

Uganda Mission Trip June 16-27, 2023

June 16 and 17: travel days-Ethiopia Air from Atlanta to Addis Ababa-change planes and on to Entebbe, Uganda. Positive flight! God provided good seats-so thankful! Arrived in Entebbe without our luggage, and only one person was working behind the counter to help. Finally, through Customs and out to meet my friends, Joseph and John, Ugandan pastors! Randy and I were hungry and had been in the airport for several hours, so happy to be with my Uganda family!

We then went to Kampala for a meal-western style! Then to our hotel-Red Soc! Very nice with hot water for shower!

We were wakened at 2AM when the luggage arrived at the hotel! Thankful!

Sunday (18th): Nice rather slow morning breakfast at the hotel so we could relax and plan the day's activities. Church at 11:00 am with worship for about an hour. After we were introduced, each of us shared a brief message before Pastor preached. Service lasted about 2 1/2 hours.

Around 2 pm we went to a wholesale pharmacy and ordered worm meds, antibiotics, creams for fungal problems, meds for fungal infections like ringworm, malaria medicine and Tylenol and Ibuprofen! This took several hours. In Uganda, no RX needed. We returned to the hotel for a meal and sleep..

Monday (19th) We left at 9 a m for a 4-day trip with all belongings-headed to Jinja, Uganda! Located at the mouth of the Nile River. Historic town as it was the British administrative center while Uganda was a colony of the British. It is several hours (by car) from Kampala to Jinja with countryside views of Uganda! Along the way we stopped at a store (open market) to buy provisions for two families. Both families live in a small village. **Mercy**, a young girl that we met in 2019, has osteogenesis Imperfecta (brittle bone disease), and when we met here in 2019 she had a broken leg and arm. There is no known cure currently. Her dad is paralyzed from the waist down and uses an old wheelchair to get around. Some crutches have been handmade for Mercy, but they are very heavy. We are asking God to help us raise funds to get light weight crutches for her. Mercy's Mother Carries her to school and back home on her back. Mercy is the top student in her class! The family lives in a small 10x10 foot room. We prayed for the family, gave gifts of food and personal gifts to Mercy! Also, gave funds for her schooling and help for the family.

The next home was further back in the bush. This home belongs to an older grandma lady who earns funds by digging roots and making charcoal and selling them. This is the home where **Moses** lives. We were given Moses when he was abandoned in 2019. We were doing a medical camp in a remote village where he was found in a small box at the dump. (Story too long to tell here, ask me, so happy to tell you). Moses is now 5 years old and lives with this grandma and 7 other children she has taken in. We took food gifts and some gifts for Moses and the children! When Moses and the Children were called to come from school I was not sure Moses would let me touch him. God knew the desire of my heart. Moses came in the

room, saw me, and immediately ran to me with his arms open wide! Glory! Glory! Very difficult to leave him.

On to Jinja to Africa Arise hostel-a Christian hostel that hosts missionary teams and missionaries that come to work in Jinja-nice rooms. Our team got together to discuss the following day at the Big Kangonb Primary school over one hour drive back in the bush area!

Big K School (20th) This originally was a Church school but became too large to support so now is an independent school. There are approximately 970+ students. Twelve teachers, one headmaster, a guard, and a cook! When I first went we did story telling/ acting out, teaching songs, and playing with the children. At lunch time the children could go home for lunch-only a small handful left-some sat on the ground eating dirt-no food! So, our small team collected \$500 to buy 'pasha' for them to eat at lunch! So happy! For some only meal for the day! We continue to send funds for the children to have something at lunch to eat! When we arrived, they had a parade up the red clay road singing, playing drums, dancing welcoming us! Very humbling!

Spent the day with a ceremony and then seeing children who were ill, mostly malaria, ringworm, cough, allergies but most very healthy. Then they lined up by class and we gave each a worm pill to chew. Did teaching hand washing, toileting, brushing teeth, staying hydrated and the like! Great children! Fantastic teachers! All teachers were given a special gift bag and we were able to share with them privately encouraging them!

(21st) We returned the next day to do more medical checking, teaching, sharing Bible stories with each group and teaching songs, which they loved! Randy is a singer and he shared about loving Jesus and shared in song. Wonderful day. Also had a big dinner for staff and school board members and a special meal for the children.

Next day (22nd) we went to a national park where the Nile River has a great many falls. The river is very wide so falls go across the river. Do not think Moses (Biblical Moses) was placed in this part of the Nile! Then we took Randy to the mouth of the Nile which is where Lake Victoria empties! Took a boat ride on the river and onto the Lake! Huge fish come from this lake and that is what they serve at the restaurants in the town of Jinja.

(23rd)

Back at the Big K school on Friday (24th). Met with the headmaster, board chairman, reviewed the yearly report, prayed for the Lord to continue to bless the school and children. Also discussed the higher education for children in Uganda. Very difficult for them to continue after 9th grade. College is expensive. Some may receive a scholarship if they pass the tests at the end of the 9th year. Praying for ways to obtain scholarships for these children.

Had a big ceremony where we gave gifts to the school! We had over 1000 pencils, over 1000 pens, pencil holders for all the upper grades, toothbrushes for all (teachers included)-students were so grateful. Then two students recited a poem for Randy and one for me! I received a

handmade picture and a beautiful scarf! We said our goodbyes and left for the long ride back to Kampala.

Saturday (24th) was a very exciting day! Great anticipation, lots of thought, prayers went into the preparation. The Inaugural Ladies, Lunch and Learn (LLL) Uganda! Some friends back in Georgia sponsored the special event. It was for the women around the area of the Autumn King Primary School! All women were invited. We had a women share about a godly home, how to raise children that bring honor to their mother and keeping a clean home. Another lady shared about the importance of being a Godly wife and Mother. My presentation was on a woman's health! Was able to teach and show many important health tips and have question-and-answer time! So many questions asked! We had a great Ugandan meal for lunch, a game after lunch and teaching on how to make soap! Marvelous! The women can make the soap and sell to earn funds for the family! We expected about 40 women and had 80 come! An all-day event! The women were so happy and want to do again.

Sunday (25th) back to church. After church gave reading eyeglasses for the church folk. Fellowship with some of the brothers and sisters in the church also. After church we took Randy to a tourist mall which was very crowded, so we went to a noncommercial craft place that was great.

Monday (26th) back to Autumn King school. Medical checkups for over 100 of the school children and teachers and neighborhood! Randy was my assistant and did a good job! All the students were wormed and many with malaria treated. Also, some with rashes, ringworm, and tonsillitis. Then we played some games with the children, sang songs, they had a program for us that was delightful. Included poems, songs, dancing, and other things. A glorious day with the children. We also had a special time with the teachers and gave gifts to teachers, pencils, pens, and pencil holders to the children plus toothbrushes! We shared the love of Jesus with them and encouraged Believers in the Lord.

Back to Red Soc Hotel to have a meal, pack up for departure to USA on the morning of the 27th arriving in Atlanta on the 28th.

I'm so thankful for the financial support from individuals, BSBC, TCAM and two ladies for sponsoring the LLL.

Most of all, I am grateful for your prayers, Our Lord kept us safe and in perfect peace. You are a significant part of all Jesus did in many Ugandan people.

In Christ's Love,
Autumn Perry