



## HANDS ACROSS NATIONS

NOVEMBER 2021

Fundraising Time is Here!

Greetings from Hands Across Nations on both sides of the world! Keith and Carolyn are continuing the work God has given them both in Uganda and in the USA. These are trying times all over the earth, but with faith in our Lord, we are assured of His nearness, and direction in how to live for Him.

Plans for an alternative fundraiser for HAN are proceeding with amazing donations from both local supporting businesses and individuals as well as some from a far distance! Our online auction will be starting the Monday after Thanksgiving, November 29<sup>th</sup> through December 10<sup>th</sup>, just in time for Christmas gift buying. You will be able to click on the link through our HAN website:

[www.handsacrossnations.org](http://www.handsacrossnations.org). HAN will have no difficulties with the supply chain as all items are ready for pick up either in Spokane or Chewelah, and other activity opportunities will be available!



Some of the 78 items up for bidding are:

1 week at Pend Oreille Shores Resort in Hope, Idaho;



or 2 nights at Silver Mountain,



or 2 nights in Walla Walla or 1 night at each of the Coeur d'Alene Lake Resort Towers :





34 baskets just right for Christmas gifts:







Wood Hutch and bookcase including items to dress them up:



Teddy Bears made and donated by inmates a Louisiana State Prison:



If you need to fix your driveway, we have 2 truckloads of crushed rock:



- For the sports enthusiasts there are golfing, skiing, hockey, baseball, TaeKwonDo and clogging certificates/ tickets.
- Generous gift certificates to Southhill Grill/QQ, Monica's Buttermilk Café, Fired Up Pizza, Addy Inn and the Bread Box will fit most any taste buds.
- If you need an oil change, detailing of your car or your chimney cleaned.....we have that too!
- If you love the theatre, we have a variety of choices in Chewelah
- There are also unique, one of a kind items such as
  - a hand drawn caricature of your favorite person,
  - teddy bears made by prison inmates,
  - paintings and 2 inlaid wood pictures from Italy,
  - a rustic bar stool,
  - stained glass angels,
  - a beautiful hand made quilt,
  - two cords of truckload length logs for firewood,

- and the very valuable Gonzaga Men's 2021 – 2022 Basketball Team Ball autographed by each of the team members!

Due to the ever increasing Covid restrictions in Uganda, it has become apparent that Hands Across Nations should narrow our focus, for the time being. Keith will be arriving in the USA December 11, God willing! The future plan is to return to Uganda for short 3-4 month time periods to continue with supplying materials and training for the 12 prison literacy programs and following up with the medical care of the poor with whom we have been working. Other future programs are on hold for now. Fortunately, we have always planned and prepared the prisoners to carry on their classes and teacher training so that if or when we were unable to have access to the prisons due to events like the Covid Pandemic, they would continue on their own. Prior to Keith leaving, he will be distributing all remaining primers, Bibles and library books to local prisons which they are eager to have. With regard for our path forward, we know God will lead us. Proverbs 3:5,6 says "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."

Hands Across Nations (HAN), is continuing to reach out to the "least of these brothers and sisters of Christ" in Uganda, even with all the Covid restrictions. One of the men we have been helping to recover from an



accident is progressing amazingly well with his rehabilitation and return to working in his Bicycle Repair Shop.

God continues to guide HAN through all the challenges in Uganda. Schools in Uganda remain closed until January 2022, and prisons are closed to visitors including HAN but are allowing us to take school supplies to the HAN literacy classes. HAN also continues to have the destitute and injured arriving at our gate each day. Their condition is often critical and God provides a way through HAN generous donors to help them.

Apolo Tom Richard, is a disabled man, who completed the HAN “Learning to Read to Read the Bible” literacy class and teacher training. He became a literacy teacher to a large class of disabled people in his village, and was recently hit by a car as he crossed a main road. The driver has not been found. A young Christian man named “Emmanuel” rescued him from the road and a stranger with a car transported him to the hospital.

Tom suffered an open fracture of both bones in his left lower arm, a head injury, and blindness in his left eye which he is unable to open. He was unconscious for 2 days but has regained consciousness.

Fortunately the traveling orthopedic surgeon we know was in town evaluating patients that week and performed a surgical repair of Tom’s arm. However the cast applied to his arm at the time of the accident was too tight, cutting off the circulation and most of the forearm muscles were destroyed. Plates were attached to the broken bones and nurses did the wound care for several weeks. His arm became infected and may eventually need to be amputated at the elbow.

A scan of Tom’s brain showed the amazing power of God’s healing – no permanent damage to the brain although his eye has not recovered.

Tom is awake, recognizes his family and emphatically states he must get back to his village to continue to teach his students how to read God's Word! He is walking with assistance short distances, Praise God! Pray for him and his family as he has been a Godly moving force for good in his community. His injuries are appalling but his spirit is strong. He knows and we know God is strengthening him. We praise our living and active God!



Joseph, who was already disabled with congenital bone deformities from multiple fractures of his very soft bones, was “knocked” by a car while on his 3 wheeled tricycle, and suffered a fractured femur. HAN funded and provided the orthopedic care for him and he is now back repairing bicycles in his small roadside workshop! This is truly a story of how God works through and for His people! Joseph's shop was originally along a major road which was next to the “golf course”. The

golf course had fallen into disrepair during the 20 year war ending in 2007, but is now being renovated by an engineer named Robert. Carolyn, a retired Physical Therapist, has been helping Dr Opio, a local surgeon, in rehabilitation of people who suffer from physical illnesses and injuries for many years. Robert's wife suffered a major stroke and Carolyn was providing therapy training to her caregivers at their home. When Carolyn mentioned her concern to Robert that Joseph's shop was dangerously close to one of the golf tee platforms, Robert said he could move Joseph's workshop to another place under a large tree, and make a pathway over a ditch suitable for Joseph's wheelchair! People often promise help, but frequently do not follow through.....however, Robert has completed the project and Joseph is back in business!

All the Covid mandates, lockdowns, and restrictions, cannot shut down God's plans. So we are continuing to seek His guidance in living service for Him. The HAN online auction, can be accessed through our website at: [www.handsacrossnations.org](http://www.handsacrossnations.org). The proceeds will help with funding this next year for HAN in Uganda. More than 75 unique items and services will be up for bidding on November 29<sup>th</sup> at noon, through December 10<sup>th</sup> at 8pm. Don't miss out on great possibilities for your Christmas gift list! There is something for everyone's wish list and wallet! Most of the offerings have been donated by our loyal, generous supporters and businesses! Thank you for your many years of help to Hands Across Nations!

Keith and Carolyn Jones

Hands Across Nations