

MAY 2010

Homes for Peace Going Home, Giving Hope

Terry Chemij is the Peace-Building Coordinator, with EI Uganda.

Many dreams in Northern Uganda are relatively small in comparison to those in the West: to have stability, enough food and to go home to one's original village to live a life of peace. Many were forced to hastily leave their village compound behind for the protection of Internally Displaced Persons' camps. Everyone has lost

family members due to the 23 year conflict leaving many alone with no one to care for them.

Emmanuel International has recently completed the first seven "Homes for Peace" project. EI partnered with local leaders and their communities to select a vulnerable elder remaining in the camp. Utilizing local resources, and providing some payment for building supplies and labour. Men, women, the old and young came together for the construction project. After the completion of the home, we establish a peace club in the village and utilize the home as our meeting place for signing, dancing, performing dramas on various themes of peace, and for peace-building training. Meet two of the beneficiaries...

Mrs. Kitina Labogi 75 year old widow



Kitina was married with 8 children, six boys and two girls. Her husband was a soldier and was killed in 1972. All six of her boys died during the Idi Amin regime and her daughters are married and moved away from home.

During 1987-2008 she suffered in the camp with lack of food and a poorly constructed shelter where rain water would pour into her hut. Here is part of her testimony:

"At last it has come as a dream come true when EI came to construct a hut for me. I could not believe it until I saw the hut being constructed on my land. I came to realize that God never abandons his children. Now I am in my hut, in my land. I feel I am being loved by God for having sent EI to me. God has seen my challenges in life. God bless EI as they continue helping people with problems."

Mrs. Olok Robina 80 year old widow

Robina has suffered the loss of her parents at a young age plus two brothers and one sister, leaving her all alone. She married and had five children but all died.

"I can testify now that there is a living God that exists because of what EI has done for my life. I did not even dream of such a beautiful hut being given to me. I was under so much stress, but for all problems, God is the answer. My hut can last for more than 12 years and I can even die and leave the hut to someone else. May EI live long in Uganda!"



Mrs Robina in front of her old hut

Thanks to EI UK for recently donating 500 pounds, enough for constructing six more homes for peace. Since this project has commenced requests are pouring in and elders are coming to our gate asking for assistance. If you feel compelled we urge you to generously give a home for peace and make a dream come true.



Terry Chemij (left) and Curtis Legiehn are working in Northern Uganda with EI Uganda and our partner church.

Summer Team 2010 to Northern Uganda

We are excited about the work that is going on in Northern Uganda! There is a lot of regeneration in the area as peace has returned after 20 years of rebel activity.

Be part of the rebuilding of Northern Uganda!

No special skills are needed for you to help in this process. The team would be helping with building work and children's ministry.

Get more information and the application form from the office (telephone 01243 537040 or e-mail info@eiuk.org.uk).

Tell your friends, family and church members about this fantastic opportunity too!



Curtis Legiehn, working with EI Uganda in Northern Uganda regions, wrote to tell us about his work in the area.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I would like to give you all a brief update on my last 4 months here in Pader working with Emmanuel International as a youth worker. I have been working primarily in the education department with my friend and colleague Abello Josephine. Over the last four months we have been traveling to various schools in the district to talk to the students about the importance of education and staying in school as well as implementing the Why Wait program. At each school we travel to we have located the most vulnerable children and are providing them also with school uniforms.



As soon as young girls in Pader reach puberty they have the tendency to drop out of school and are often forced into early marriage. We have been running sanitary pad-making seminars for these girls in hopes that they would stay in school and continue their education.

I have a passion for ministry through sport especially through the sport of soccer. I sponsored a division one tournament in the district involving 5 teams. Through this opportunity I was able to speak to each team about the importance of being a "total athlete": A leader not only on the field but off. A good role model for the young ones to see and look up to. A Godly father, husband, brother and son. Disciplined in all aspects of life, not just on the football pitch. A peacemaker, not an instigator of conflict. Ultimately, a life surrendered to Jesus Christ. I've been training a number of teams in the district in team skills as well as the "total athlete" curriculum provided by Athletes in Action.

Through our education program we have also been showing films in the various schools including War Dance (a movie filmed in Pader) and the Jesus film. We have seen many people make first time decisions for Christ throughout the last few weeks of film showing. Praise God!

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