



Hands Across Nations – Sharing the Love of Christ in Practical Ways

HAN Newsletter
April 2021

Heal the Sick and Mourn With Those Who Mourn

Greetings from Lira, Uganda from the Hands Across Nations Team! Unfortunately we are missing one of our team members, Connee Potter, who had done all the planning, packing and shots but tested positive for Covid-19 just before leaving the country. It has been a huge disappointment for Connee and especially our Uganda team as they were excited about her helping with the final editing of the Lango Bible translation. We all believe God's timing is best, and look forward to Connee coming on the next trip.

It's amazing how quickly the time flies by when you are totally engaged in God's activities! Carolyn's flight and drive to Lira, Uganda was not the usual 3 day trip. It ended up 6 ½ days due to extra Covid-19 tests in Minneapolis to comply with Amsterdam's new requirement to have one test within 72 hours of arrival and another one within 4 hours of

boarding the plane in Minneapolis! Delta Airlines tested every passenger prior to boarding! She had a Covid test in Chewelah as well, so she was definitely safe in their eyes.

All went well until arriving in Entebbe, Uganda, Carolyn found that none of the 7 pieces of luggage had arrived with her.....which meant another 2 day wait for them as there was no plane arriving from Amsterdam the next day.



One of our cars, which had been repaired by the Mission Aviation Fellowship mechanics was ready and waiting so Carolyn's work permit could be picked up and Keith's list of needed items purchased. After 6 months of being apart, it was a blessed reunion. We (Keith & Carolyn) are living proof of Ecclesiastes 4: 9-12.....You'll have to read it to know how happy we are to be together again. Enough of that and on to what God is doing in N. Uganda through Hands Across Nations!

The Lira Main Prison literacy program has restarted with 100 new students, and 6 Bible Discovery groups have completed the Gospel books of Matthew and Mark and are beginning the book of Luke! They are still hungry to "Learn to Read to Read the Bible"!

One shocking incident recently occurred in the Lira Main Prison. One inmate, NOT in our literacy program, had stolen and hidden a knife used to carve up a cow donated for Christmas

dinner for the inmates in 2019. Apparently there was enmity between the inmate and a number of others. He was to be transferred to another prison and wanted to carry out his evil plans to kill one of them so he retrieved the hidden knife and went in search of one of our most respected literacy teachers, Obaa Denis. He is well liked by his fellow teachers and students, so when he was attacked by the other inmate, there were 5 inmates nearby who came to his aide. After a fierce fight, the assailant was subdued but Obaa was bleeding profusely. Inmates quickly carried him out the front gate, while the Deputy Officer in Charge (DOC) called the nearby hospital, and the Head Officer In Charge (OC) took Obaa in his personal car directly to the emergency room with the prison Clinical Officer (CO) riding with him. In God's timing, a general surgeon from Kampala was just leaving the hospital to return home and was available to do emergency surgery.



Once assured that Hands Across Nations would financially cover the surgery, the surgeon took him into the operating theater and in about an hour, had completed the surgery, and Obaa's life was saved. Meanwhile, many of our HAN supporters in the US had been told of the emergency and were praying for him all during that time. Obaa had been sure he would die as he had 2 abdominal stab wounds; one lacerating his liver, his insides coming out

through another and a third one into his upper thigh. He was completely unable to save himself. God's perfect timing for all the people to be in the right place at the instant they were needed, showed His love and power in turning a situation that was evil into an example of overcoming evil with good! We salute and so appreciate the inmates and staff of Lira Main Prison who risked their own lives to save Obaa from sure death. He is continuing to recover and is able to walk short distances on his own. Hallelujah!!

We also have another story of recovery of a young woman named Jenifer. Her mother came to our gate to ask for help for Jenifer who had gradually become paralyzed while pregnant.



She had delivered a baby boy 1 ½ years ago and was still lying on the ground, unable to move her lower body and she now had very large pressure wounds on her buttocks, hips and ankles which had become infected. Our wonderful friend, Dr. Opio and his wife, chief nurse, Semmy were not sure they could accept the challenge as it looked unlikely she had a chance of recovering.



Thankfully they decided to try and after 5 months in their hospital with her mother and son staying with her, Jenifer's wounds were healed and she was starting to be able to sit up and move her legs, then stand with help.



Once Carolyn, retired PT, arrived, Jenifer was given a Keith-renovated wheelchair (thanks to sisters Makayla and Kaitlyn Duke who raised "Pennies for Wheelchairs") and her family was taught how to help her exercise, transfer from her bed to her wheelchair, and start to walk with a walker.



She is able to do much of the care of her young son and is growing stronger and more determined to recover fully. Her family is one of the poorest of the poor, living in mud brick 1-2 room homes, but they are rich in love and desire to help Jenifer.



Hands Across Nations will be working with the family and neighbors to plug the holes in the walls of their home and put extra rows of bricks on the edges of the roof above the walls to prevent lifting of the metal roofing and keep the rain out. You can see mud bricks in the background which are drying and will soon be fired for use in home building.

Nelson, one of the lepers who was in the original literacy class in Lira, graduated in 2016 and went to the teacher training class held soon afterwards. He assisted in the next class for lepers and the disabled which has not finished due to the Covid lock down in Lira. The Lira Referral Hospital is now expanding so Nelson and 4 other lepers who were living in hospital outbuildings were notified that they could no longer remain there. Hands Across Nations was instrumental in returning them all to their home villages and ensuring they had support people there to help them reintegrate into villages they had not visited in years. Nelson was welcomed home and a young man that he had taken in years ago as a young boy, pledged to take care of him by providing him with a hut and making sure he was well fed and clothed.



Nelson's daughter died several weeks later and HAN provided the casket and transportation to take her body back to his village.



The people in his village kept the casket protected in someone's home, dug the grave for her and provided everything else for the special burial service for about 200 people.



And now Nelson has 15 people signed up to learn how to read and write using the “Learning to Read to Read the Bible” primers provided by HAN! This past week, we delivered the black board and stand and all the necessary materials for his new class.....We’re thrilled for him! Carolyn drove the Ford Explorer into a mud hole and got hung up on a good size hump way out in the bush – praise Godseveral men came walking by with hoes and an ax, and were able to free the car in less than 15 minutes!

One last praise for God’s provision. Our dear translator, 87 year old Victor, recently attended the burial of a relative and was served tea and sesame seed paste afterward. Quickly he became dizzy and started vomiting. He said he was apparently unconscious for 5 hours and was taken to a Lira Hospital where he received treatment. Sometime during all of this, he frequently used the charcoal powder in a cup of water he learned to make through HAN training, and carries with him everywhere. He credits the charcoal with saving his life. The doctors concluded he was poisoned by the tea or paste and is fortunate to have recovered. He is feeling much stronger now, almost 2 months later. This may be why it was not God’s timing for Connee to come as Victor would not have been able to work with her and Richard on the editing. Thank you John and Kimberly Dinsley from Charcoal House who

taught many of us in Chewelah how to use charcoal for many remedies including open wounds, poisoning and snake bites which are all common in Uganda. If you would like to learn more about the life saving and health improving qualities of charcoal, you can visit their website, www.charcoalremedies.com.



Victor and Richard Celebrating the completion of the Book of John back in 2017

There is much more to tell, but for now, just know how grateful our HAN team is for the support you have sent recently and over the years which has continued to have far reaching effects in N. Uganda.

May God Bless all of you! Thank you for your prayers and support and for continuing to be part of our "Home Team"!

Keith and Carolyn Jones, Co-Directors, Hands Across Nations

Donations can be made through our website; www.handsacrossnations.org