



LiveWire!

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A Piece of Ourselves...

According to UNICEF, nearly half of the estimated two million orphans in Uganda are orphaned due to AIDS, with the total expected to rise to 3.5 million by this year. Twenty thousand babies are infected by HIV annually through mother-to-child transmission but preventable diseases like malaria, respiratory infections and diarrhea remain the major causes of mortality for children under 5 years old. More than 25,000 children were abducted over the two decades of conflict between the government and rebel forces. Children and women comprise 80 per cent of the 1.4 million people forced to flee their homes in northern Uganda due to the conflict. Until recently, there were about 200 camps for displaced people with limited human services. Thankfully, more people are now leaving the camps and returning to their villages, but for them life can never be expected to return to normal. And with little infrastructure and essential facilities, living conditions continue to be precarious for children. It is against this background that Adonai Partners, Inc. is seeking to serve the vulnerable children of northern Uganda and make a difference where it counts. We are committed to bringing hope to families through our medical outreaches and high impact Children Programs. Our short term missions give team members an opportunity to demonstrate God's love to the poor and needy in very practical ways. The difference we make in the lives of people in the camps is only possible through the grace of God. We're pleased to share with you below Chika Onyema's experience from last summer.



Mrs. Chika Onyema on the left with Shayla



I had a passion for missions from a very young age and it was never a hard concept for me to grasp. I figured that if God has given us this command to *go into the world and preach the gospel*, then it must be important to Him. My first mission trip to Uganda was in the summer of 2004 and I was the youngest member of the team. It was a life changing experience for me. After that trip, I knew that I had to get as many people as possible (especially young adults) to share in this experience. This past summer I had the opportunity to be in Uganda again. As part of our training prior to the trip, the team was briefed on the conditions the vulnerable

children in Gulu, northern Uganda, had been through. When I heard of these conditions, I was moved but didn't really know how our program could be relevant to the children. How do you minister to a child who was a victim of war or who may have seen their parent killed? We prayed for God's grace and wisdom. When we got to Dino to start the children and medical outreach programs, the situation looked dire. Dino, an IDP camp, is right next to the village of Odek, the birth place of the rebel leader, Joseph Kony. The few children who had showed up early for the program looked lifeless and their eyes seem vacant. [continued on the right]

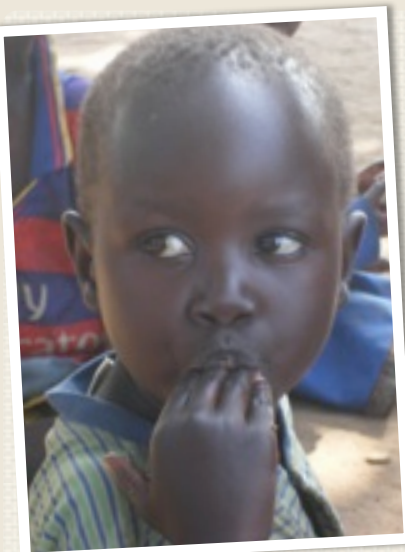
Since returning home, I am more aware of the different areas of need all over the world and have become more convinced that we, as Christians, really need to **get all hands on board** to show the love of Jesus to the world. I decided to more actively pray for unreached people groups and people going through persecution. I want to encourage people around me to look into mission advocacy including financial and prayer support for missionaries.

Since getting back to regular life (work, studying, church activities, etc.), I seem to be slipping back already in the goals that I set for myself. In the hustle of life, my prayer life is again focusing mostly on my own needs. Please pray that as Christians - especially those in the western world - our attention will remain on those people groups waiting to hear about Jesus and His love and for the children going through unimaginable cruelties. We are all **one body in Christ** and our daily actions should reflect this principle. The world needs to see more of **'His hands and feet'** reaching out to touch those who are hurting.

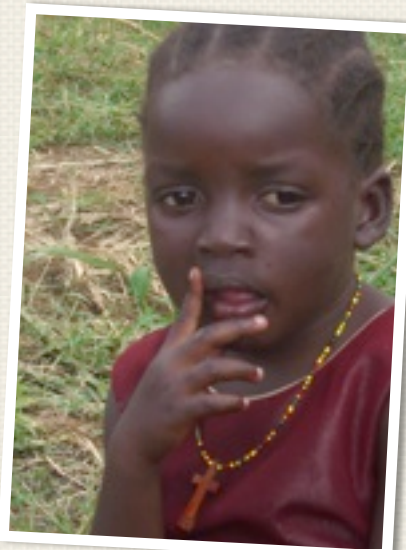
I want to really thank everyone who prayed for us and supported us financially. Without your support, the smiles on the faces of the children would not have happened. Without your support, we would not have had an opportunity to plant a seed of hope in the soul of a beautiful African child. With your support, we were able to do something that was beyond us...sharing the love of Jesus with the neediest and being **His hands and feet** extended to the people of Gulu.

There is still so much work that needs to be done....most of these kids will not have a bright future unless someone is moved with compassion to invest in their lives. They need financial support for even the most basic human needs such as food, water, clothing, shelter, and education to reach their full potential. Please pray and give towards the Children Center that Adonai Partners is trusting the Lord for resources to establish in Gulu for the most vulnerable.

I also want to encourage you to plan on being a part of a mission trip this summer. The experience is not completely altruistic, it fulfills you in a way nothing else will. You allow yourself to be used by God and He will show you His glory!



A few hours into the day, the children (a much larger crowd now) morphed into something very different - they were laughing, singing, shouting and praising God. And this was before we gave them any food or candy, This joy and energy could only have come from the Lord. One of their favorite activities is singing; they know lots of songs about Jesus especially songs that reflect the saving power of His name. They could sing for hours straight and it was the biggest icebreaker that you could imagine! We planned several games for the children's program and these were a big hit. They enjoyed the 'bucket



relay racing, baton racing as well as 'goat, goat, pig'. If you are curious about these games with funny names, we'll be glad to explain them to you! Just email us at: missiontrips@adonaipartners.org.

I thank God for the heart of the team members who were deeply involved with the children program. Each one of us left a little piece of ourselves in those kids as our love for the kids radiated so brightly. I noticed that on the mission trip, I seemed to have some supernatural strength and endurance as we taught and fed the children.



Each morning the team drove two hours from Gulu town to the camp and we stay out there for the entire day. In everyday life, I would be really grouchy if I had to go all day with little or no food and no rest. But being a part of something that displays God's heart really energized me in a way that nothing else had. Other team members felt the same way.

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