



May 16, 2016

## Expanding The Territory For Hands Across Nations Brings New Challenges!

Starting a new adventure in an unknown or only slightly known area is always a bit of a fearful thing along with the excitement that is there. Knowing that the Lord is with us gives us all the will and the strength to keep stretching our limits in trying new things.

The official "pilot" training of the "English as a Second Language" (ESL) Course at Lira Main Prison, Uganda, developed by Literacy and Evangelism International was completed recently. Graduation was one of the highlights of the week. The new teachers' enthusiasm was contagious, and they are now working with their lead trainer, Jean Homer (in purple shirt), former principal of Jenkins Middle school, Chewelah, WA, developing a manual that is especially appropriate for their own tribe, with a strong Biblical base, while using the methods in the LEI course.

English is the National language of Uganda and is used in all governmental documents and in courts of law. It is therefore critical for inmates to understand, speak, read and write English. One former inmate was able to learn English from fellow inmates well enough while in prison, that he was able to defend himself in court and was acquitted of the crime for which he was accused. Using English that is different than American English, they will come up with the vocabulary and conversations that are commonly used in their country. Jean is heading it all up, but the men are eager to put forth their ideas for the manual. They know that God will lead them in it, and together they will have an excellent manual.

It is a small but mighty band of men who will have their hands full with teaching English as a second language to the many inmates who have expressed an interest in joining their classes. Prayer and perseverance with God's help will make them successful. The prison administration and staff are all looking forward to encouraging the program as it grows. Ebil Patrick, former inmate, who also was a graduate was missing due to the sudden death of his 7-year-old niece from malaria - a deadly disease for so many children.



Nancy Burke, short term missionary from Colorado, Carolyn Jones sister, who was such a help to Hands Across Nations in so many way, left Uganda May 10th. The HAN Uganda team gave her a surprise send off from Lira with precious words of appreciation and love, gifts and some last photos together.

Stan Chambers, Pastor of Crossroads Church in Valley, Washington came into the country the night Nancy left. He will be part of our Hands Across Nations team until August - what a gift! Stan has "jumped into the deep end of the pool" in his first week in Uganda. He and Keith were immersed in the traffic problems in Kampala, due to the swearing in of Uganda's President Museveni the next day. There was heightened security right from the airport to the capital city, as the election has been contested in court and the opposition party leader has been under house arrest since the election February 18th.

Keith and Stan visited three of our former "Learning to Read to Read the Bible" teachers from Lira Prison; Florence, Ramathan and George, who are now at Luzira Prison, Kampala - which is for those convicted and sentenced to more than 30 years. All three were so grateful to see Keith's familiar friendly face. Keith and Stan had an hour visit with the men and 1/2 hour with Florence who struggles being alone there. The two men have had the opportunity to enroll in a law school within the prison. It will take them 4 years for their appeal to come to the court, and during that time they will be able to finish their law training. They are making the best of a difficult situation, knowing that God has a purpose for them in it.

Upon arrival in Lira, Stan joined Jean to observe the continued work with the ESL teachers at the Lira Main Prison. Along with Carolyn, they made a visit to inmates who have been in the nearby regional hospital for up to 10 months due to treatment for HIV and TB. One is a teacher for the Hands Across Nations adult literacy program, two can read and write in the Lango Language, and 9 are completely illiterate. So the idea came up of holding a literacy class daily at the hospital. The hospital director and chief nurse are both in favor and just need a letter of introduction and the plan before officially accepting it. So Stan has had the opportunity to connect and see some of the most amazing people and programs in unusual settings. He's also experienced a water outage, a power outage, and power brown out which held our power output at a steady 37 volts instead of 220 volts. On Sunday, we all worshipped the Lord at the Lira Main Prison, joining the men with singing and praying with Stan giving a short message.



Stan has already built one large and one small table to double our capacity for collating books in the printing room, as we are now needing to print and collate several books at the same time. We have MANY projects for this man of God who is obviously a servant at heart. He is willing to pitch in with any work, even washing the dishes!



Keith congratulates Stan for completing the two tables in record time, with a big Ugandan handshake.

Nothing like getting the full experience in just a few days. Keith is ecstatic with Stan's background in being a pastor as well as knowing about architectural drawing up of plans and how to do woodworking. Keith's fix-it list for our office/ home is endless it seems, and Stan has capabilities that can whittle down that list. We're singing the Halleluiah chorus!

A huge thank you to so many of you who have supported us in this work. So many lives have been changed positively by your prayers and donations. Every gift is precious to us as it means we can continue to fulfill the plans the Lord has laid out for us. He continually "flattens the mountains" ahead of us as we move forward. You are as important as each of our staff here have become. None of the classes would be moving forward without our faithful supporters. May God shower His blessings on all of you.

Sharing the love of Christ in practical ways, Keith and Carolyn Jones, Co-Directors, Hands Across Nations, Jean Homer, ESL Trainer, and Pastor Stan Chambers, short term missionary.

Feel free to contact us at: [keith.jones@handsacrossnations.com](mailto:keith.jones@handsacrossnations.com),  
[carolyn.jones@handsacrossnations.com](mailto:carolyn.jones@handsacrossnations.com) Donations can be sent to:

Hands Across Nations  
PO Box 9048  
Spokane, WA 99209

A swallowtail butterfly enjoys  
flowers outside the Hands  
Across Nations

