



Hands Across Nations (HAN) – Yesterday, Today and tomorrow

YOU have been there with us.

Sept 2, 2016

This is a long “newsletter” but please read it through as many of you will be surprised at all that has transpired in more than a decade of HAN working together in Uganda. Our Annual Benefit is coming up Saturday, October 1st. Please save the date and come celebrate with us. You will find more information below.

Almost 13 years ago, Hands Across Nations (HAN) came into being to meet a desperate need in N. Uganda. The rebel group, The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) had been on the offense in villages all over the north, abducting children into their army and making girls their "wives". In 2003, the war came suddenly to the village of our friends Felix and Esther Omodi. Our missionary team from Chewelah had worked with them for several years, but in November of 2003, the rebels attacked their village, killing 52 people, abducting dozens who later escaped, leaving hundreds of people without a place to live and no way to feed themselves. Many went to refugee camps, and about 100 fled to Felix and Esther's house in Lira.

And YOU were there - when the plea went out for funds to feed those people, purchase land in a safe place for them and provide tools and seeds to plant gardens to survive. YOU provided those things for months until they could provide for themselves. Those families, to this day, thank YOU for protecting them, and giving to them in their time of need. Many in the camps were killed, raped - and became infected with aids, starved or barely survived while those YOU helped became a strong community which still exists.



Barlonyo refugee camp, near Felix and Esther's home village, attacked by rebels where hundreds of people were shot and burned in one afternoon.



Durring and after the war, YOU provided the funds through HAN to assist the Alito community to build a huge church / community center, "shouting in the bush that God is here". It is the place where large groups can meet for Worship to God, and attend conventions and programs for health and agriculture classes.

The Alito community, with HAN help, built their own brick church to replace the grass thatch, mud hut church building in the foreground.

For several years during and after the war which ended in 2007, YOU provided clean water through HAN and partnering with Rotary Club of Colville to develop protected spring water for more than 40 communities.





Many more spring protections and wells are needed but YOU have made a difference to these precious women and children.



This one dear HAN supporter, has made more than 400 baby quilts, and several raffle quilts in the last 10 years. And others have donated 1, 3, 5 or more baby or raffle quilts, some which had been made in honor of their grandchildren but given to Ugandan babies.



When Faith Mission Church in Lira requested help to start a sewing school for 40 women who were widows, orphans, single mothers and pastor's wives, YOU were there to provide the tables, benches and 20 sewing machines to help them to provide for themselves.



. When they completed their training, YOU provided the funds for 40 sewing machines, one for each graduate! Fabric and support for the program continued for several years through YOU. They are now self sufficient under the church, continuing to provide training to very needy women.



Some of YOU helped provide funds for village crop projects, purchasing and renting land, a buying seeds to develop gardens for food and school fees for families after the war. In Bala, their garden group started a nursery school, which is now a nursery through 7th grade school for local children. Many of YOU helped sponsor children in school, some who have graduated and become productive citizens and others who are still progressing with their education.



Most recently, in the past 3 years, almost twenty thousand people of the Lango Tribe, illiterate because of the war, now have primers, over 2,000 trained volunteer teachers, classes and reading glasses to learn how to read in their native language, because of YOU.

People in the villages and prisons have been blessed with this miracle of God - "Learning to Read to Read the Bible" because YOU provided the funds and the means by which to do it. YOUR part in it has made it happen, whether it has been to donate funds or equipment, give your time or talent, helping with the fundraiser benefit each year, being on our advisory board, or providing the training in the method of teaching literacy.

THANK YOU OH SO MUCH doesn't even come close to the emotions we feel in telling you what an important part you have played in raising up a desperate and discouraged people in N. Uganda. They cannot understand how people who have never met them or seen them could be so caring and generous. Please understand that most of them do not take it for granted and have been praying for God to bless all of you and that in some way they can thank you for loving them in this way.

TOGETHER, WE are the Hands Across Nations Team. YOU are as important as every teacher in Uganda is, to his / her learners. Without all of us, giving our part, it wouldn't be happening. Within the next 10 years, every Lango person in the Lango sub region will have had the opportunity to learn to read and write in the Lango language, and be able to do simple math. They will have been taught basic health and agriculture lessons. And most importantly, they will have had the opportunity to learn about the God who loves them through the stories in their primers and through the easy to read Bibles. Parts of the Bible are now in the process of being translated and printed in short booklets. Eventually, we pray that the entire Bible will be available in the common Lango language at a very reasonable price through our Hands Across Nations print shop.

Men and women in prisons and in the villages are already becoming unified, cooperative and caring toward each other due to the reading classes they are attending together. The war had divided people. They are now coming together, working together, seeing the possibility of great things for their people in the future.

Following learning to read in the Lango language, most of the graduates are desiring to learn to speak, read and write in English which is their national language. All their legal documents, constitution and laws are in English. Their government and courts all use English to do business. So learning English is a survival skill they must have.

English as a Second Language (ESL) training through HAN is in its infancy in the Lira Main Prison and hopefully will be expanded to the entire sub region in the future. TOGETHER WE will work toward that vision.

This prayerfully considered legacy is only possible if all of US continue to work together, giving just what the Lord and our hearts say is OUR part.

At this part of the year, as we are winding up 2016, and planning for 2017, Keith and I and the Hands

Across Nations Board, humbly request that you prayerfully consider what part you can offer to continue with providing the funds and assistance needed to see this vision become reality. If you would like to "store up your treasures in Heaven", we believe and hope this is one place you can do that.

As God is expanding the scope and reach of what Hands Across Nations is doing across N. Uganda, we rely on Him to stir the hearts of many people to join in His plans.

Would you consider making a \$1,000 gift to advance the prison program to the other 13 prisons in the Lango sub region? HAN bears the full cost of those classes. In the villages each student purchases their own books which also helps to pay for the class blackboard and chalk.

Many would like to, but cannot offer such a large gift. Would you be willing to give \$500, or \$200 toward printing primers? Or \$100, \$50 or \$25 on a monthly basis to supply the fuel, vehicle upkeep and general funds to keep our team housed and fed?

The Hands Across Nations Annual Benefit is coming up on October 1, 2016 at the Chewelah Civic Center. Tickets are on sale at Akers Drugstore or by calling

Carolyn at 509-979-7448. We will focus our live presentation on the REAL stories of how YOU have had a part in changing the post war culture for the Lango people. There is much more to do. Join us for a fabulous meal, short silent and live auctions, AND a fancy dessert auction!

If you would like to donate a basket or nice item for either of the auctions or provide a fancy dessert - please contact Helen Salapka - sisternell@hotmail.com or 935-6257, Connee Potter at Potsie@plix.com or 509-936-3097. You may also contact me, Carolyn, at carolyn.jones@handsacrossnations.com or 509-9797448.

With appreciation and thankfulness.

Keith and Carolyn Jones

Co-Directors, Hands Across Nations

Thank you for taking part in the past, and for considering continuing to be with us this year, "Sharing the Love of Christ in Practical Ways".

