East, portraying the children of Israel, won the prize-winning goat.

Each tribe had to act out the story from the Bible by also demonstrating the song and dance of their tribes. It was almost like watching a Ugandan musical of the Bible. Their creativity and perception of each story came to life in their costumes and song. I was honored to be a judge and get a front row seat to the action.

Obviously, I came partially through the Bible so I missed out on the Old Testament, but my prayer for the following year is to read it completely. Not as a goal to say I've read the entire Bible, but God's Word gives life and speaks truth into my life. Each time I read from my favorite book of Isaiah, there is something new I find that God reveals to me.

Open His Word. Let the *story* be truth and continue to share that Truth with those around.

S4 Banquet

Senior year, or S4, at New Hope Academy ended on December 2nd with much celebrating. This year's class of 34 students encouraged each other with the class theme of "We Will Remember the Work of His Hands". The banquet was complete with speeches from the graduates, Uncle Tony, the NHA Headmaster and Uncle Jay, with words of encouragement as the students begin a new season of their lives as Investment Year students. The IY program is almost like internship placements throughout the term to get hands on experience in a chosen field, and to explore the gifts and talents God has given them. We are so proud of each one of this year's class and pray they continue to grow in mind and in trust in the Lord.



Parents, relatives, teachers and supportive mentors stood behind each individual S4 graduate to pray a Father's Blessing over them and their future goals.



Pictures worth a thousand words

A centerpiece at our American Thanksgiving meal, reminding us to give thanks to God. We had a delicious feast and great company as we celebrated.



“Cultural Weaving” was a tradition my mom and I started on my first mission trip to Jamaica in 1998. I now continued it to weave in Uganda.



The manger scene of Jesus' birth as represented at the chronological Bible celebration.



Worship lyrics pronouncing our focus in life, Yahweh, Our God.

“...bringing the Fatherhood of God to the fatherless...” Psalms 68:5-6

Prayer Requests

- ✎ Continued health for Hannah and myself as we travel back to North Dakota. The stress of new situations and jet lag can be very hard to adjust to.
- ✎ Safety as we fly back to Fargo. We are scheduled to land on December 7th at 9PM.
- ✎ God's provision in His plan for my life after this time in Uganda is over. I will be taking the month of December to rest and visit with friends and family.

Praises

- ✎ Goodbyes are never fun, but I feel content and peaceful leaving Uganda with the intent of returning sometime next year.
- ✎ Hannah and I have now been in London for a few days and have had a wonderful time sight-seeing and visiting friends from New Hope home on furlough.



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to the fatherless Ps 68:5-6

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