

Our•ganda Newsletter



Generosity + Unselfish Love = Impact

Dear Friend,

Our mission trip was outstanding. I just now made a list of 19 exciting stories I could share with you – if we had 90 minutes to meet in person or on a Zoom call. Here are a few highlights:

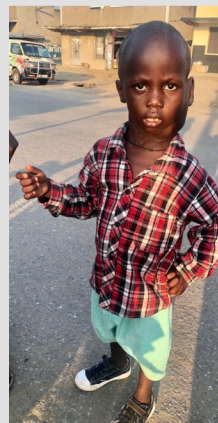
- Dr. Heidee from Idaho conducted a powerful 2-day domestic violence workshop for 45 men and women. Subsequently, she and others had important and substantive conversations with pastors, law enforcement officers, victims and offenders. Yes, offenders. It is surprising how many are willing to talk once they know their choices are two: kindness or prison.
- Step 7 leaders from Colorado have hired two Ugandan leaders who have already formed alcohol recovery groups in four of Ourganda's villages. Their focus is supporting one another for kicking the addiction, but in just the first week, 30 addicts decided to commit their lives to the Higher Power - Jesus.
- Our new community center is stunning. The project manager expects construction to be finished in October, then we'll start working on paving, sidewalks, and landscaping.
- Three officials from the Ministry of Health in Kampala made a surprise visit to Bundibugyo to see for themselves if Ourganda actually does what we claim to do. Their timing was perfect. They found Heidee teaching a domestic violence class, Bill creating a welding business, 4th-year medical students working alongside our medical teams, and numerous alcohol recovery groups coming together. When the officials found out that Ourganda is creating a community center, they insisted on seeing it. "This is beautiful. We've never seen anything like this," one of them announced. "We insist that you must build a campus like this in the other districts of Uganda!"

- Children’s Surgical Hospital, Entebbe, has requested a partnership with Ourganda. They have not only offered to operate on any children from our villages without cost to us, but they have officially requested that Ourganda become the “referral pathway for improved health service delivery among children whose conditions require complex surgery.” We are honored, and we are even now weighing where this opportunity might lead.
- Ourganda bought new mattresses and bedding for the Children’s Trauma Center in Bundibugyo.
- Two Muslim ladies asked our team if we could give them Bibles. The Step 7 guys not only bought new Bibles for them, but for eight or ten other people as well. After a few days, the Muslim women reported back that they were extremely thrilled to be learning about Jesus.

Our team saw lions up close in Queen Elizabeth National Park, attended church in a mud & sticks hut in Sarakihombya, and cooled off one afternoon in a swimming pool. But most importantly, we were determined to listen, learn, and love. To find out how we can help these precious friends move toward flourishing.

Meeting Immediate Needs; Caring about Their Future

Consider the children. Ourganda does our best to meet their immediate needs, but we are also concerned about their future. Here’s what I mean: while our team was in Uganda, three children urgently needed surgery, so Oscar, one of our medical officers, accompanied them and a caregiver from each family to hospitals far away. Thanks to generous donors, one of them, a little girl named Bena, has already had surgery and is healing fast. The other two, Ivan and Amon, will have surgery soon and will fully recover.



But what about their future? Everywhere we went, I asked the pastors and village leaders, “Where will these children be in ten years? What is their future?” No one has an answer. It’s too painful to talk about their future.

That’s what Ourganda must change. Our vision is to ignite hope in the villages of western Uganda by building communities where men, women and children feel safe, healthy and happy. How can we do that?

We are consulting with our team on the ground and moving forward. Our love for these people is deep and without conditions. We are committed to foundational, systemic change. We welcome your ideas, and we thank you for your prayers and support as we proactively transform our villages in to centers of flourishing.

Please send a generous donation so we can continue to permanently change more lives in this forgotten part of the world we love so much.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!