



The Story of One Life

10/4/2014

Writing articles and newsletters has been both a privilege and a stretching experience. For a woman who got C's in creative writing in high school, it is not a natural talent. They may seem rather simple and appear to have been whipped out in just a few minutes, but looks can be deceiving. This is hard work, and has given me a great appreciation for those who write many articles a week. They have my admiration.

As I attempted to write about all the people who have been instrumental in the baby stages of growth of Hands Across Nations HAN up through today, it became a litany of people's names, their occupations and family members and what they have done in our organization. It read almost like a memorial article, and didn't do justice to the hardworking people who have brought HAN from just one person going off to Uganda each year, to many who take part in every aspect of the incredible things happening in N.Uganda through HAN. It would take a book to contain it all. Therefore, that essay is saved in a file on my computer, and I will now share with you a story. It's about a young man named Peter Pule. Peter's father was a pastor who was apparently poisoned and died before Peter could finish his secondary schooling. Peter completed what in Uganda is called "Ordinary" or "O" Level which is the first 4 years. His mother didn't have the money (high school is not free there) for Peter to complete the last 2 "Advanced" years, or "A" Level, needed to go on to the University. So he started working in construction, married, and also became a farmer. His father's strong Godly influence carried him into becoming a youth and musical worship team leader in his church. His dream was to impact his tribe for God, but he had no idea how that would happen.

Along came HAN with the literacy program in his native tribal language. All Nations church selected Peter to attend our first Teacher Training Workshop. Almost immediately it was obvious to everyone that Peter had a gift for teaching.

He was entertaining and loving as a teacher of illiterate adults. He was also a powerful and gifted trainer of teachers for the program. Peter's wife, Dorcas, has also taken the training, and takes part in the workshops, teaching students and translating short Bible stories from English to the Lango language when she has time. They have 2 boys, 11 and 6 years old, and Dorcas sells corn flour to help with the family finances.



It was weeks before Keith and I had the opportunity to visit their home. What we saw was a complete surprise. Their home is in a row of 3, tiny apartments of brick and concrete without electricity or water. Their bathroom is a pit latrine shared with neighbors. Water must be carried from a well used by the large neighborhood, and showers are a bucket of water in an outside enclosure. Peter and Dorcas look professional and well dressed though they own only 2 nice outfits each. Cooking is done outside on a charcoal or wood fire. Clothes are washed by hand. We would call it a slum neighborhood. Yet this couple is giving of themselves to those poorer than they.



Never once have they begged for money though they have accepted monetary gifts to cover medical costs and bicycle repairs for their family. They all regularly suffer from malaria. Peter refuses to allow it to stop him. For one workshop he had an IV needle taped to his arm, so he could return to the hospital each night to get malaria treatment.

In the past several months Keith and Peter have mapped out a plan to visit churches to tell them about the literacy program. So many churches are interested and are inviting HAN to present the opportunity to their people. Three Day Teacher Training Workshops are set up, 3 per month with the 4th week used to follow up with previously trained teachers to ensure all is going well with their classes.

Peter has been tireless and inspirational in his work to mentor new trainers, train teachers and spread the message about this wonderful program throughout the churches in the Lango Tribal Region. Hundreds of teachers have been trained in the last 7 months, and thousands are in classes learning to read, because of his efforts and his reliance on God. It is truly an astounding result that no one would have predicted. Only God knows what changes will come in the near and far future because of Peter's dedicated life. He is just one of many who are giving themselves freely to help their neighbors have a better future through learning to read.

One student related her story to Peter: She makes items and regularly takes them to the weekly market. She sells them through a man there who writes down the items and the quantity. Previously she never knew at the end of the month, if he had paid her the correct amount. But now she is able to keep a second record at home to compare it to his record to see if he is cheating her! That's life changing!



Hands
Across
Nations



October 11, 2014

DINNER
BAND
SILENT/LIVE
AUCTION

Tickets at Akers Drug Store
or Contact Carolyn Jones
509-979-7448

Chewelah Civic Center

To reserve a table for 8 or for single tickets
\$15.00/person, (\$17 at the door), Child 12 and under \$7.00

FUNDRAISER FOR WELL DRILLING & LITERACY PROJECTS IN UGANDA

FAMILY FRIENDLY FUN:

- * CHICKEN FETTUCINE with SILENT/LIVE AUCTION
- * LIVE MUSIC by SPECTRUM from Spokane.
- * Recent Gigs at "Pig Out in the Park" & Harvest House at Green Bluff, MAC Museum
- * Featuring Chewelah's own Kemper Kuroinski Rojas!

SPECTRUM

Classic Rock, Pop, Country



Please join us October 11 at the Civic Center for our annual FUNdraiser – Dinner, Auction and Live Music from Spectrum! Tickets on sale at Akers – don't miss out – we're hoping for a sell out! \$15 for a fabulous evening for a great cause can't be beat. You can see more about the evening and see other updates on our website: www.handsacrossnations.com.

Thank you to the many dozens of people who have helped us this year and most recently in preparing for this upcoming event.

Sharing the love of Christ,

Keith and Carolyn Jones