



Hope in Uganda March 2010

I think we skipped February...

March is here, lots have been done, and God is STILL faithful!

Spending time with new missionaries, traveling to Kampala and getting a lot done at Tegot has really made me realize the level of poverty I live in, yet the beauty that surrounds a place like Tegot. It is a totally different world here—from North to South, to America to Uganda. Jesus was right when He said that those who are poor are blessed. I see and experience relationships in a totally different way here...blessings seem more real, more abundant when it isn't tied to "things". The people of Tegot are so generous with their love, time and things/food to me, who has so much...it humbles me every time and makes me just ask for blessings to be poured out more and more. Of course, there are those who beg and try to get things from me, but that is different. I don't focus on that. I see love abundantly here.

I feel everyday is a story, hence, I would like to encourage you to read my blog. My facebook page has more pictures....so please take some time to check it out!!

As I am growing to understand love and what it means in the life of a follower of Christ, I feel challenged everyday in my faith—not a persecution type challenge, but more of a challenge in my beliefs and if I actually follow through with my thoughts, actions, words, heart. It is so exciting and wonderful to be challenged DAILY in my walk with the LORD.

Thank you for your continued love, support, encouragement and prayers. You are an integral part of Team Gulu and am so blessed to have you in my life!!!!



Baby Barbara and I
are GOOD friends!!
Instead of running,
she climbs in my lap

"I will very gladly spend and be spent for you;"
2 Corinthians 12:15

In Service to Christ,
Christine Sliwinski

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Prayer Requests:

- Student success in school
- Staff morale and growth
- Counseling sessions
- Growth in Christ
- Gospel sharing
- Sale and purchase of a new vehicle.
- Health for parents, children and team members
- More workers!
- Financial wisdom
- Country safety and political wisdom
- Travel mercies

Team Gulu

WE ARE GROWING!!! With new programs and needs we are excited to welcome two new staff to Team Gulu!!



Christine—Zion (I am Christine Choci) is a trained teacher who is working on the after school programs and bible program for Saturday Club. She is an AMAZING woman of God and we are so blessed to have her with us!! The older girls have taken to her—I mean, she is cool, young, pretty, loves the LORD and is an amazing teacher; what a great role model!

Ashley Bentz, is the new missionary from Texas. She will be here until July working in the after school programming, developing education programs and guiding the Team. She loves the LORD and is such a joy to have. Plus she is my new roommate and makes me buy stuff—like furniture, dishes and ice cream. :)



The rest of the team is doing well. Simon lost his brother tragically mid-February and needs continued prayer on healing. However, he and Pato graduated university and Mary is blossoming in counseling ministry. Thank you for all of your prayers, love and support. Please continue to pray for more workers!!!

Health—affects the spirit, mind and body...

Our kids are getting better because of a few reasons—a new meal program 5 days a week and better healthcare thanks to our partnership with Fitzman's Clinic. However, we are still working on the parents and siblings.



First, Mama Ocira—Lillian, has been in the hospital with TB complicated with AIDS. Her family completely abandoned her and we only found out by accident. She was deathly ill with no food (hospitals do not provide food—a family member must cook and provide the food). She looked horrible and doctors said she was on the brink of death. We couldn't let that happen—so we adopted her and provided food and medicine (meds were not available for her for months). Happy to report she is getting better—she even smiles!! PG!!



Second, Baby Barbara, dealt with a bad case of Malaria...I believe I wrote a lot about her and how close she was to death on my blog. She also was super afraid of me and would run away screaming and crying prior to getting so sick—so for me to check up on her at the hospital made me leery on her response. Well, after visiting her and praying over her a ton at the hospital, I am happy to report we are GOOD friends. So much, that her mom, Jennifer, told me the other day that when she hears a mutaka (car) she runs to the road saying "Mama!" (that is what she calls me). She always greets me when we visit and gives me the biggest smile and wants me to pick her up or have her on my lap. LOVE IT!!! Between her and her mother, I have seen God work miracles in their lives. PG!!

Programs

We started two new programs this past month with our sponsorship children: weekly meal programs and after school programming Monday through Thursday. Then we are in the process of two more: agriculture and business training.

Our kids were getting VERY sick—Malaria seemed to be as common as breathing. Their little, fragile bodies were under constant attack and had no power to fight it off. Children are lucky if they get one small meal a day. After much praying, asking questions and looking at our monies, we believe we have found a GREAT way to help our kids out: meals. Now, it isn't anything super fancy (rice and beans, which is delicious!) but it is a good, nutritious meal served 5 days a week. At least once a week they get some greens (boo) and pineapple (nancii nancii). One of our sponsored mom's, Akello Christine (Oyella Sharon's mom) cooks for us—so we are helping her with a job! It works out great. Children smile, tummies are receding and faces are being filled up. It is so amazing to see these kids getting healthy right before our eyes!! PG!!

Our after school program will be focused on literacy. We meet with the P1-P2 from 2-330 and then P3-P4 and P5-P6 from 330-5. Pato is leading this program with Ashley and Christine—some really neat progress is happening! Kids are loving it and teaching others!

Lastly, we are researching and starting ways to get our parents in the community self-sustained. From agriculture businesses to retail businesses we are on our way!! Pray that it works well, is profitable and all are honest!! What great opportunities for the parents!!

Library

The library is constructed!!

It is painted, it has books, has benches...and waiting on the timber for shelves and tables. Because Gulu doesn't have timber facilities, it is at the mercy of other places. There has been a major shortage so we have had to work on this slowly...so much for opening December 15th! Through this I have learned that timing happens when it does here. But all will be good. Staff, teachers, students and community are really excited and rallying behind the soon to come finished product. We are excited. The library looks so good, that the PTA raised money to work on the rest of the buildings and landscape...they realized how horrible it all looked and want the best for their kids!! It is really neat to see this catch on.



Resettlement

PHEW!!!

30 plus homes later and still we are finding the need. But God is good—right when we need more, more funding comes in.

I can't even begin to tell you how dignity is restored to people who can live at home.

It is beautiful. We are still visiting homes to bless them and people are so grateful. No longer do they have to live at camp or live in one hut with 5 people, sleep there, cook there (you can't even begin to realize how smoky it is!), store food and livestock, but rather they can live normally, safely, healthy and peacefully. PRAISE GOD!!!



Counseling—Three stories....

When we first started counseling with Monica, Jennifer and Godfred, I couldn't sleep for days...weeks. Their stories, experiences, their lives truly bothered me. It broke my heart. People I loved so much went through hell, saw Satan face to face and paid the consequences for evil they did not



create.

However, God prevails. Burdens were lifted, hope restored, dignity found and lives for Christ were committed. Monica came to Christ, Godfred wants more and desires to disciple others, and Jennifer sees hope for her and her children.

We have found more parents in need of counseling. Mary and I are praying

about the next steps.

There is such a desperate need for counseling and both feel VERY called to it.

All I can truly say is that God wants His people to return to Him. If He can use me, go for it. It is the biggest blessing to see depression turn to joy—joy in the LORD. :)



Ajok Monica