



Fundraisers Uganda and Hands Across Nations Style

10/21/14

It has been our privilege to be part of several fundraising events in Uganda. They are entertaining and quite different than what we expect here in the U.S. One recent fundraiser was for building materials to complete a small village church which was meeting under a tarp and had papyrus mats for walls. We were bidding on various sizes and colors of chickens, roosters or cocks (as they call them), goats, stalks of maize, beans, white ants and eggs. Less than \$50 was raised from such a poverty stricken congregation and most of it came from Keith's bid for a couple of chickens.

Another fundraiser was held to raise the money and materials to put a metal roof on a newly built mud brick home for a disabled woman, Grace. Her church, made of mud bricks with a thatched roof, joined with 2 other churches to try to complete the task before the rains came. Amazingly, one person after another volunteered to give one or two metal sheets. Another person provided beams to support the roof from trees on his property. Another offered the nails. These were huge sacrifices being made. They received nothing for their giving except the grateful thanks from Grace, and the knowledge that they had loved her and cared for her well.

One of my favorites was a Rotary Club auction of one item. It was an extremely heavy box, wrapped up nicely with fancy paper and bright ribbons. One person started it off with a bid of 1,000 shillings (\$.40). Another bid the same, and another. Each time someone bid, they put that amount of money in the box someone carried around to the bidders. Now this was confusing as I wondered how this was going to end. Someone bid 10,000 shillings and then came a small bid of 2,000 shillings. This went on for 15 -20 minutes. Then people started giving a bid and designating that the prize item would go to a certain person. At last one person designated the prize to go to me! No one else made another bid. I was thrilled to be the honored receiver of such a gift! It was so heavy I needed help to lift the prize - one enormous squash that would probably win our Farmers Market biggest pumpkin contest! With just that one vegetable, they raised over \$100!



On Saturday, October 11th, Hands Across Nations held its annual fundraiser Dinner/Auction with live music from the band, Spectrum. There was not an opportunity to bid on a squash but the bidding was lively and generous for unique and beautiful baskets and treasures people had donated. Everyone seemed to have a great time, from the doors opening, during Terry Trefz super-duper famous Fettuccine Dinner and the auctions, to the last strains of classic rock music from Spectrum. From that night's proceeds and some very generous extra donations, over \$13,000 was raised! WOW! Halleluia!



Dozens of people were part of the months of preparation for the special night. There were teams for marketing, cooking, silent and live auctions, decorations, set up, take down, serving and collecting funds. We can't thank them enough - it was a real cohesive team effort with exuberance and cheerfulness from everyone.

18 adults and youth served the large crowd who attended the dinner. Helen Salapka and her youthful helpers prepared the bread baskets for each table.

Kerry Burkey, auctioneer extraordinaire, kept the crowd laughing as he encouraged their generosity. One family went home with enough classic books to keep them going for years to come, and another won a gorgeous grandfather clock. Two people are now proud owners of a 12 string and a bass guitar. One fortunate person had top bid for an original water color painting, and one mother took home enough Legos to keep her toddlers busy for many rainy days! She'll be finding them in hidden places after they grow up and leave home! They will remind her of the special night she and many others helped support the HAN reading project in Uganda for the Lango tribe.



Anyone who didn't win auction items had the opportunity to purchase, HAN T shirts and authentic baskets, beads and other handicrafts made in Lira, Uganda. A display board made by Sharon Dunningway and Helen Salapka brought the people who made them to life .



The Spectrum Band from Spokane added their classic rock music with great harmonies, and donated guitars and a gift basket to the auctions. All in all, it was a magical, unforgettable evening

The funds will go directly to pay for the high output printing equipment, book cutters, paper, ink and staplers which will print the second group of primer books, 3,000 of them, which the students will purchase. The proceeds for their purchases will fund more printing and also the costs of the teacher training workshops and the blackboards, chalk and erasers for new classes. The project should become self sustaining in the near future. Funds from donations will also be used for our other main project, Hand-Drilled Wells which has been on hold this year but is to restart in 2015.

In the first week since Keith set up Hands Across Nations' "Living Word Print Shop" in the living room of our Lira home, he and his Ugandan team have printed and collated 892 good quality Primer #1 books! We thank God for the perfect home to be able to accommodate it all. (Carolyn is wondering where the couch loaned to us went) The local print shop took 2 months to produce 1,000 books which were of marginal quality.



Last Saturday, 10/18/14, the final day of the Agwata village Teacher Training Workshop (TTW), the primer books, hot off the presses, were delivered along with blackboards, chalk and erasers to the 60+ newly graduated teachers. 33 classes were launched averaging 25 students in each class - that's over 800 learners!!

It is truly beyond our expectations that this would be possible so soon. Thanks be to the Lord, Keith and his Ugandan team members and to the many donors who have provided the funds to make it happen. It is no small gift to all of us. The longer we stay in Uganda, the more of a challenge it is to financially support the work there with our own funds. So many of you have stepped in to fill the gap we can no longer fill. May God reward you for it.

Next week, Keith will be flying back to America after being in Uganda for 10 months. Hopefully in the month to 6 weeks he is home, he will be able to have time with many of you before we return together to Uganda in early December, God willing that Ebola doesn't block the way.

Sharing the love of Christ in practical ways is a great way to live!

Go with God,

Keith and Carolyn Jones



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We've been asked to add our mailing address for donations and correspondence in the U.S.:

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