



FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS — ADAPTING TO CHANGE

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2020

Canadian greetings from snowy, cold Alberta! Our plane touched down in Alberta a week ago, and we are ready to start moving around after 3 days of quarantine and 4 COVID tests. Alberta has a trial program that includes a rapid COVID test at the airport that, when negative, gives you limited freedom to start life in this strange new normal.

Our intended plans were to begin a home assignment, visiting churches and individuals, sharing all the challenges and blessings 2020 has brought. However, doors have continued to close, and in discussions with some of our Living Link church pastors and Global Strategy, the realization is that we will need to alter our plans. Our visits with churches and individuals will be done virtually, and when possible some small in-person meetings and visits will occur as allowed.

Presently, Calgary has just locked down for four weeks, which will continue into Christmas and New Years. It is disappointing to say the least, but we are taking it one day at a time. Life has changed in many ways and we are adjusting as grace allows, but it is challenging to live in this new, restricted COVID-focused world. We again are reminded and thankful for the constants in our lives - the most important one being the gift of the infant Messiah coming to earth to redeem us! It was for such a time as this that His mercy and love were extended to us, as we face such uncertainty.

We pray for peace on earth and for this gift that was given so long ago to give each of us a reason to celebrate this Christmas!



HOPE THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

Through the child sponsorship programs, relief, and donations generously given to our projects, we see HOPE --- in the faces of the elderly who are unsure of where the next meal is coming from, or the children who are anxious about their educational future; and even the teachers and pastors who do not know if and when schools or church services will resume normally. Life no longer has predictability; it only has the focus of being present. Our thanks and appreciation go out to those who have taken part in giving this HOPE. The work teams who would have come have either sent funding for the intended projects or shored up our living link support. **THANK YOU FOR GIVING THESE GIFTS!**

Jjajja Njagala - Grandmother houses were built and dedicated!

OPPORTUNITY: Help build a Jjajja House:

<https://chogglobal.org/mission-projects/projects-africa/jjajja-house/>

<https://heartofafrica.blogspot.com/p/donate-canada.html>

Child sponsorship has continued to provide school supplies, food and medical care to these children! They will be receiving their Christmas gifts very soon and are waiting in anticipation!

OPPORTUNITY: If interested in sponsoring a child, please contact:

Children of Promise (USA) <https://childrenofpromise.global/>

Furaha (Canada) <https://fararelief.com/>

KHW Global Care (Germany) <https://global-care.de/>

Building projects & TAPP -

School blocks, church roofs, and water wells confirmed the fact that the community and church are part of a global family. TAPP tailoring and the project creation of masks and hygiene kits, then donated to the vulnerable communities, were all a visual witness of God's hand of love.

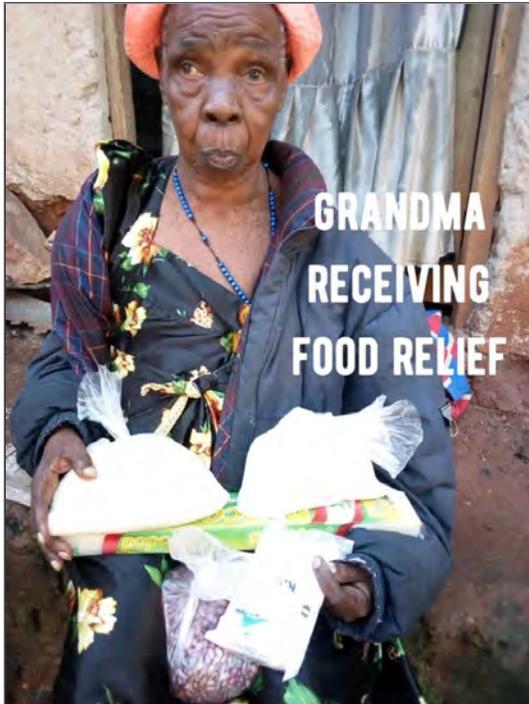
OPPORTUNITY:

If you want to help those living with HIV/AIDS, click on the links below:

US <https://chogglobal.org/mission-projects/projects-africa/uganda-tapp/>

Germany <https://global-care.de/>

Canada <https://heartofafrica.blogspot.com/p/donate-canada.html>

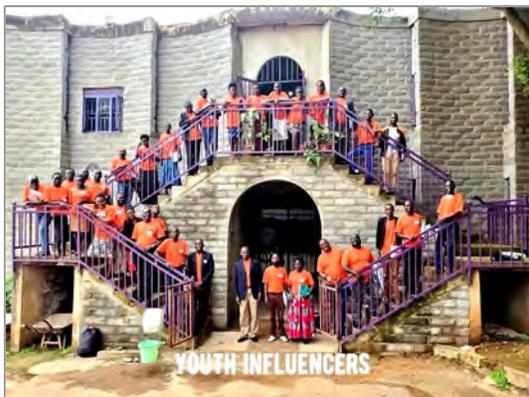


YOUTH INFLUENCERS

In mid-November, six dynamic youth from each of the 7 regions assembled in Kampala to attend this unique event. The plan was to create a platform for the future church to be heard and contribute towards the vision of the Church of God in Uganda. Hearing from these 40 young people with their optimism and hope for their church, despite many challenges, was very exciting!

Leadership, embracing personal value, and the future church were all on the program, in addition to discussion groups. There was great exchange of conversation, queries and enthusiasm for planning future gatherings.

The church's future looks very bright with these visionary influencers!





FINISHED PROJECTS...

Palorinya Refugee camp, Moyo in Northern Uganda - dorms, housing, toilet and bathing facilities are now complete! Thanks so much, *Germany*, for this extension on the Nile High Academy school project!

Siegfried ChoG High School, in Kampala is complete, with candidate students utilizing the new classrooms. This was so needed and very appreciated. Also in the city, **Mutungo TAPP rentals** have been completed (now awaiting a future project for the 2nd storey). These are *Kinderhilfswerk Global Care* funded projects!

The **Jjaja (grandmother)** house in Bakka, Wakiso District, was opened and dedicated, in addition to another in Kamwenge District. Both grandmothers are thrilled with their new accommodation! For both of them, one of the biggest factors of anticipation was to have the chance to sleep on a real bed! This was made possible by funds from *Park Place Church of God in Anderson, USA* and *Paradise Valley Church of God Youth, Alberta, Canada*. Blessings to you!

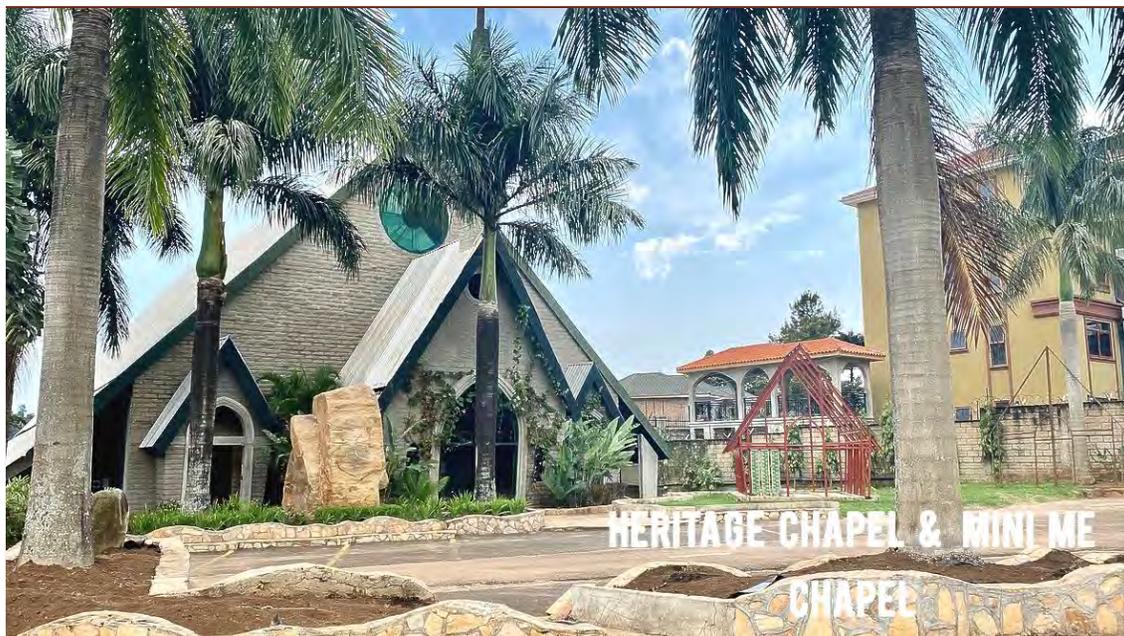
Marion Junior School classroom block in Nampunge, Wakiso District, was officially opened and dedicated for the use of the Primary 7 students. Our gratitude goes to donors from the *Vernon Church of God, British Columbia, Canada*.

Three bore holes have been completed and opened in Northern Uganda, with clean water now available for the schools and community! A big thanks to the donors ranging from *Kinderhilfswerk Global Care* to friends and family.



This video is a peek of 3 different wells that were recently drilled or refurbished. What a gift for these communities!

HERITAGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



Heritage has now returned to on-site learning! This was a gradual process of bringing classes in phases from at-home virtual learning to in-classroom education.

With some inventive concepts, we now have the required spacing between students in the classroom, special hand-washing stations, drinking fountains, and a COVID-19 task force ready to handle any student/staff member who might contract the virus. Needless to say,

the students are thrilled to be back on the beautiful campus where they can actually see their friends and teachers.

There were many challenges for Heritage, but we are so pleased that God saw the school through. It is now gearing up for the next school year; making sure enough teaching and administrative staff are in place. The board is so grateful for all the hard work, perseverance and flexibility from all present during this year of new experiences.

OPPORTUNITIES:

There are opportunities to serve in various capacities. Check out the web page: <https://www.heritage.co.ug/>

COVID AND COUNTRY ELECTIONS UPDATE -

Uganda's numbers have increased to 219 deaths and 25,059 confirmed cases. <http://www.health.go.ug/covid/> While restrictions still apply, many venues have opened their doors to "normal" work days.

Curfew - There is still a government mandated curfew on store hours and night time travel. Temperatures are taken when entering businesses and stores, in addition to the required use of hand sanitizers and masks.

Sunday worship - Permission has been granted to allow 200 people to gather for services, but socially distanced, masked and sanitized.

Social media - Our WhatsApp devotional page is still running 2-3 times a week, with additional text messages for those who do not have online access. Many have contributed both locally and abroad.

Borders - Our borders are now open, and flights are allowed to operate. Rapid COVID tests are required and functioning well.

Schools - Only candidate classes have been allowed back to study for year end exams. This means any class that is completing this year and moving on to the next stage of studies. The Ministry of Education is looking at possibilities of opening a few more classes next year.

Presidential Elections - January 15th, 2021, is the date set for Uganda's country elections. There have been some outbreaks of violence and multiple deaths already this year due to the campaigns. We ask for your prayers as the country goes into a time of voting next year, that it will be a peaceful and fair election.

A TIME TO CELEBRATE...



Two weddings took place within 2 weekends, with us both participating. In Kampala, Pastor Generous and Emmanuel celebrated their vows at the headquarter church at Kasubi. It was a beautiful wedding filled with joy.

The second took place at the Nebbi town Church of God in Nebbi district. We were overwhelmed with the numbers that attended the wedding - over 600+, all celebrating the union of Morris and Gloria, the happy couple. They will be moving to lead the Nile Academy high school in the refuge camp in Palorinya. So, they have exciting days ahead.

Congratulations goes out to these two lovely couples committing themselves to the ministry.

FLOODING RELIEF ASSISTANCE

Church of God Ministries **Relief and Disaster Fund** is assisting five of our churches who have been experiencing a flooding crisis. Many churches have been submerged in water and are completely destroyed. These five churches have been able to remove (when possible) some of the supplies and move them to new sites, and one new church site had to be purchased as everything was completely under water.

Since our arrival in Uganda 34 years ago, we have never experienced such high levels of lake and river waters. It is destroying many properties and livelihoods in our churches. We ask for your prayer for these specific sites situated near bodies of water all over the country of Uganda, S. Sudan and Congo. These are trying times with not only this, but COVID and elections nearing.

We are pleased that relief can be given to encourage these churches in Northwestern Uganda. A big thanks goes to the Relief and Disaster Fund ChoG Ministries!

OPPORTUNITIES:

If interested in helping with this kind of crisis/relief, check out the web page:

<https://www.jesusisthesubject.org/disaster-relief/>

<https://heartofafrica.blogspot.com/p/donate-canada.html>



CHILD SACRIFICE & TRAFFICKING

As various global and national events arise, we see concerning trends emerge due to poverty. Several of these threaten the livelihood of children and teenagers - namely child sacrifice and human trafficking.

You might wonder what child sacrifice is as it is not discussed as often as trafficking. It is a sacrifice to the gods to bless a building, a business, or a relationship in a ceremony using a human or child's blood, which is seen as pure. Children, especially, are in high demand for these rituals and at risk of being kidnapped and used in these witchcraft ceremonies.

In the last few months, we have also seen the kidnapping and/or trafficking of older children, who are taken to foreign countries for child labor or sold as sex workers. More awareness and counselling for families is essential, but the stress of making ends meet drives desperate decisions, which can be fatal.

Child sacrifice in Uganda is such a serious and widespread problem that the government has even set up an anti-child sacrifice and human trafficking task force. Read the article below for more info:

[https://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/2020/september/christian-girl-abused-boy-sacrificed-by-muslim-shaman-in-uganda-where-child-sacrifice-is-big-business?](https://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/2020/september/christian-girl-abused-boy-sacrificed-by-muslim-shaman-in-uganda-where-child-sacrifice-is-big-business?fbclid=IwAR0bzgoo7LTikDwYcXI5Fi7XrMMdsN6GrBRgvP5LjtZQD9zFkkYDXpAD5FI)

[fbclid=IwAR0bzgoo7LTikDwYcXI5Fi7XrMMdsN6GrBRgvP5LjtZQD9zFkkYDXpAD5FI](https://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/2020/september/christian-girl-abused-boy-sacrificed-by-muslim-shaman-in-uganda-where-child-sacrifice-is-big-business?fbclid=IwAR0bzgoo7LTikDwYcXI5Fi7XrMMdsN6GrBRgvP5LjtZQD9zFkkYDXpAD5FI)

Please pray with us as we ask God to provide us with the knowledge of how we can assist in the creation of awareness programs to equip our children and youth.



We are still overwhelmed and thankful for the new and lasting partnerships that are so vital to our support. You, as part of our supporting team, play a tremendous role in the ministry we are all part of! To those who have not yet been part of this outreach and life-changing work, we encourage you to join in! There are many ways you can support or be involved. Some resources can be found on our blog or through the *Global Strategy* link below:

<https://heartofafrica.blogspot.com/p/donate-canada.html>

OR <https://www.chogglobal.org/team/tcstevenson/>

We thank God for you and pray that these verses will be an encouragement for you as they have been for us in these uncertain times when good news is so needed. "***And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.'***" Luke 2: 10,11

Have a festive Christmas and a favored New Year 2021!

In His love,

Tim and Colleen



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