

# Cornerstone

NEWSLETTER 2nd Quarter 2008

A Family of Friends - Developing the Cornerstones of Africa's Next Generation

## Introductory thoughts

by Philip

Please feel very welcome to this edition of the Newsletter. So far this year - there have been two general themes running through our meetings, gatherings and times of reflection in the wider Cornerstone Family of Friends. The first theme has been: "Shepherding God's flock - God's way" and it is a carry on from our end of year Staff Retreat. It particularly relates to Stage I of our work - which is the stage where we are responsible for the full time care of the young people in all the various aspects of our work.

The second theme: "The Power of Oneness" is the theme from our annual reunion for the Cstone Old Students Association (alumni) that took place on the ranch over Easter weekend. The "Power of Oneness" theme is more directly applicable to Stages II and Stage III of our work - which covers the various initiatives designed to keep our people together throughout the rest of their lives - once they have matured and are no longer dependant on us. This year's reunion served as a 'wake up call' reminding us that we can do much more when we stay united than as scattered individuals.

In everything we do - Jesus' way of operating remains the model we follow. And the approach he used to start the world's biggest 'movement' was to call 12 men to be WITH him (Mk.3:14) He did not run a program but just lived three years *with* 12 men doing all things in common with them. The men thereby CAUGHT the things they saw and did. In doing this they became LIKE Him. The likeness impressed those living in their times and they attributed this to the fact that they had been *with* Jesus (Acts 4:13). Therefore we can see that 'With-ness' becomes the 'Likeness' which becomes the 'Witness.'

So.... just as a good shepherd constantly struggles to keep the flock together - we today have these same challenges with our little movement - in order for us to realize our fullest potential. But this is a collective effort with *each one of you* playing a part to strengthen and support our vision - as we stay together *with* each other and *with* Jesus - so think about that.

We also recognize that we cannot do this without the partnership of our friends around the world who are *with* us in spirit. So to all our members, partners and friends may the Lord bless you king size.



## Inside



2

Visiting the U.S. National Prayer Breakfast



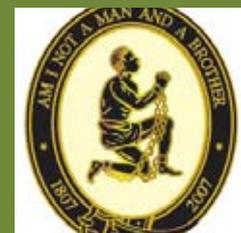
3

How to be: VINCENT LUMAGO!



8

V V Mbalangu Centerfold picture poster



16

The Power of Oneness

and...

-updates on Cornerstone schools, Youth Corps, and COSA programs

-Report of the Great Easter Reunion

This newsletter is published Quarterly for family and friends around the world.

## Location

### Head Office:

Plot 37 Acacia Avenue  
P.O. Box 9242  
Kampala - Uganda

## Program Overview

### Leadership Academies: Uganda

- CLA Boys, Nakasongola
- CLA Girls, Jakana Matuga
- Primary, Nakasongola
- Secondary, Nakasongola

### Rwanda

- CLA, Rwamagana

### Tanzania

- CLA, (in development)

### Youth Corps Homes:

#### Uganda

- Ntinda girls, Kampala
- Makerere boys, Kampala
- Bukesa boys, Kampala
- Mengo girls, Kampala
- Kibuli boys, Kampala
- Gulu Girls
- Gulu Boys
- Lira Girls
- Lira Boys

#### Tanzania

- Dar es Salaam

#### Rwanda

- Kigali

#### Sudan

- Juba

### Projects:

#### Ekitangala Ranch

Nakasongola, Uganda

#### Community Development

Nakasongola, Uganda

#### Wolves Soccer Program

Kampala, Uganda

#### Widows Program

Kampala, Uganda

(Our core focus is 'youth leadership development' - so all the various programs we run serve this focus by providing a practical "training ground" where the graduates of the Academies can learn to serve and pass on to others what they have received.)

2

# Head Office News

Every Monday mornings - the office staff continues to gather for an hour of prayer and sharing. On the last Friday of each month we enjoy a luncheon meeting together. Maintaining these regular "fellowship commitments" unwaveringly has really helped us maintain a spirit of unity, stay focused on our work and the vision that we all stand for.

Jan and Feb has been a time for the new addition to the team, Andima Pastore, to take root into his roles. He completed his trips by finishing weeks of training in accounts for the different departments. He has been setting up standardized accounting procedures through all the departments. Alutia Moses has been backing him up. Tim's son Eric has also begun working with us full time.

After several years of absence from the U.S. National Prayer Breakfast - Tim, Cathy, Stone joined thousands of people from around the world - across all the divisions of

religion, politics and ethnicity - for prayers and meetings around the principles precepts, and person of Jesus in Washington DC. It was a good time for them to renew old relationships and share the vision of Cornerstone with others. Shortly after returning to Uganda, Tim and Dub went on a tour of Rwanda and Tanzania - where in Arusha they began looking for land for a CLA Tanzania.

On 7th March Simon Kabi traveled to the United States to visit his wife and friends from the Christ Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis.

The MCC group that had previously resided within our office has moved to a new location which will allow us to expand our office space for our own expanding work. The area they vacated will serve as the office space for Henry, Josephats and Allan - as well as giving more space for our alumni to use for hanging out, using the library and computers.



Gad, Stone, Congressman Walberg, UG Ambass, Dr. Seruma, T&C



\*We would like to recognize and appreciate Naigaya Desire Zebia (CLA Gen. 2), Eric and Winter who have so graciously lent a hand to the compilation of this edition of the newsletter.

## How to be **VINCENT LUMAGO!**

- Get yourself a motorcycle and wear a special all-weather-protection suit wherever you go.
- Develop a passion for rescuing children off the streets.
- To do this you will need to acquire good child psychology and a capacity to speak in more than 5 local languages
- Marry a wife named Dorcas Caril – and call her “Caareell” with a passion no other man can dare to match.
- Have extensive knowledge on all types of Machinery and match it up with your extensive biblical knowledge.
- Learn to tune into the Spirit in order to be a powerful Worship Leader... while also tuning into your strong guitar skills
- Always be running a little late (“I’m on the way coming”) so that your absence at meetings is greatly appreciated – especially when you are the one supposed to begin by leading the music.
- When people at the meeting are not orderly – get their attention by exclaiming in a loud voice: “EXCUSE ME! Gentlemen!”
- Always have a warm friendly heart and smile for others in ‘the Jesus style.’

Vincent Lumago is an Old Student of CLA graduate of 1999 and is married to Dorcus and between them is a daughter Rebecca Lumago. Vincent works for Tiger’s Club in Kampala and is passionate about disadvantaged children and their well being.



Here is a list of the current staff working out of the Head Office and roughly their main areas of responsibilities:

1. **Pauline Nakisanze** - Chief Cook
2. **Philip Ojok** - Program Coordination – especially on Stage 1 of our programs
3. **Sarah Upendo Ojok** - Receptionist, Tim’s Secretary, Guest Rooms and Cashier
4. **Alfred Edakasi** - Program Coordination – focusing on Stages 2&3
5. **Simon Kabi** - General Office Management – especially accounts and also supporting Youth Corps & Widows Program (currently on leave in the US)
6. **Henry Kigozi** - COSA (alumni) Coordination
7. **Jumah Wangira** - General Administration, Internal reports
8. **Josephats Mbazira** - Internship Program, Visitors, Special Projects, *Chief comedian*
9. **Andima Pastore**- Internal Audits and Departmental Book-keeping support
10. **Tim Kreutter** - Overall direction and leadership
11. **Helen Nansuna** - Administrative Assistant
12. **Joseph Nambobi** - Transport and other logistics
13. **Julius Okello** - Data entry and Security
14. **Peter Ssegembe** - Youth Corps student sponsorship program
15. **Allan Byarugaba** - COSA administrative assistant
16. **Charles Mugabi** - Youth Corps Coordination
17. **Eric Kreutter** - Youth Corps support, graphic design, new projects development, *ninja*
18. **Joyce Okwonga Kawakyi** - House keeping and Widows program
19. **Stone Kyambadde** - Wolves - Inner City Soccer Outreach and life coaching
20. **Eddie Bbira** - Art Therapy initiatives

### *Special thought*

*Two thousand years ago, the coming of Jesus introduced a new order of things where, for the first time in human history, the values of love, goodness, forgiveness, patience, gentleness, humility and sacrifice were put into first place.*

*And even if Jesus’ words have not yet been either completely understood or practiced, it has been enough that certain ones have received this light for it to be transmitted down through the centuries.*

*The love for one’s neighbor as taught by Jesus - stems from the truth that humans are sons and daughters of the same Father and this truth has allowed the idea of brotherhood to forge a path across the world’s divisions.*

~ **M. Aivanhov**

# CORNERSTONE SCHOOLS

## *Cstone Leadership Academy for Young Women - Uganda*

**(by Mrs. Mongee Monica):**

We are grateful that the girls performed very well and the best got twenty-two points. I extend my sincere gratitude to the teachers who played a big role in the performance of the girls. The school has added four more subjects including; Math, Kiswahili, Entrepreneurship and Biology. Therefore, we have recruited new teachers for the new subjects.

We thank God for the new class of Senior 5 Girls that has just come in. We recruited thirty-one this year. I appreciate the help of all the Cstone members who participated in the interviews and recruitment of the girls.

There is a new school in the neighborhood called Springfield Secondary School. It is helpful to us. The teaching

staff has relatives and sisters going to that school, so it is very beneficial. The Mvule Trust Project has donated funds to set up a wood-lot on the school so now four Old Girls (alumni) are helping in the planting of these trees. We highly appreciate them for their work and

presence in the school which is a general support to the whole program. Finally, we have allowed a student from Ekitangaala SS who need to repeat S. 6 to study with us as a way of building the bridge between Ekitangaala and the Leadership Academies.



## *Cstone Leadership Academy for Young Men - Uganda*

**(by Mr. Ayo Charles):**

The year 2008 started with a bang as Kanyankole William our librarian made a fantastic wedding and the reception was hosted at CLA Boys. Mr. Kabuugo, joined the teaching staff in the Science department bringing experience that included being the Head Teacher at Kakooge SS as well as teaching in several government Schools. His input will definitely boost the academics and discipleship/character development studies.

The Senior Six results were back in early Feb though not  
4 up to our expectation. Con-

sequently measures have been put in place so next time we know we will do better. One of the factors in the lackluster performance is being worked upon by improving the student-teacher relationship. We successfully recruited twenty six young men in Senior Five who have set the teachers on their toes due to their hunger for academics and leadership principles.

One of our boys Onyango Nathan emerged the best debater in Uganda beating students from other big schools. He has been selected out of the fifty participants to go and

represent Uganda at an international debating competition in Johannesburg, South Africa from 28th April to 4th May 2008. The CLA staff extends sincere gratitude to Cstone Development for the support offered to their student Onyango.

CLA boys football team trounced giants in Kakooge zone to qualify to represent the zone at this years District Coca Cola foot ball competition. But at the district level it proved to be a case of Goliath vs David. We lost gallantly with no regrets.

Lastly, the Mvule Trust provided funding for both ener-

gy efficient stoves and solar equipment and the school is now fully lit. The consumption of firewood has now gone down because of the energy efficient stoves. We are very grateful towards their support. Pray with us that the good Lord may bless us and enlarge our territories. 1 Corinthians 4:10



## Cornerstone Leadership Academy Rwanda

(by Karamuzi Johnson):

This year the school was proud to have admitted 43 new student in a tedious exercise that saw all the teachers plus others participate for week beginning in January. We are blessed to have had the firm presence of Mzee Paul Lukwiya through this time.

In other news: We are glad to have had a strong representation of our students at all games levels in the district sports events.

In the same sprit therefore all our teachers were part of a three week mandatory political sensitization course for our area. In March as one more staff house was getting complete and ready, our Teacher Mr. James decided to marry Jennifer. The school also in the same month hosted a community day that attracted many. In a related development our teacher Mr. Musisi has written and produced a text book for A level Biology.

Otherwise the school continues to build a strong culture of tolerance and oneness. We have been blessed by the presence of a few Uganda CLA and Ekitangaala graduates come over and be a part of the community. This list includes Mumbya Joel, Brenda, Florence and Rhona. Many of them are given teaching positions teaching Character Development or ethics. We hope they will be here till their time comes to go to school.

## Ekitangaala Secondary School

(by Christine Nnumbya):

This has been a challenging term for us all however we thank God that we have managed to run up to the end and we are closing for a break on the 25th of April. Last year we had our pioneer class sitting for their final exams Jarvis Lubwama the best in Arts subject scored fifteen points while

Atman was the best in Sciences scored fourteen points. As per now our science department is lacking teachers so it's a big challenge to the school until we recruit more.

On a very sad note our head-teacher Ongodia Stephen had a car accident and his car was severely damaged - but we rejoice because the Lord was gra-

cious in saving all the people that were in the car. However, we ask prayers for his family that has been hit by a variety of such challenges including his wife's sicknesses but through your prayers we believe all will be well. The school continues to press on - seeking greater and better ties with the CLA boys (especially in regards to sharing teachers) as well as with the other departments around the ranch.

## Ekitangaala Primary School

(by Jovia Ayo):

Our number has increased in line with the boarding section which has been opened this term. This facil-

ity is reserved for Primary Six and Seven as per now. We are glad that the parents are very positive about the new innovation. We are working on the transfer of the kitchen which is almost com-

plete and we have already purchased equipment for the solar light installation - so in just a few days we shall have it installed. We thank God that the term has ended blissfully and we are closing on the 25th of April for a short holiday.

# BROTHERHOOD AND SISTERHOOD

COSA Updates by Alfred Edakasi, Henry Kigozi and Mbaziira Josephats

## **University Campus Meetings:**

Our weekly meetings at the various universities have continued as usual apart from Kyambogo U. - which has affected by the faculty strike. In Nsamizi University, many of our students are doing field work over these last three to four months. Two members, Vasco and Hamiat have joined this institution in pursuit of their bachelor's degree. Gabrielle Logit is warming up to stand for Guild Presidency at the University.

Members from Mukono U. are breaking off on Friday for their field work and to continue with their course work. The rest will be joining second year in May. At Gulu U. - Tuguma Joseph stood for guild presidency but came in second after some malicious politicking in the contest cheated him of victory. Kinunu William hopes to be voted in to the cabinet. In Kampala Int'. U. we have Michi James Paul planning to stand for Guild Presidency. All of this is very encouraging because even those who do not 'win' the election still 'win a lot' from the whole experience. It builds character and confidence in ways that they could have never realized if they had not taken this courageous step.

In Makerere U. our weekly campus meetings have continued though the semester was also partly affected by the strike. We are looking forward to electing a new office member for the campus meetings, whom you will get to know

in the next newsletter. Ouma Denis has been 'papa' of the Non-resident student fellowship and is about to hand it over. Byarugaba Allan has been 'papa' in the Institute of Psychology for the Christian Union and has handed it over to Kasule Peter. Angom Bony is a leader of his Home District Students Association. There will be a finalist dinner on May 31st combining all members of COSA at Fusion 9, Acacia Avenue. Each member is requested to pay 10,000 shillings.

## **Married Fellowship:**

Members of "The Married Fellowship" continue to hold regular meetings that rotate between their houses. Unlike other such groups who are supported by the Head Office, most of the costs of the Married Fellowship are met by the members themselves showing the spirit of Independence and Interdependency. The topics of discussion as you can imagine focus upon the issues related to married life. Our hope is that through sharing experiences with each other the various couples will be able to enhance their marriages. What we have seen is that as the sharing becomes more open and honest - we are experiencing a greater depth of relationship with the couples really getting to know and understand each other.

## **Business Forum Foundation**

The intention of the business forum is to provide a support group to all our members who

want to pursue business as a career. We are also organizing trainings for skills development as well as exploring financial opportunities and sourcing capital to begin businesses. You are welcome to join if you are pursuing business as a career (see Alfred.)

## **The Creative and Performing Arts Forum:**

This Forum is a very new group. Its objective is to support those interested in the fields of Music, Media and Art. Specifically the forum hopes to assist in the marketing the artists products, for example, launching of albums.

## **New African Vision (NAV):**

The New African Vision was initiated for people who are interested in politics. They meet together monthly as a support group to pursue their vision of, "a movement of friends united in Christ, committed to service with integrity to positively transform Africa towards sustainable development and political stability". So far the group has twelve members who have been meeting since last year.

## **Sorority House**

(by Byogere Lydia): This home for female Uni. Students seeking to live together for a higher purpose. We changed the name from Sisters Shelter to Sorority House - as our vision is more than just shelter. We have a vision of oneness that builds on the foundation that was started right from when we were to-

gether at the CLA Girls' school in Matugga. God has increased our number from six to twelve. As it is still in the early stages - we have had a series of very helpful meetings to clarify the vision and operation of the home. We have also hosted a number of visitors especially outsiders who have appreciated our house and admired our ladies for being virtuous. Being together makes it easy to organize outings and other activities.

### **Africa Youth Leadership Forum (AYLF):**

AYLF is a movement of friends furthering a new breed of African leaders based on the principles and leadership qualities of Jesus of Nazareth. The Uganda chapter was launched by members of Parliament under the auspices of the National Prayer Breakfast of Uganda on the 8th of October 2007. We started meetings at the Makerere guesthouse and fifteen student leaders were present. The areas of focus in leadership include: student government/students guild, religion and culture.

### **ECOSA (Ekt. Alumni)**

**(by Jarvis Lubwama):** This month we are working on our mission statement and next month we shall begin our meetings - to be held on the first Sunday of every month at Ekitangala SS. We will also organize small groups for those who live around Kampala to encourage fellowship and oneness.

Our mission: We seek to create a community of brothers and sisters focused on sustainable transformation for Africa and beyond.

Our vision: To be a movement of men and women with a dif-

ference - united in the spirit of Jesus - to positively impact our nation.

### **Great Annual Reunion Report:**

**(by Naigaya Desire Zebia)** On the 21st of March 2008 at exactly 9:00 am, all roads led to Nakasongola for the COSA (alumni) reunion. It is always a greatly significant, annual occasion as it serves to renew relationships as well as to revisit the vision and principles we hold in common. The registration table led by Michi Paul and Annet Namuli reported that over two hundred members were in attendance.

On Saturday, there was a tree planting function led by Kebuuka Sarah and each member was requested to plant a tree in memory of the time spent together. Throughout the weekend there were many activities including; sports and games. One of the most enjoyable events was a game of football between the girls and boys. Some of the boys disguised themselves as girls. Billy dressed like a woman and gave himself the nickname of Nabiva. There were also three legged races, volleyball, and short rallies. During the evening, there was a talent show in which different cultures were presented by various members. These cultural dance/music presentations included Kinyarwanda, Busoga, Buganda, Ankole, Toro and Nigeria.

Uncle Tim was our main speaker and we asked him to speak on the theme of *"The Power of Oneness (see article)."* He began by telling of his passion to work with young people in order to see them move forward and become leaders. *"When I look around and see each one of you today, and reflect on how far you have come and where you*

*are going I am amazed. The courage and determination of the young people in Africa - in the face of the toughest of circumstances - this is and you are - my greatest inspiration."*

He talked about unity and oneness being a Godly thing. And that we have been given "the ministry of reconciliation," with the example and message of Jesus as our common ground - across all the divides of tribal, racial, political and religious discrimination in our generation. He closed with emphasizing the importance of small groups and the power within them - reminding us to stay close through being committed to our meetings and developing our covenant relationships.

The weekend also included workshops focused on: academics, politics, mission, business, married life and relationships. We also had elections for the COSA executive - presided over by Mr. Ayo. Many of the previous executives were re-elected as they seemed to be doing a good job. The Chairman remained Edakasi Alfred, Vice Chairperson Tuhaise Josephlyn, General Secretary Ojambo Stephen who replaced Ssenkosi Moses, Welfare is Kirabira Richard and the following are the Committee members: Ogwal Vincent Leo, Kyesiimira Francis Aggrey, Aye bale Emma, Auma Millicent Mukhwana.

Finally, the last night was the "confession night" where generation by generation met with each other to review honestly their past as well as plan for the future.

# Cornerstone

## Newsletter Pictorial



Happy to graduate (above)  
Primary school dance (below)



Charles and Alfred at the reunion (above)

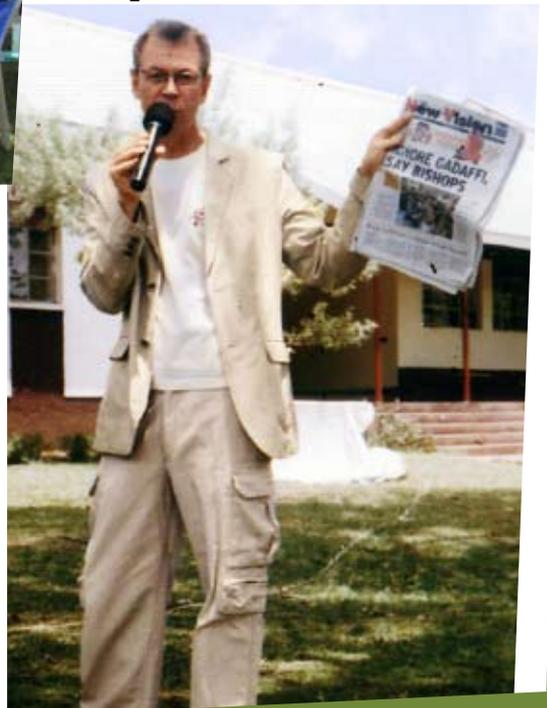


Tim speaks at the reunion



Group of old boys in group meeting at the reunion (below)

Group of old boys and girls singing at the reunion (below)



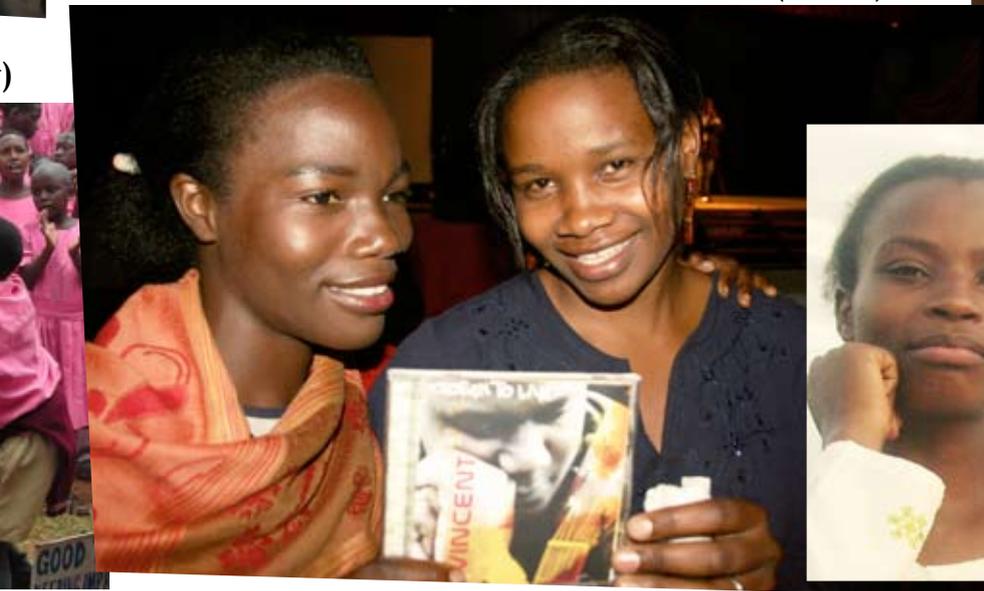


Girls at the Ntinda Youth Corps home (Above)

Florence and Sarah at Vincents album launch (below)



Vincent sings at the concert for the launch of his music album (above)



Africa Student Leadership Forum (below)



# Youth Corps Homes

## Mengo Home

( by Florence Nambafu):

Generally, it has been a good month in the home. There is a progressive ray of transformation in our girls. We have taken in a number of new girls recently and I am happy that most of them have begun opening up to and are now free with the mentors. Our relationship with the neighbors is also growing, they no longer complain about our girls.

We have also had many visitors in the past month. They have been a blessing to us and we are glad that we hosted a farewell dinner for them. We are also very happy that our water supply has been re-connected after we had been cut off.

Most of our girls are currently going to school and one of them that we would like you to meet is Wanjiku Olivia. She is sixteen years old and attends Makerere Highway College. *"I am in Senior One and I am glad that I have started school after shattered hopes, I have found love and belonging and I encourage my friends whom I left on the streets to go back and reconcile with their relatives", says Wanjiku Olivia*



## Kibuli Home

(by Babu Abdallah):

This is home continues to serve as an entry point for the boys. Our house had suffered from the effects of poor electrical wiring and now it is fixed.

Last month we carried out a survey on the streets in order to bring more boys in to fill the gap of the four who were transferred to Bukhesa Home. During our surveys we indirectly interviewed potential boys. It is a difficult challenge as we must gradually build up a trust relationship with them to ensure familiarity and commitment. It is vital for us to have passion for the boys and a belief that they can be transformed rather than just sympathy.

During this year, we hope to build a new foundational program of imparting life skills in the boys in accordance with the Youth Corps guidelines. Such skills will enable them to secure a living in the future instead of always counting on Cornerstone.

We also take our boys to do community work in the neighboring communities every two weeks. We are known for this contribution by our neighbors. Lastly, I thank God for the generous financial provisions we received last month...reports Babu - who is from a Muslim background and is a follower of Jesus and now leads the Kibuuli home.



## Ntinda Home

( by Tuhaise Joselyne):

Currently, we have fourteen girls going to different schools from the home. Babirye Scovia, in primary seven, and Mirembe Sheila in Senior Six are both candidates. Two girls Sarah and Bethel joined us in February and they are doing very well. Flavia Nassali, Nakata Catherine and Kuteesa Majorie graduated from the program.

The home was blessed to have Lisa - a football coach come and be part of the family sharing her soccer skills with the girls for all her stay. Lisa is from Minnesota. She also generously donated sportswear to them. A farewell diner was hosted to her honor at the Mengo Home in which many of children went. The home is doing great even though



## Makerere Home

Visiting the home recently - we were welcomed at the gate by two young men with big smiles, who led us to the sitting room. Uncle Allan, helping in the kitchen, greeted us with a warm, "welcome!" This is a sign of revived hopes and belonging. On the 2nd of April 2008, the home had "bread-breaking", an important occasion in the Cornerstone family, which encourages unity and enhances the family spirit in Youth Corps.



These young boys are very brilliant and have a sharp memory. You could see it during the review of the previous sharing. Nambafu Florence shared with the boys the eighth precept, "Fellowship" This precept was demonstrated through the bread breaking. She declared that we should have a positive fellowship with God to encourage unity across cultural, tribal and religious boundaries.

The coordinator of Youth Corps, Charles Mugabi was present and he urged everyone to love one another and constantly fellowship with God and man. He says the children in the program will always be fully accepted the homes, despite who they are and from where they have come because love breaks down all rigidity. We have a commitment to love everyone God brings into the Youth Corps Family in order to enable the transformation process. The home has not had many extra activities during the last month because almost all the boys are in school and the timetable for reading is tight.

## Bukesa Home

In February we received three boys from Kibuu-li Home. Currently, twelve of our boys are attending school and one is on his vacation. This



year have finalists who will be finishing at their institutions. The boys are showing high levels of transformation and we are glad that we offer counseling services to them. We also teach them discipleship which enhances character development.

*Kibirige Ezra (15) attends Mengo Primary School. He is in primary four and had this to say when I asked how he is doing: "I am happy that I go to school now, and above all I have a home that I belong to. The uncles have showed us real love and I cannot go back to the streets. When I finish school, I will adopt my friends from the streets and help them learn the love of God." This is indeed the story of many who live and are in the Home.*

## Gulu Homes



One of Mother Teresa's favorite sayings was: "let us make our community something beautiful for God." In this report we profile two brothers whose worlds continue to be made beautiful. Rashid and Abdul lost their father in 2004. A year later, as a result of living in desolate camp conditions, their mother passed away from the AIDS virus. "We were very young, and one auntie, Josephine, took us in. At first she loved us, but later as economic pressures increased - she turned against us and started reminding us of how stupid our parents were. We were forced to perform manual labor

such as charcoal burning and making bricks. The money from the bricks and charcoal was used to pay her children's school fees - we never went to school. We spent all of our lives in the bush burning charcoal, usually with nothing to eat. One day we were dancing "la-raka-raka," a traditional Acholi dance to try to forget our troubles. When Auntie found us dancing she nearly beat us to death because we did not lay enough bricks. We were rescued by our neighbors. In a way we consider this a blessing because this is how we came to join the youth corps family." (report continued on next page)

(Gulu report continued from previous page)  
 When the boys arrived at the home they looked so unhealthy, malnourished and a bit too old for their ages. We even thought they may have contracted HIV/AIDS. So we had to take them for a medical checkup. Thankfully, they were negative

and their health soon began to improve. We are happy to inform friends that these boys now have hope. Rashid wants to be a teacher and Abdul wants to be a doctor. This is the source of our joy, as we see young people speaking of a bright future.

## Lira Homes



The two YC homes in Lira are situated on the same property allowing the girls and boys to interact and grow in fellowship. The girl's home is led by two mentors, Catherine and Eunice. The seventeen girls, ages nine to seventeen all attend school. The schedule of the home is disciplined as the girls awake between 5:30 and 6:00 to begin their chores. School lasts until five at which time they return to the home, complete their chores and have the evening to entertain themselves.

Blessed with insatiable creativity, the girls often perform dramas for any willing audience members. After water is fetched and supper is prepared and eaten, the girls begin their studying. The boys schedule is very similar except that they are often found playing football during their hour of leisure. The Boys home, with mentors Ambrose Okite and Okwera Jacob currently hosts eight active boys.

Due to the proximity of the homes, they are able to enjoy Sunday prayers, a weekly debate competition to practice their English, and daily tutor sessions with their mentors, together. The mentors tutor the students in math, English, sci-

ence, SST and discipleship.

It is impossible to visit this home without becoming attached to the children. This edition will focus on two of the bright and joyful children enjoying the safety and security the home provides. Fifteen year old Atyang Hilda came to the Girls home last year. She has lost both parents and was living at her grandmother's house where unfortunately, she was terribly mistreated. She soon moved to her uncle's house where she was also in an unsafe atmosphere. When she was threatened and told she had to marry she fled and found refuge at her sister's house. Her sister did not have the capacity to care for Hilda, but knew about the Youth Corps program and brought her to the home. Full of fear, abandonment and tears, Hilda was hesitant and did not feel comfortable around people. After a year in the home, Hilda has improved dramatically. She took fifth position, enjoys her studies and is now described as a 'jolly girl' by her mentors.

From the Boys home, sixteen year old Okii Peter is a dedicated and hard working student. Before

coming to the Lira Youth Corps home he describes his life as one of an abandoned young man. Uneasy around others, easy to anger and unsure of how to live in community, he was lost. His mentors say that he has taken an interest in the precepts they share with him and is always the first one up to begin his day. He is finding comfort in the structure and stability of the home and is confiding in his mentors.



Playing Kwepena at Lira Home (above)

## Tanzania- Dar es Salaam Home

(by Peter Nyalandu): We are pushing on well. The house has got 9 guys now including myself: Baraka who is at University of Dar John doing a diploma in accounts. Phelix doing his degree at Dar es Salaam University Issac and Saluum both in Dar University Meshach Mwakyagula he is doing a diploma in Information Technology in an Institute in Dar. Tony who has recently finished High School - and is waiting to join Universty of Dar this year. Elisifa who is finishing up High School.

All of these guys are very grateful for the program - because of them were struggling with place to stay and a group to belong to. So when they were admitted to the program it was sort of a miracle for them. "Pole sana na kazi nyingi" (Swahili for "Thanks for all the work").

*To live together, to share together, to discover our common humanity. You see my dream today, my hope and prayer is that there will rise up in the world today a multitude of people yearning for peace and they will commit themselves to becoming a friend with one broken person*  
- J. Vanier

## Rwanda- Kigali Home

(by Deus Gahiga): The Lord has been good to us from the beginning of this year. We are blessed that some of our members have graduated from the University. Among the graduates, five have already acquired jobs. Out of the previous ten members, we have been able to graduate seven from the home and thus we have recruited another group of five.

One of our current members has been ordained a pastor and has established a church in Kigali. Rwakageyo Francis and Cohen are intending to marry this year. They came with their spouses to fellowship so all could meet them. Please stand with them and encourage them. We have been hosting many visitors in the home from Uganda and beyond. Recently, a team of 8 traveled to Uganda, visiting different Cstone projects. We are grateful for the support from the head office.

The home is planning to move to a new location in hopes of finding a place that will better fit our needs.



Playing Volleyball at Kibuli (above)



Playing Football at Bukessa (above)

## Sudan- Juba Home

(Charles Ohuro): The home currently is operating in Nimra Talata, 6 kms from Juba with five boys. The Sudan program restarted after nine months of closure. Simon Kabi who is now in the US visited the home with a few members of the Prayer Breakfast. One of the boys has been sick suffering from a kidney complex problem and he was sent to Kampala for treatment otherwise all the boys appreciate the idea of being part of the world wide family of friends and they are daily enriched with a sense of belongingness and the sharing of the precepts of Jesus.



## The Ranch

(Stephen Gesa): We are just coming out of the four month past dry season so the milk production had gone down which is normal for this time of the year. This impacts the income. But as the rainy season picks up we are glad tha the production is picking up as well. We are at least delivering 500 liters of milk daily to Kampala. Our biggest engagement over the last few months have been to divide the ranch into paddocks for easy pasture rotation and keeping the cattle from moving from place to place and out of the ranch. The poles we are using are expensive but soon we are purchasing the chain saw to make our own poles.

## The Wolves Soccer Club

(Stone Kyambade): We have two teams in First Division and each team has to play six times a month. The boys always have scriptural sharing reflecting the conditions of their background - to touch them spiritually in order to change. These teachings can also be applied on the playing field. In February, I went to the US for a conference called "Leadership in Excellence" where I spoke to the people about leadership skills. I also went to the University of Minnesota and spoke to students about leadership. It also worked out for me to be able to attend the US National Prayer Breakfast in Washington.



## The Widows Program

Facilitated by Joyce Okwonga and Kari Miller, the Widows Program is an encouragement based project that helps breed hope and community. Currently, the group has twice weekly meetings. One meeting is located at St. Peter's Church, and one at Lugogo Baptist Church. The group focuses on providing encouragement with challenges and disseminating sound business principles. Kari and Joyce also make regular home visits to pray, listen and love the women. There is a small emergency fund for truly dire circumstances that may arise. A few sponsors have come forth to provide school fees for some of the women's children. Many of the women have joined together to work on a bead making project. They are currently working on an exciting order of one hundred necklaces. The program is arduously looking for land to build a community in which the women and their families could reside.



### ...CONTINUED TEXT - (from back page) POWER OF ONENESS

One of the greatest experiments in human history has been the United States. The founding fathers said they were seeking a 'more perfect union.' It hasn't always been pretty - but the US has been an example of the 'melting pot' - the possibility of very different people uniting to form a new society. And just the fact that we have a "Black Man" as a serious contender for the Presidency - is a testimony to how far the U.S. experiment has succeed. For it was not very long ago that this would have been unthinkable.

While in the US I was able to see a new documentary on William Wilberforce. One thing that struck me was a small

medallion that Wilberforce used to give people as part of his campaign to end slavery. It had an image of a slave, in chains, trying to stand up - and across the top of it were the burning questions: **AM I NOT A MAN AND A BROTHER?**

It caused me pain to think that there was a time when my European ancestors even had to be asked such a question. But then I thought - who is it today that I am not ready to call a BROTHER or a SISTER?

On a recent visit - Colonel Quaddafi caused an up-roar among Christians in Uganda when he said on his recent visit: "*The Bible is a Fraud.*" And

many were ready to take to the streets to fight with Muslims over this statement.

But I was very proud of my friend the Bishop of Kampala "Zac" - who was quoted in the newspaper as saying: "*We need to show our Muslim brothers the right example. Our faith is about love. At least Quaddafi also acknowledged that Jesus existed and still exists.*"

Where do I draw the line on who I am willing to call a brother or a sister? Personally I am trying to get to the point where I see and relate to every human being as my brother or sister. Of course I have my biological brothers and I have

my brothers "in Christ" - but I now am convinced there is also basis for seeing every human as created in the image of God as a brother or sister. And I want to relate to everyone in that way.

The Wycliff Bible commentary puts it this way: *"There is a biblical doctrine of the universal Fatherhood of God and The Brotherhood of Man - resting on the fact of common creation..."*

*"We are his offspring"* - Acts 17 tells us and we see this in Jesus' thinking - for instance when he was speaking to *"the crowds and his disciples"* in Mt. 23 he makes the statement in verse 8: *'you are all brothers'* and in verse 9 added *"because you have one Father who is in heaven."* One God, One People. The Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God.

The first two brothers were Cain and Able - one decided to kill the other and we have been at it ever since. *"War is fratricide"* (brother killing brother).

Maybe the definition of *'who is my enemy'* is those people I cannot call *'my brother.'* Recently I was researching on where Jesus himself gave the criteria as to what it takes to be a child or son of God. I found there are only three places:

1. Mt. 5:9 - *Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called sons of God.*
2. Mt. 5:44-45 - *Love your enemies...that you may be sons of your Father in Heaven.*
3. Luke 6:35 - *Love your enemies....and you will be sons of the Most High.*

Is that the answer we would give if someone asked us what we must do to become a child

of God? - To be a peacemaker and to love your enemies?

It's a divine kind of love - that's why if you practice it you will be as a child of God. But it's not so much something you do - it comes as a spontaneous spiritual by-product of becoming and being. Being in union with God - being filled with his Spirit. God can only love.

Almost all the conflicts today, especially in Africa, are arising over two types of differences - ethnic and religious differences. And part of the vision of Cstone is to raise up a new generation of leaders who can 'stand in the gap' - who can cross these divides.

Sometimes we can have a heart for the masses - but mistreat, ignore or walk-over the people right next to us. I think that is why the New Commandment was given specifically to the small group following Jesus: *"A new commandment I give to you - that you love one another - by this all will know you are my disciples."*

In our community - it means being there for each other in all the 'little ways' that mean a lot in some ones life. Encouraging others through the hard times, supporting each other at wedding meetings, paying back our student loans so that others can benefit, attending meetings generally where we can renew our relationships and the values we share.

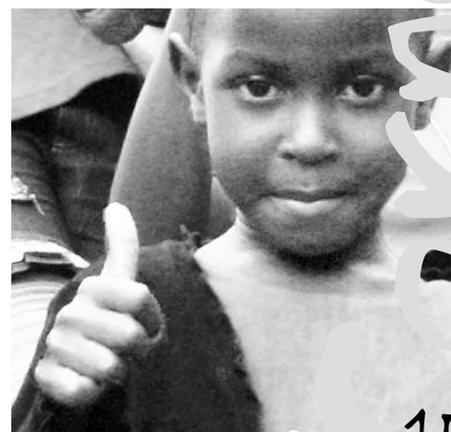
The power of oneness that we are seeking to enter into collectively as family of friends in the spirit of Jesus - will be experienced in it's fullness only when it is built up from the smallest units of groups of two's, threes, four's and five's.

Each brick in the wall - is in intimate contact with only a few others. But joined together they can complete a whole building. Every cell in the body is only directly connected to the few others immediately surrounding it - but together they make up an organ and the body is composed of various organs. One brick by itself is not worth much - and a cell removed from the body and left by itself will soon die.

So finally, I would encourage you to think again about the principle we teach called 'Covenant Relationships' - of making a commitment to one or two or three other brothers/sisters. Brothers/sisters that you will walk with through life - that you have given permission to speak into your life - that will hold you accountable to your highest and best values - that you can partner with on various initiatives - that will pick you up when you are down.

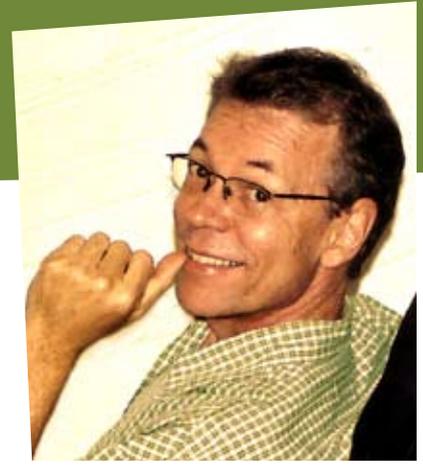
Who is that person that you would call in the middle of the night when you have a problem? I challenge you to talk to that person today and tell them that you see them in that way - and that you pledge to be there for them in that way. ...God Bless You.

*(The truths are from God and the mistakes are mine.)*



# The Power of Oneness

from a talk given by Tim at the Reunion



Oneness is a divine concept –a powerful word. This is seen right from ancient times in what the nation of Israel considered the most important prayer given to them by God - called the “She-ma” - which all Jewish people are to repeat twice a day. It goes like this: *Hear, Oh Israel the Lord our God, the Lord is ONE.* (Deut.6:4)

And if Oneness is a principle of the divine world - then the principle of this world is duality. So, in this world we constantly find many things in sets of “Two’s:” Male/Female, Hot/Cold, Good/Evil, Positive/Negative, Joy/Suffering. These are pairs of conflicting but complementary opposites. You can’t really know, describe or define one without the other.

In the garden of Eden there were two trees and we ate from the tree which contains the Knowledge of two things: Good/Evil. So in this world we are in - we gain knowledge by comparing one state to its opposite.

We see this duality on the physical level as well: We have two eyes, two ears, two sets of teeth, two hands, 2 feet, 2 sides to the brain, etc.

But with God the goal is always oneness: *The two shall become one.* We use this phrase in regards to the marriage relationship but it is symbolic for the union that also takes place between the individual and God. (This is made clear when that phrase is used in Eph 5:31-32)

One of the goals of spiritual maturity is to see beyond duality to recognize that the universe and life is one unbroken whole – and that we are all connected to each other. And so, the second greatest commandment is: *“Love your neighbor as your self”* NOT *“Love your neighbor the way you love your self.”*

The Greek for Devil is: “Diabolos”, from the root *dia-ballo*, to divide or separate. So the real meaning of Devil (>Diabolos) would be: *“He*

*who places division.”* When Jesus asks a demon “what is your name?” It replies “Legion, for we are many.” But when the nature of God is revealed to us it is always: *“We are One.”* The Father is one with the Son and the Spirit.

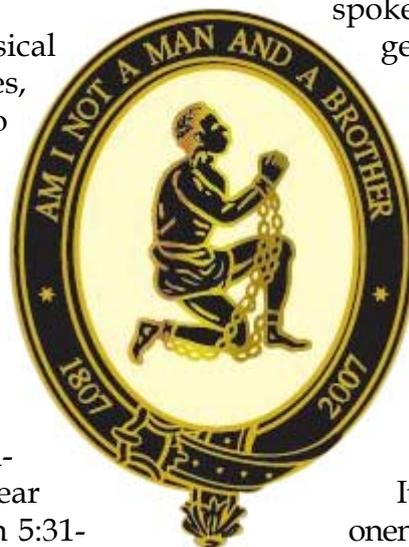
James the apostle wrote: *A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.* Paul the apostle said: *One thing I know.*

*“A kingdom divided against itself cannot stand.”* In the analysis of the factors behind the recent violence in Kenya it has been discovered that the unregulated proliferation of FM radio stations – each broadcasting in different tribal languages – allowed unbridled ethnic hatred to be preached over the radio waves – to a degree that one analysis described as: *“It made what was spoken on the Rwanda radio prior to the genocide sound like a declaration from the Pope.”*

So, when we are promoting division and separation we are doing the devil’s work. When we are promoting reconciliation and unity we are doing God’s work. Oneness is a divine thing. *“All this is from God who gave us the ministry of Reconciliation.”* 2 Cor. 5:

It’s hard to thing to think of developing oneness with others –when we have not yet developed this sense of oneness with God.

Jesus functioned out of a sense of oneness with God. *“I and the Father are One.”* In most cases we are functioning out of a sense of separation with God. If we say we want to ‘think like Jesus and talk like Jesus’ then we need also to develop this sense of oneness with God by quietly saying within ourselves: *“I and the Father are One”* - this is completely in line with scripture. I.Cor.6:17 says: *“He who unites himself to the Lord is one with him in Spirit.”*



...CONTINUED on page 14