

Uganda Trip Report 2004

Once in a while dreams do come true.....but not in the way we may have imagined.

Landing on an airstrip with potholes in the dark of night is usually reserved for those with a sense of adventure. On the other hand, it could also be that ignorance is bliss. Five-thirty in the morning and still no glimpse of daylight as the huge Boeing aircraft taxis to a halt on the Entebbe runway.



A glimpse of Lake Victoria would be comforting for our first time team members arriving at this far away destination in East Africa. However, this will have to wait until our walk across the runway to the airport building, when the blue expanse of water is finally evident, silhouetted by picturesque wild Seringa trees. Uganda, well known for its snow-capped mountains, misty forests and this deep crystal clear lake, also offers some of the best white water rafting, gorilla tracking and bird viewing in Africa. For now dreams of exploring the wonders of Africa would need to be put on hold to focus on the task at hand.



Five years of skills training pays tremendous dividends among Kampala's urban poor.

Over 200 women have received income generating skills training and more than thirty have now started their own small businesses. They are now skilled cooks, bakers, cake decorators, seamstresses, paper makers, craft and jewelry producers, and more.



A landmark event occurred this year as the local leadership team opted to share our skills and their training with the Muslim district of *Kawempe Umbogo*. I call this a landmark event because the variant African cultures are not normally eager to share resources with other communities. Sharing "their *musungos* (white people)" with another community was a genuine breakthrough for the leadership team, which now make up the bulk of the committee of the newly formed *Club Hope Uganda*.

Club Hope was formed to continue the work that we have begun. It is open to all women in Uganda, irrespective of race, color or religious affiliation, and *Club Hope* offers access to all resources and equipment as well as biannual training for club members. The democratically elected committee will be responsible for all resources, including future donations and ongoing training.



Team members from the U.S. served in many capacities this year including physical therapy training with students at Mulago Hospital, sales and marketing training with the sales force at Top Radio and TV, home care facilitation in the local community and an unusual range of skills training including paper making, soap making, calligraphy, greeting card design, etc.

World Impact Network is proud of its team members and its accomplishments in Uganda over the last several years. We are eternally grateful to the team of professionals who have so selflessly shared time, money and skills to bring vision and hope to the people of Uganda.

Uganda is a nation daily strengthened due to government stability. The President, Yaweri Museveni, is committed to empowering his people by encouraging visiting Christians to do more than preach the gospel.



Five years ago a handful of Caucasian Americans would have been represented on flights into Entebbe; today ninety percent of passengers seem to be from the U.S. and Europe.

The *Pearl of Africa*, as it was called by Winston Churchill, is once again coming into full bloom.

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