



# Spring In Africa

## March 21-April 13, 2011

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## Project One—The Land

On March 21st Jennifer and I headed to Uganda once again to continue overseeing the ministry God has given to SMPI and Grace Christian Fellowship. One of the focuses of this trip was to visit the twenty acres of land we had purchased for Treasured Kids Primary School. The project we are working on at this present time is to build a “caretaker’s house” on



the land so we can begin to grow crops. So far we have purchased the land and paid to have it fenced. Putting a house on the land will allow us to then hire a caretaker who will be on site and will also be the farmer who grows the crops. It is impossible to take care of the land and provide security for the crops until we have someone actually living there. Our goal is to have everything in place, and the land cleared and ready for the fall (September/October) planting season. The land is an irregularly shaped property with a valley running across it. There is some hope that water may be close to the surface in the valley and therefore readily available for future irrigation.

Since water is such a valuable resource, it also may be a way to serve and minister to the local community. We can envision planting a church in this remote village area and maybe even a school where the children can attend and learn. We met some of the local people including several children who obviously had never been to school.

It had been raining quite a bit and the roads, especially the non-main roads, were soft and difficult. The “road” or should I say two track path, to our land was passable until we arrived at the land. I’m really glad Pastor Deo was with us to drive. I’m not sure I would have made it out of the mud. When we arrived we were excited to see the brick foundation of the house already in place. Bosco, our builder was there so we met him and spent some time viewing our twenty acres. Pastor Deo pointed out approximately where the boundaries of the land were located. It was quite funny to think about trying to find the demarcations of the boundaries by pointing out a specific tree at this corner and a garden at another corner. There is a fence in place though the growth made it impossible to see. We have very rich soil and growing crops should be very easy. We are hoping for two really good crops each year. And if we actually get irrigation in place at some time in the future the yield from the land should skyrocket. It will do well without irrigation but who knows what is possible





## Child Sponsorships

We are now sponsoring 38 children, 7 teachers and 1 house mother who cares for the orphans under Pastor Deo's ministry. Thanks to all who have decided to make a difference in the lives of these children. You can not imagine the impact you are making. These sponsored children have their school fees paid, a new school uniform each year, their medical expenses taken care of and a noon meal provided at school, all because you have responded and chosen to give \$35 each month. The teachers are sincere, dedicated individuals who see their job as a ministry to the children. Many of them want to better themselves through further education. Your contribution toward their monthly sponsorship gives them the opportunity to enroll in university and study to get their degree. A teacher sponsorship is \$50 per month. If you would like to sponsor a child or teacher please contact us and we'll help you get started.

Several of the students have graduated from P7 and are now enrolled in high school. For many that means some travel to get to the school since Treasured Kids does not have a high school at this time (future plans). Sometimes, if the high school is far away there is need for a bicycle. Shamir's sponsor heard of his need and provided one for him. It was fun to be able to be there and give it to him. We feel so blessed, so privileged to represent all of you, the sponsor families, to the children. Jennifer in particular enjoys handing them the letters from their sponsor family. The children we sponsor are known as "Grace" kids. It is fun to see them twice a year. They recognize us and are happy to see us each time we come.



## The Seminars

Our schedule each time we visit Uganda includes several leadership development seminars on behalf of the "Million Leader Mandate" vision of Dr. John Maxwell. We are Associate Trainers for the organization and now we have five different locations at which we teach. As much as sponsoring children and teachers is important the usually unnoticed need of the nation is for leaders to be trained in character, skill and strategic areas. For countries like Uganda to actually transform themselves into self sustaining nations, a new generation of leaders must be raised up. Leaders, who are able to withstand the temptations of power and riches in order to make decisions that benefit the people, are desperately needed all over the world. That, in a nutshell, is the vision of the



"Million Leader Mandate." We have had the opportunity to develop friendships with the students and watch them grow as leaders. They know and understand the importance of their studies. Many of them take the materials we give them to the villages and teach leaders who cannot make it to the seminars. They reach leaders we will never be able to reach. And again, that is the goal, to spread the leadership material far and wide and develop as many leaders as possible. We have recently been incorporated as a part of the curriculum of Gaba Bible Institute, a Bible School dedicated to training national leaders.

## Plus One Sponsors

The following businesses are "Plus One Sponsors" of SMPI. Please consider using them if you need the services they provide. They have joined with us as partners to support our efforts in Uganda. Want to use your business to support the ministry in Africa? I can show you how with minimal cost to your business.

- Byler Farm Market - fresh fruits, vegetables, baked goods, maple syrup
- G & J Tree Service - complete tree service (24hrs)
- KAL Engineering - engineer services (programming, drawings and troubleshooting)
- Tristate Security - locksmith (commercial, residential)

In His great Love,

Ross and Jennifer