



NEWSLETTER october 2008

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

## NO MAN IS AN ISLAND

### *Thoughts on Community*

Someone recently asked me the age-old question: "If you were stuck on a desert island, and you could only bring along one thing, what would it be?" I thought about it for a while, searching my soul for an honest response. I had answered this question many times in the past so you'd think I could have a quick reply down by now. My mind quickly retraced previous answers such as: a knife, a map, or a helicopter. And, I also thought of the many times I have heard people use the classic Christian reply to this: "A bible."

Well, I am not one for simply regurgitating weary answers so I really tried to think up something a little more original, witty or philosophical... but initially felt at a loss for words. The more I thought about each thing I might bring, the more emptiness I realized existed when I thought of having nothing besides this one thing. And then I realized that even with these various things, I wouldn't be much better off than without them. They wouldn't complete me, and so life would be quite meaningless. What would be the point of fighting for survival? What would keep me inspired to wake up the next morning?

With a knife I could hunt and catch food all day long and eat to my stomach's content- but a knife could not comfort my heart! With a bible, I could memorize all the scriptures and decipher all the doctrines it presented, and I could learn all about 'the things of God'... but would I be able to practice them? For instance, I could read about forgiveness, but how could I really grow in my understanding of it unless I could experience the act of forgiving someone else who has harmed me. One can read about patience but you can't understand it until you have to work with a stubborn person. You can't know love, unless you have attempted to love another, and unless you have the experience of giving and receiving love from someone else.

And so, with eager eyes anticipating my answer, I eventually replied, "I would bring along... a partner!"

The experience of community gives us the opportunity to realize our full spiritual potential by constantly offering us occasions to critically face up to ourselves. It's like holding up a mirror to your soul. When we allow others to speak into our life - we are able to see a picture of ourselves that our ego cannot manipulate. Our ego is often in the habit of telling us that we are great, we are flawless or we are holy. But when we get feedback from others that bypasses the ego we can acknowledge our flaws or weaknesses.

Another form of this feedback occurs when we attempt to give advice to a brother or sister. He or she will not take (CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)



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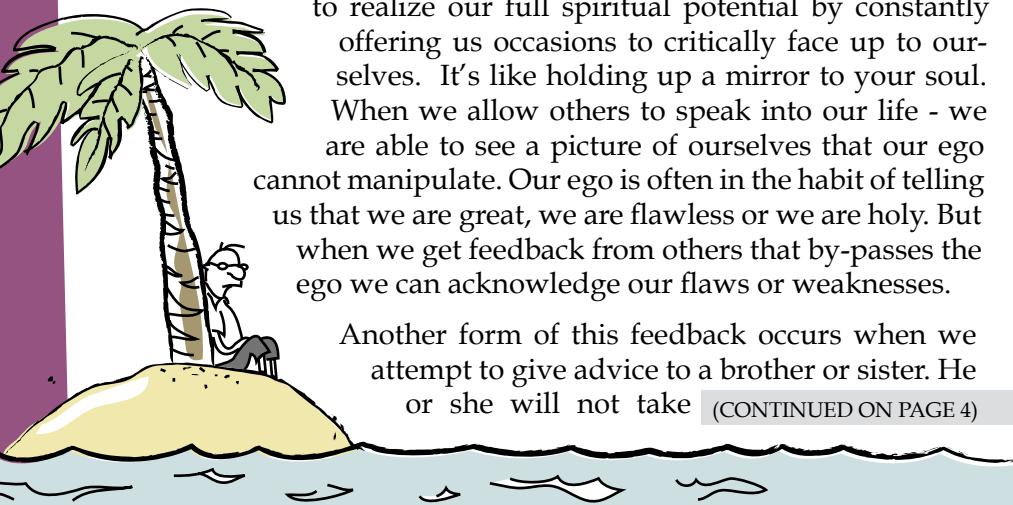
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- New developments in Cornerstone
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This newsletter  
is published Quarterly  
for family and friends  
around the world.

## Location

**Head Office:**  
Plot 37 Acacia Avenue  
P.O. Box 9242  
Kampala - Uganda

## Program Overview

### Leadership Schools

#### Uganda

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

#### Rwanda

- CLA, Rwamagana

### Youth Corps Homes

#### Uganda

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

#### Sudan - Juba

#### Tanzania - Dar es Salaam

#### Rwanda - Kigali

#### Burundi - Bujumbura

### Projects:

#### Ekitangala Ranch

Nakasongola, Uganda

#### Community Development

Nakasongola, Uganda

#### Wolves Soccer Program

Kampala, Uganda

#### Widows Program

Kampala, Uganda

## Core Focus

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.



1. Introductory thoughts
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*some explanations for the unacquainted:*

**The Cornerstone Schools:** The Cornerstone Leadership Academies(CLA) are "Advanced Level" boarding, high schools that aim at molding young people coming from poor backgrounds, but with high potential - into future leaders. A big part of the aims of this program is to teach young future leaders from various religious backgrounds and different tribes - to learn to live together as brothers and sisters - as part of a movement of men of integrity and women of virtue. In addition to the academic studies, the program involves a comprehensive discipleship program following the principles, precepts and person of Jesus.

We also teach this material in our Elementary and High schools that are open to the public. These schools have boarding facilities and accept students from all over the country, as well as catering to the local community.

**The Brotherhood and Sisterhood :** Our schools are really just the beginning of a long-term relationship with these young people that continues on into University and beyond. Our vision/mission statement is: *To create a life long brotherhood & sisterhood of friends that will support each other in a movement of "men of integrity" and "women of virtue."*

This dream is steadily becoming a reality. Most of these young people come from broken homes or grew up as orphans so the 'Cornerstone family' often becomes their extended family. Many are in positions of leadership at their respective colleges and the university. Others in more quiet ways are making a positive impact on those around them. The long term potential to influence this nation is increasingly becoming evident as we see the maturity and commitment exhibited in the lives of these future leaders who have come up through our programs. To maintain our relationships and commitment to the values we hold in common after the schools- we meet weekly through-out the time they are in University, hold an annual retreat on the ranch for all alumni and organize support groups for those that have begun working and starting families.

**Youth Corps Family:** This is a program that provides loving homes for homeless kids and also serves as a training ground for the young people who have graduated from our Leadership Academies and are involved in running the homes. The children get a place to sleep, a 'family' to belong to and are taught a better way to live - in line with the principles, precepts and person of Jesus. We also have homes for older guys/ girls in university to live together, and to learn to love each other and grow spiritually.

# HEAD OFFICE NEWS

By: Philip

One of the main functions of the head office is to coordinate all the various activities within the Cornerstone family and our wider 'family of friends' involved in youth mentoring and leadership outreach. So, in addition to the usual programs - during the months of June and July we were involved in organizing the Arusha Jesus Reunion (AJR). In the past we have held similar conferences under a different name, but we chose to call this one a "reunion" because, this time it was a bigger gathering that brought together 220 people from 20 countries - under four broad groupings:

1. *The Prayer Breakfast Group* - This encompassed current leaders involved in small fellowship/support groups for those in politics, business, or civil society - across the various divisions that exist in our societies. In Uganda, Kenya, Congo, Burundi and Rwanda these friends have also supported the large annual public events called National Prayer Breakfasts.

2. *Youth Mentoring Group* - This included those involved in the Youth Corps programs - mentors, mentees and supporters as well as the Wolves Soccer Club. Generally it involved all the programs providing provision and direction for young people - ranging from children from the streets to University students.

3. *Student Leadership Group* - also known as the African Youth Leadership Forum groups. This group was composed of University student leaders and those who encourage them in regular support groups that integrate faith and values while developing their leadership potential.

4. *Leadership Academy Group* - This included people that were actively involved using schools with a higher purpose - of producing Jesus centered future leaders in addition to maintaining academic excellence.

During the AJR, the morning programs included all the participants who heard talks given by various leaders who have been behind the prayer breakfast and youth mentoring work for many years. In the afternoons we had time for recreation before meeting for sessions divided by the above four groups. This allowed time for reflection and more in-depth discussions relative to the specific interests of the respective groups.

One common focus throughout the whole gathering is the value we attach to relationships. So in addition to the formal programs - there was an ongoing emphasis on renewing old and creating new friendships across the continent.

**Other News:** Jim Brown visited us in early July bringing along two friends Scotty and Dave. They traveled to Eastern Congo where to their surprise they met Jumah who had been invited to speak at a conference on peace.

In the months of August and September Eric Kreutter traveled to Sudan and then later to Tanzania and Kenya. During this time he was able to give fellowship and encouragement to all the mentors in the homes who would otherwise not receive this encouragement. He then traveled to Rwanda and onto Burundi to open up a home for university aged young men there.

Jumah Patrick, who has been the office administrator, moved on to work with another organization where in addition to other roles he will be coordinating Multi Nation Christian NGO supporting needs. This move gave way to David Mwesigwa to return to the office. David will also be pursuing a master's Degree at Makerere University.

On August 26th Tim Kreutter traveled with Josephats, Joselyn and Lydia to a gathering of friends in Vancouver, Canada. (see report on page 5)

How to be:

## EDGAR WANGA!

- Inform your friends to always call you by your preferred nickname - in his case: "Eddy".
- Invite yourself to join CLA, and be persistent until they admit you!
- Eat a lot of "Muwogo" (cassava)
- Take praise & worship to another level by dancing like Pastor George Okidi to "Wipolo"
- Dress like a musician but the only instrument you learn to play is... the RADIO!
- Never stop smiling, this goes down well with the ladies!
- Pretend you know how to play basketball
- Be able to relate with all categories of people without bias - the way Jesus did it.
- Adopt a "never say die" attitude towards life by taking on challenges other people fear.



Edgar Wanga is a graduate of CLA Uganda Boys, pursuing a career as an insurance broker with AIG, which he boasts is the best in the business! He is from the class of 2004, we love you Eddy!



## NO MAN... IS AN ISLAND

(CONTINUED FROM COVER)

us seriously if we do not "walk what we talk." That is the spirit behind the precept: do not attempt to remove the speck out of your neighbor's eye until you have begun working on the log in your own!

Ultimately, the essence of our purpose for being on earth can only be realized through the influence of a community in our lives. For, it is through relationships that we are given the greatest opportunity for personal development- healing and growth.

The message God wished to share with the world was not contained by a particular teaching...but within a person who was described as being His son. It was a new creation, a new kind of human being transformed in the image of God to inspire other men/women to do the same.

We all need other people in our lives that inspire, encourage and motivate us to become all that God designed us to be. Some may think of people like Gandhi, Mother Teresa or Nelson Mandela who play that role in our lives. But it's not only great heroes of the past who can do this for us - it could be a teacher, or even the kind old lady down street, a co-worker, or your spouse. The point I am making is that it is only other people who can provide this important function.

So, let us appreciate **all** the people who God has put in our lives - including the difficult ones - they all have something to teach us. Let us learn to learn from each other - learn to grow in spirit through each other - as we laugh, play and cry together. Let us learn to celebrate life together, for celebration allows us to heal and it strengthens our ability to receive love into our lives. Let us learn authentic community with each other - to support and encourage one another. Let us learn that *no man is an island*, and if we ever get stuck on one ALONE we will not last very long!

-Thoughts by Eric Kreutter

## THE TOUCH OF THE MASTER'S HAND

In the opening article Eric wrote on how being in a community with others helps us face our egoism in order to work on our weaknesses and short-comings. But there are also times when we suffer from a sense of low self-worth, rejection and even self-condemnation - and we need someone to help us see our true worth.

On this note, Alan Byarugaba shares a classic poem on the auction of a violin - that was given to him by his mentor. It reminds us how, despite our flaws, our life can become an instrument of great beauty and value when it's being "played" by God.

**Alan writes:** Thank you all for the love you have shown me and each other in the spirit of Jesus. And, I wish to remind you that all of you are cherished as sons and daughters of our God the Father. For the last two years, I have been meditating on this truth reflected in a poem given to me by my mentor, Mr. Kiwalaye Paul. This wonderful man was my English teacher at P.6 and P.7. I have chosen to share this poem with you and pray that you also find, revealed to you, the intricacies of its meaning...

### "The Touch of the Masters Hand"

*It was battered and scarred, and the auctioneer thought it was scarcely worth his while to waste much time on the old violin, but he held it up with a smile.*

*"Where am I to start the bidding for the old violin? Who'll start*



*the bidding for me?"*

*"A dollar - two dollars! And who'll make it three?"*

*"Three dollars once, three dollars twice, Going for three..." but NO! From the room far back a gray-haired man came forward and picked up the bow, and wiping the dust from the old violin. And tightening the loosened strings, he played a melody, pure and sweet, like a caroling angel sings.*

*Then the music stopped and the auctioneer in a voice now subdued and low said, "What will you bid for the old violin" and he held it up with the bow." - "A thousand dollars!" "And who'll make it two?"*

*"Two thousand!" "And who will make it three?" "Three thousand once, three thousand twice, going and gone" he exclaimed with excitement.*

*And the people cheered, but some of them in frustration cried;*

*"We do not understand; what changed it's worth?" - quick came the reply, "The touch of the master's hand."*

*And there's many a man with life out of tune, battered and scarred by sin, dejection and rejection, that's auctioned cheap to a thoughtless crowd- much like the old violin. A mess of pottage, a glass of wine, He's going once, he's going twice, he's going and almost gone.*

*But the master comes, and the foolish crowd can never quite understand, the worth of a soul and the change that's brought by the touch of the master's hand.*

Also read: 1 Pet.2:4-10 & 1Cor. 1:26-29.

-Your brother Allan from head office

**In Loving Memory**

**SUSAN NAMUMBYA Passed on  
September 5th, 2008**

We sadly announce the passing of our dear sister Susan...loved and missed by all in our community. She passed on to glory after a road accident just as she was beginning her first semester at University. Thank you Susan for the love and life you shared with us.

## Wisdom words



While in Canada Josephats befriended this fine young man from Ecuador named Mateo, who is now with us in Uganda!

Choose to love rather than hate.  
Choose to smile rather than frown.  
Choose to build rather than destroy.  
Choose to persevere rather than quit.  
Choose to praise rather than gossip.  
Choose to heal rather than wound.  
Choose to give rather than grasp.  
Choose to act rather than delay.  
Choose to forgive rather than curse.  
Choose to pray rather than despair.  
Choose to deposit rather than withdraw.

By: Ayebare Emma  
(CLA Girls class of 2006)  
Kyambogo University

# Reflections

## COMMON - UNITY IN CANADA

By: Josephats

*Three blind people were asked to touch an elephant and describe what they perceived the elephant to be. One touched the trunk and exclaimed, "An elephant is something like a large snake!" Another felt the ear and challenged the first that, "No, an elephant is like some sort of thick, flat rubber cloth!" A third put his arms around the foot and said that, "You are all wrong! An elephant is some sort of tree!"*

They all had their independent conclusions made as a result of they extent to which they had experienced the elephant. In their blindness, none of them could see the animal, nor could their arms reach the different parts that made up its entire body.

In some way, this story relates to those of us who went to the International Students Leadership gathering that we attended near Vancouver, Canada. I traveled there in September with Lydia, Joselyn and Tim - and here are my thoughts. (...also see the pictures in the center-fold.)

There were so many different aspects of the experience, which in all their respective values, played a part in painting my big picture. That big picture could be titled: "*Mind-blowing, thought provoking, life changing!*"

The *first* part of this incredible experience was in just getting there! We had to travel by air, sea and land - to the other side of the world- which to me felt like going the ends of the earth!

*Second*, was the magnitude of beauty that the well selected venue struck in me. The place is called *Malibu* and it is located on an ocean inlet on the west coast of Canada. In my view it might be one of the most beautiful places on earth! And, it has been voted as such in several magazines.

*Third*, was the great variety of people present there - 300+ people from every corner of the globe and from every religious background imaginable - exploring common ground around the ideas of Jesus. I imagine that every region of the world was fairly represented there (the Middle East, Europe, New Zealand, Australia, North/South America and other African countries).

To me, this was sort of a foretaste of what heaven might be like! I mean, I was surrounded by the incredible beauty of the landscape, I had traveled through the air to get there and then I was able to interact with people from around the world - all brought together in the common unity we shared in Jesus.

The various discussions and the presentations also reminded me again of the "elephant story." As, everyone from their different background came to the table with what they knew of Jesus from the exposure they had - based on their background or upbringing. This had the effect of challenging our individual small perspectives that each of us in our limited knowledge tend to equate with the "*real elephant*." And, the more we interacted the more we began to find the different small parts making up the greater, whole picture.

In other words, I was provoked to focus more purely on Jesus and His teaching rather than on my church tradition or that "small part" I have seen and the limited ways that I have come to define him. And, I realized afresh that what He said was the main thing - was on *loving God with all our hearts, souls and minds and loving our neighbors as ourselves*.

This emphasis allows us to see all humanity as brothers and sisters - not as enemies or less important people. This helps us to see the image of God in them, which builds His kingdom on earth.

So, in summary I would describe the event as one that blew open my mind, challenged my typical perspectives and provoked me out of my spiritual comfort zone to pursue higher levels in knowing God.



## CORNERSTONE SCHOOLS

### Cornerstone Leadership Academy Rwanda

What the Lord has done in CLA Rwanda over the last couple years is nothing short of amazing. The school has come up so quickly and the spirit is strong. Currently we are being connected to the water supply system, the main hall, chapel and dorm extensions are under construction. We pray they will be ready by January when we expand up to 120 students and that we will be approved as an official examination centre so our candidates can take their national exams at the Academy.

It was all joy on the day the Academy hosted the Timmis and Cameron families - on September 31st. They have stood with us to make this dream of

bringing hope to Rwanda - a reality. Otherwise, we are praying and preparing for the next class of 40 students that will complete the 3 classes that make up the full A-level section in Rwanda.

**Meet - Kobusingye Anita** (left) she is 20 years old and comes from Gatsata district in Central Rwanda. She is in S. 5 Humanities section and is a highly gifted poet, orator, actress and counselor. The poems and plays she composes are often recited and acted by students. Generally they preach love, peace, and reconciliation. She is also the director of the drama group which has visited several schools inspiring



young people to grow closer to God. Her vision is to pursue Political Science at University and become a leader at the national level.

### Cornerstone Leadership Academy for Young Women - Uganda

**Kyesiue Harriet** is in S. 5 and comes from Nakasongola. She is a great leader in her class and has been voted to serve as the current Chair Person. Her classmates deeply respect her leadership abilities, the way she serves her peers, and her ability to get things done. She loves the diversity of her friends at CLA and enjoys learning different traditional dances from her classmates. Her favorite dance is from the Karamojong tribe. Kyesiue is gifted in math and hopes to become an accountant. She is passionate about entrepreneurship and job creation.

**Mamakanda Lillian** - (far right) is also in Senior 5 and comes from Manaewa. Mamakanda and



Kyesiue are quite the dynamic duo. Mamakanda serves as the Secretary - assisting Kyesiue in all of her duties. They love working with each other and make a great leadership team. "Leadership takes a lot of sacrifice. It is my hope as a leader to encourage all the girls at CLA to use the gifts that God has given them. I hope to show my example

*to do everything with all of your might.*" Mamakanda has a passion for the arts and lights up when she talks about her favorite authors and poets. She also is a talented actress and has taken leadership in developing the school's drama program. She recently wrote her first play, and hopes to continue to develop her playwriting talent.

# Cstone Leadership Academy for Young Men - Uganda

**Lega Martin** (left) is a Secondary 6 student and accomplished debater who comes from Yumbe. He has been debating since primary school and is now a great addition to the CLA debate team. This year the team was district champion.

Lega's favorite subject to debate is economics. He believes economics is a vital element of leadership and that resource management is a foundation to a developing society. He hopes to attend Makerere University to become a lawyer. His education and experience with fellow students at CLA has transformed the way he thinks about diversity. *"Before I came to CLA, I believed negative myths about other tribes. Now, I have friends and classmates from all over the country and know the truth about many different*



*cultures. We are all different but equal in God's eyes."*

**Ssekisambu Dissan** (right) is a student in Senior 6 who comes from Kibaale. Ssekisambu has a passion for science and recently competed in a science competition where he received a 3rd place prize. He is currently taking courses that will prepare him for a medical career as he has plans to attend university to

become a dentist. Ssekisambu has a vision for educating the Ugandan youth on proper dental care and hygiene. His favorite part about CLA has been the approachability of the teachers. Ssekisambu explains that in many African schools, students fear their teachers. However, Ssekisambu has confidence that his teachers care for him and desire for him to succeed.

## Ekitangaala Secondary School

At the end of July we held a very successful Parents Teachers Association Meeting with parents pledging full support to the school if teachers are also willing to maximize effort.

**Meet - Morine Asimkle** she is a student in Senior 5, and has been at Ekitangaala SS since 2004. Last semester she was voted as Head Girl, and through this privilege and responsibility learned much about the

challenges and rewards of leadership. Morine has an entrepreneurial spirit and hopes to start her own fashion business.



**Baguma Frank** is also a student in Senior 5 who loves to spend his free time playing volleyball. His favorite subject is Divinity where he has learned the importance of equality in community. Baguma

has been identified as a student with exceptional character and was elected last year as the Mess Prefect. Baguma hopes to attend university and eventually open a wholesale trading company.

## Ekitangaala Primary School

This year the teaching of discipline classes has been stronger than ever after two CLA graduates moved into the new dorms as wardens to the young kids. Perusi and Michael Kirya in this capacity have been an immense support to the school in general. We have also enjoyed great cooperation from the teachers and from Bosco of ACM .

**Meet - Lutumza Peter** our P. 7 student who certainly knows his way around Ekitangaala PS since he has been here

since Primary 1! In his free time, you will find Lutumza playing football as a star Striker. He hopes to become a pilot and travel the world. If he could go anywhere right now, Lutumza would fly to England and play a game of football!

**Akello Margret** is his fellow classmate in P. 7. Her aunt and uncle teach at the School. Her favorite part



about Ekitangaala is the caring teachers and eating breakfast every morning at school. Akello has a sweet and nurturing spirit and hopes someday to become a nurse so that she can care for the sick.

## Mengo Home

We thank God for the Mengo family and especially his protection and provision. God continues to bring directionless children to our home and



mend their futures. Jenipher is one of the street girls we have just received. We are trying to help her transform as God guides us. We have also just received a young girl who was selling clothes on the streets to survive but could hardly afford to eat. She is now in the home, receiving love from all the girls and is also back in school. She hopes to become a headmistress so that she can lead others to do the best for the pupils and the communities. Mzee Timmis and Mama Nancy's visit was a great blessing to the girls from our home and a great experience especially for our new children in the home who had not yet met them. After having the opportunity to see them in person one of the children said, "*I did not know that this world has people of such a heart. I wish I could go back to America with them. May God bless them so much for me.*" The Mengo Aunties extend their sincere appreciation to everyone who has worked hard and prayed with us to see the great transformation in our kids. May God reward you according to his riches in heaven.

## Youth Corps Homes

*The life together*

## Bukesa Home

We extend to all of our friends and family all over the world - *greetings from the Bukesa home.*

Thank you for your prayers and

for standing with us. Our 18 boys are happy and appreciative for the gracious hand at Cornerstone and all the particular friends that have visited us. We especially want to thank Wayland and Courtney (Cstone Volunteers) who visited us last month and spoke to our boys on basic life skills. It was a blessing to have the couple especially as four of our boys are getting ready to graduate and join the broader world out there. We are also grateful for Leah and Ellen (also US volunteers) who have been coming to our home with a program that is strengthening the basics of good health care and personal hygiene in all the homes.



Counselor

Denis

Benon

We congratulate Uncle Kasule Peter who left to take up a senior position with *Refuge and Hope International*, where he will be coordinating the activities of that organization based in Buziga. We also applaud Uncle Ouma Denis who is currently in Burundi helping to support the opening of the Youth Corp Home in Bujumbura. Uncle Benon Okiror is working on the opening of a Youth Corp home in Momassa. So you can see how Bukesa Home is impacting the world. We thank God that all of the boys who were not studying were able to join school this year. After many years of seeing no future in themselves, they are so happy to be progressing in school. Another exciting event was the visit of the Timmis and Cameron families. Many of the boys are commenting that they are wonderful role models. Continue praying for us as we nurture the lives of these young men to transform themselves and their communities. We believe that through them the whole world can be changed. We treasure the vision of Cornerstone.

## Makerere Home

We want to begin by appreciating God for how far he has brought us in the spirit of a family at our home. Our kids are studying hard - but there were the usual declines and improvements in their performances. We have also been blessed by the joining of Jular Kubuka as a mentor. He is a student at Makere University, pursuing a degree in Education. He has proved to be a great resource in the home as

the third mentor.

We have had the opportunity to host many friends over the past three months including Stephanie and Nicole from the USA and Germany.

They spent three nights at our home to enjoy the family life. In September Leah and Ellen came to teach the home about healthcare, as well as assisting us with establishing our garden. Wayland and Courtney were



Sula

Justin

Alan

also able to visit the house and spend time with the boys. Please pray for us as this term is a promotional term so our boys are working extra hard to make sure they pass to the next class.

## Ntinda Home

A new school term for Ntinda gals home has begun with a lot of changes. Our girls have been able to start well and we have been able to pay schools fees for almost all of them - which is a big blessing. We give God the glory and thanks to all who have supported this vision. The house now has 18 girls since we have recently welcomed Matuha Mourere and Elizabeth who joined the home in September after she lost her auntie who was caring for her in Kanugu. We have also been joined by CLA grads -Emma, Honest and Lydia who are serving in the home as volunteers. Our gratitude goes out to US volunteers Leah, Ellen, CoCo, Wayland, Liz and Kristen who

have been such a big blessing to the girls as well as the mentors. Leah and Ellen have helped us with greens for our diet and a new kettle so that we can safely boil water.

We were so excited and grateful to receive Mzee Michael Timmis, Mammy Nancy and the Camerons who where hosted in our home in September. Specifically, Nancy and Nina gave us many very encouraging motherly advice. We request prayers for Babirye Scovia (Senior 6) and Mirembe Shiliah (Primary 7) who are beginning their final exams in November. Also, please include Lydia Nabatanzi, Mulkeek Juuet and Ruth Namatoua



Joselyn

Adriene

Agnes

who have completed their studies and are looking for jobs. In the last two months we have had a few of our girls lose relatives. Charity lost an auntie in Kanugu and Sarah Wabatanzi lost an uncle. Please pray for them.

This year, our goal in the Ntinda home has been *to work as a team*. This resolution has helped us to keep smart in all our areas and maintain a state of balance in the home.

## Kibuli Home

In everything we do, Jesus' way of operating remains the model we follow. The approach he used to start the world's biggest movement was to call 12 men to be with him (Mk 3:14). By the time Jesus went back to heaven, he had set in motion a revolution of love across all that has been dividing people. In Kibuli home, *the power of oneness* has been a great theme that has kept us together united in love and fellow-

ship of Jesus between the mentors, mentees and the whole community. In the past months, God blessed us with five new young boys who have been living without direction on the streets of Kampala - having no shelter, dressing in rags and competing with many other men and women to get food from the trash piles.



Babu

Sam

Paul

Denis

Rogers

**Meet -Otuwa Abdul** who lost his parents during the Kony war in northern Uganda when he was 7 years old. With no parents to care for him, he was afraid that the Kony men would abduct him. However, he managed to escape to Kampala city by jumping on a charcoal lorry. When he arrived in Kampala,

he began living on the streets of Kisenyi where he started sniffing petrol and taking drugs. But the love of Jesus drew him into a new family at the Kibuli home. Otuwa is no longer sleeping on the streets, but instead sleeping in a loving home in his own bed, surrounded by brothers who love and care for each other.



We thank God for the good relationships that we have with our community that has emerged as a result of our community service work where we reach out to the surrounding community to support and help in various ways.

## Lira boys/girls Homes

In Lira Girls - we are so thankful to the Lord as we are experiencing immense blessing and joy from the Lord in many ways. With great pride we announce that one of our girls, Elia Oled, is now the Head Girl at her school. She was chosen by her peers and teachers because of her exceptional character - a testimony to the discipleship from the home. This shows us the fruits of our labor - as even other girls are also being recognized for their integrity and virtue.

We have even had teachers and people from the village come visit the home because they are all curious to know why our girls are so different from the rest of the young girls in the village! This gives us the opportunity to show them that it is the principles of Jesus that are transforming these young women, and now the entire community! We are also so thankful for the return of one of our girls who ran away from the home. Eventually she realized that there was nowhere else where she received love and acceptance like she did in the home, and is



Eunice

Cathrine

Jacob

Ambrose

now committed to living in our community once again.

*"The mission of a community is to give life to others, that is to say, to transmit new hope and new meaning to them...to reveal to them their fundamental beauty, value and importance in the universe, their capacity to love, to grow and to do beautiful things for God."*

**Jean Varnier**

At the **Lira Boys' Home**, we are fine with an ever-growing interactive family. Our word for you from the boys house is "*push on you are designed for a purpose in life.*" Despite challenges God has always seen us through by

providing for us what we need in regards to the basics. The boys scholastic materials and school fees have been cleared in time which has motivated them to concentrate on books without interference of being sent home for fees.

Two boys, Obote Oscar and Okello Jimmy are doing their Primary final exams. The other boys are preparing as well for their end of year examinations to advance to the next level of classes. It is true that on our own we can do nothing but with God we can do more than what a human being may expect. We are organizing for a time with the Cornerstone Old Students around Lira area can to help and pray with us to set the candidates on motion for their examinations that will commence 4th and 5th of November 2008

## Gulu boys/girls Homes

The Boys' home is currently accommodating a total number of 16 boys who go to the nearby schools. Most have improved on their academic performance as compared to last term, and we are hoping for the best at the end of the year. Generally they are in good health with the exception of Opiyo Christopher and Abdul who were hospitalized for a period of two days due to Malaria. Abdul comes to us from a Muslim family and since we work across faith differences, we gave him moral support during the month of Ramadan - their time of fasting.

We might have to shift to a new location since the current location is not in a good condition. Finally we are grateful to Cornerstone and friends world wide who are committed to supporting the young people in this war affected part

In the Girls Home we are very grateful to God for all of the blessings we have seen in the last few months. This includes the arrival of Harriet, a CLA grad who joined us and is now living in our home as an associate. There has been a lot of progress with the girls in their schools they continue to receive recognition among the teachers and staff at the school - who comment on how well behaved our girls are compared to others. In fact, Akollo Sarah, one of our girls, just won an award for being the most disciplined student in the entire school! Recently we were blessed by a visit from Juma, an Old Boy from the head office. He came to stay with us, to show us his love, and to bring us messages of character development. He even brought



Titus

Francis Angelina

some audio material for us to enjoy!

We have recently been having challenges with our landlord, and our rent continues to increase. Our rent has been paid until January but we may have to move to a new home with a more reasonable rent for the future. Please pray that the Lord will provide. Also please pray for four of our girls who are preparing for their primary examinations. They are studying hard and we have even turned one of the rooms in our home into a study! Thanks and blessing to our Family of Friends of Cstone!

## Rwanda- Kigali Home



Deus

Dear friends, we offer our home's report with the love of our family of friends in Christ. We have had many visitors passing thru our gates in the past few months. This has been a phenomenal blessing as we get encouragement and inspiration to push forward.

The Youth Corps home that recently started in Burundi has also given us a breath of fresh air as we have been playing an integral part in supporting its growth. Several of our young men have been visiting the home and encouraging the head mentor Bernard, who had previously been with us in the home for almost 3 years. It's a 6 hour trip by bus.

It has become apparent that we have a world-class athlete in our home! One of our fine young men, Mugiraneza Alphonse, has turned out to be undefeatable runner and took the golden medal at his University for Athletics.

Mugisha was also nominated to be the coordinator of the *Together as One* group. This is a youth ministry that is recognized in Rwanda on the national level and is comprised of graduate, university and secondary students.

We would also like to inform you that one of our alumni, Andrew Cohen Gahire, stood for Parliament in this year's elections. He wasn't elected, but it was very important for him to make this first step in his political career. He therefore extends his gratitude to the family members for their support.

In addition we would also let you know that throughout this year we in Kigali have been trying to recognize the areas of *obedience and responsibility* as our deepest areas of concern. This clearly brings out the value of relationships with people in authority above us - who can serve as mentors.

## Burundi- Bujumbura Home



Bennard

The new Burundi Youth Corps Home is now open! At the begining of september Eric Kreutter and Bennard(from the Rwanda Youth Corps Home) traveled down to Bujumbura, the capital of Burundi, to set up a mentoring home for young university-aged men. A house was found in a very excellent location and a deal made with the landlord. Eric left Bennard there to lead the home as head mentor. Since then several young men from our Rwanda home and even one mentor from our Bukessa Home in Uganda(Dennis Ouma) have traveled to support Bennard's work building the community there. Bennard is currently initiating several young men as the first batch of guys living in the home. We are very excited about the work beginning in Burundi - it is a new milestone for our family.

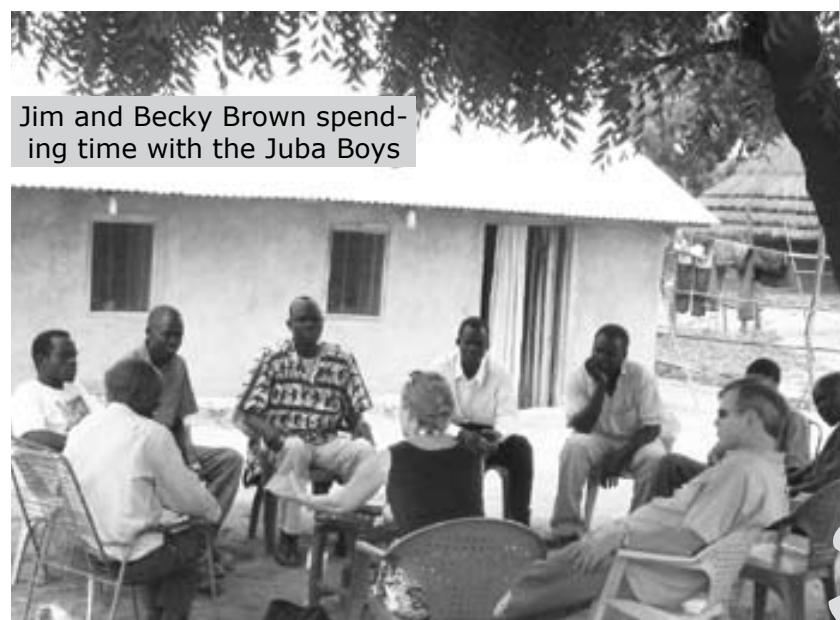
## Tanzania- Dar Home



Peter      Isaac

Our Youth Corps guys have been encouraged and feel like life makes more sense after experiencing the Arusha Jesus Reunion. This has continued to influence conversations around our home.

The event itself left us wanting more. But in a number of ways we also feel that this event gave many of us a lot of exposure for which we remain thankful to Cornerstone for everything. The home continues to grow with visitors like Eric Kreutter and Daniel Benon Okiror. Eric in particular spent a few days with us and was a great blessing to us - just blending in and being part of our family.



Jim and Becky Brown spending time with the Juba Boys

## Sudan- Juba Home



Charles    Emmanuel

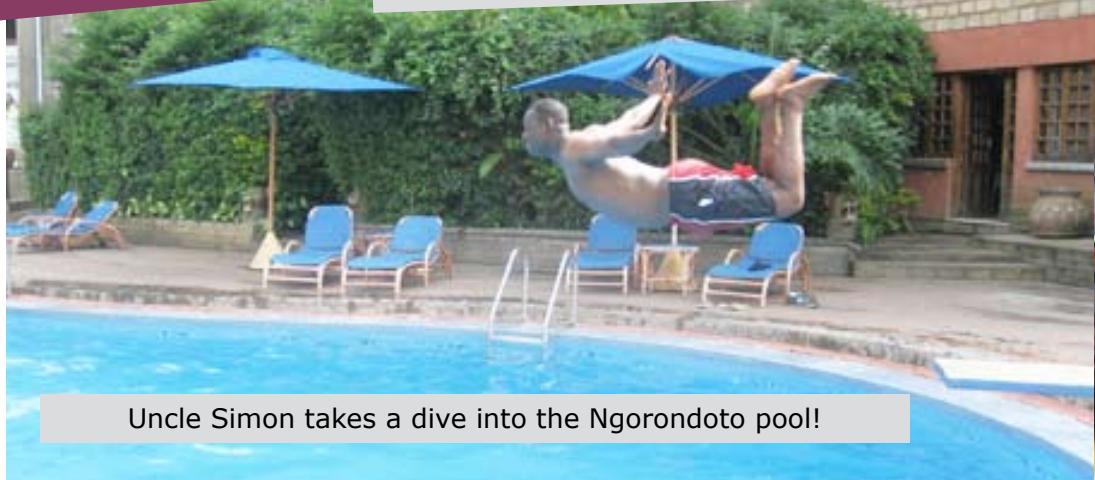
We are grateful to God for the visit of Eric and Ohuro in August. And

this was followed up by the recent coming of Simon Kabi and Jim & Becky Brown to Juba Home where they were enthusiastically welcomed by the boys. The seven boys in the home shared their testimonies, opportunities and challenges towards the progress of the home.

Jim encouraged us to just believe God for the answers and Mama Becky prayed over the requests presented by the boys. We are trusting God to move to another house near Juba University to allow greater outreach to other young men. We also encourage you to come and share knowledge and experience with our boys in this part of world.

# Cornerstone

## Newsletter Pictorial



Uncle Simon takes a dive into the Ngorondoto pool!



Orwamo enjoys food!



Peter and Angelina touring Arusha town



Our Tibetan brothers we met up with in TZ: Dawa, Jojo, Tashi, Bo, & Isaack



Rwanda representatives present a dance in Arusha



Josephats, Lydia, Joslyn & Tim make new friends in Canada



HIV and AIDS awareness forum for Youth Corps



Abraham Fiseha

Africa Youth Leadership Forum '08 (above, below & to the right)



Timmis's & Camerons receive a warm Cstone Rwanda welcome

Bigirwa recently traveled to the US for the National Student Leadership Forum. He is pictured below with a few of the "leaders" he met while he was there on Capitol Hill!



Mzee Michael enjoys a dance with Youth Corps - Ntinda

*A Family of Friends!*

# THE BROTHERHOOD & SISTERHOOD

COSA Updates by Alfred Edakasi, Henry Kigozi and Mbaziira Josephats

*In this issue we wanted to focus on the impact that the graduates of the Cornerstone Leadership Academies have had and continue to have around the world by giving a few updates on what some of the graduates are doing around the world.*

**Amule Isaac Alemi** (Class of 1998B) - now work with an NGO in S. Sudan. He writes: "My family and I are doing well. My little daughter made 3 years in April and we celebrated her birthday with other Cornerstone alumni (COSA) members when I visited Koboko where the family stays. All the COSA married guys in Koboko are blessed with baby girls (Alonga, Cosmas, Agele, and I also.) I know because of the distance some of you might think we have forgotten Cornerstone but in a number of ways Cornerstone still strongly defines our relationships and who we are generally."



Internship program is connecting to JOBS!

**Martin Etwop's** update: Yes! I am still working in Hollywood and also involved with a new church here. The last time we spoke, I was in the San Francisco area, but since then I moved back to the Los Angeles - Hollywood. It is not easy doing both regular work and try-

ing to get the church started at the same time, but it is fun and I'm loving it.

I created a small website [www.jccministries.org](http://www.jccministries.org). The goal is that after starting here in Hollywood, we could expand to different parts around California. I haven't put much stuff on this website but it's a non-denominational church and my dream is to make it one of the few multi-cultural/multi-racial churches in California.

**Kayemba Benon** who recently paid back his entire loan is in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia serving as the Second Secretary for Economic Affairs for the Uganda Embassy. He had these words of gratitude to share about his loan experience - recalling student life: "At times we used to camp at Phillip's office waiting for study loans. That money used to be small but it meant a lot to us during that time of need. Philip can help to tell how happy we were when our loan requests were granted. Not getting any loan money meant sleeping without dinner to some and to us on government sponsorship it could mean missing to pay registration. This is how significant that money was in our lives. I really feel happy to see that I have fulfilled my promise, but I also feel guilty for taking too long to complete the loan."

Benon wishes to encourage all the COSA members to be faithful in paying off their loans little by little - as it now goes directly to the Student Sponsorship account allowing other generations to benefit from the scheme. "No matter how small it may it all adds up and makes a big difference" This creates a way for the COSA alumni to remain relevant in the lives of those going to University.

In news from other guys: **Mutawale Richard** had the life changing experience flying to Greece as part of his work at Aga Khan Interna-

tional School. **Isaac Opolot** also traveled to South America and Europe adding to the rich experience from his work with Shelter For Life. **Benon Lukwiya** has a positive transfer to Arua from his Gulu base just after a few months of working in the branch. **Mulijo Billy** is now an employee of the Uganda Revenue Authority as an enforcement officer. **David Otim** is now working with MCC and recently traveled Indonesia to represent them there. **Kilama Felix Douglas**, has been given an amazing opportunity to work in Angola - he will be flying out on the 7th of November 2008. He had these words to tell all of you:

*"I would like to thank you for the prayers and support. Although I am leaving Danish Demining Group for another challenge in Angola, I am confident that I am leaving a trusted team behind in Uganda including our own brother Tito Yokolamu, who is among the best Mine Risk Education Instructors that I have trained in the country. Tito can serve as an entry point for other members who are interested in joining the work of mine removal action.*

*Brothers and sisters, I encourage you to be grateful to God for whatever you have - however little it might be, someone, somewhere has less than that. If you are unemployed don't give up looking for job; and if you have one you are unhappy with, do not despise what God has given to you. Those still studying- do not give up with course God has given you. Never give up. I remember in March 1998 during examinations, I was sick but didn't want to give up.*

*In high-school every night I repeated: "Lord, I want to see myself at University. It doesn't matter the course you will give me, but I want to see myself there." Sure enough, I was admitted to the university on government scholarship but for a course that earned me a lot of scorn from others who were offering professional courses. I had Bachelors of Arts in Arts. Still, I didn't give up to the end and never regretted what God gave me. Today I am a happy man with a wife and two wonderful children."*

# Alumni profile



## Moses Mumbya & Family

The subject of our profile is Moses Mumbya: Moses Graduated from CLA as part of the pioneer class in 1996. He went on to National College of Business Studies to pursue Career in Accounting and Management. Moses has since worked with several organizations including the Uganda Revenue Authority. He was the first Chairman of the COSA Brotherhood and Sisterhood. He is now involved in business and short contracts with organizations on a consultation basis. Moses is married to Cathy Aanyu Mumbya and between them there is Ian Muwanguzi Mumbya. Moses met Cathy at College and they have been in love ever since. She works with Standard Charter bank.

### CAMPUS FELLOWSHIPS:

**Makerere University:** We are glad as the Makerere COSA family has had four new sisters and six brothers joined our community - making us 43 in total. Their joining has helped build up the numbers after another group completed their university studies in late May. Most of our new sisters live in the Sorority House and for the new brothers they are sharing the same residence in the United States of Kikoni slum:) We are working together as a family to ensure that every member feels valued, loved and cared for in our family of friends - in keeping with our vision. We are now in the middle of our semester and as usual, there are many tests and course work to be done. This keeps most of the members busy as they work towards a better future. We are also blessed to host a public speaking workshop that takes place on Sunday afternoons. It is the first of its kind and lots of thanks go out to the organizers, Wayland, Courtney and Liz. It's part of our efforts to empower ourselves with practical skills.

### Nsamizi Institute of Social Work:

It is now the first semester of the 8 second year, returning second year students and we are happy to be joined by 6 new first semester for

the new students. Everyone is back and fresh after the long vacation. Immediately after returning we had to undergo a two-week training course. This is a requirement for all those joining this institution. It has been tough for older members, but the experiences of studying at CLA has helped them pull through successfully. We are ready for the challenges of this academic year. Keep praying with us. God Bless.

**Kyambogo University:** By Mading We were very pleased to receive 8 new sisters and brothers for the 2008/09 year this brings our numbers here up to 35. As part of our fellowship time we always like to give the new arrivals hints and useful knowledge about the campus life on how to overcome challenges in university. We have found that there is a lot of mis-information about what life is like here. It is therefore our goal, as older students, to give the right information to help incoming student succeed. Meetings continue to take place every Suday and the presence of Henry is always a plus for us all. Afterwards we like to move down to Nanziri canteen for some "swallowship." As a family we were greatly saddened when we lost a sister in a road accident - who had just joined

us. It was a sad tragedy when Susan Namumbya was struck by a taxi on her way back home on September 5th. A funeral service was held for her at the Head Office. Susan was a sister to Moses, Christine and Madam Monica. (See picture - page 2)

### Makerere Uni. Business School

We have three new girls bringing the total to eight.

### Uganda Christian University:

We have 13 in total but 3 of them are in the Mbale Branch. These are all new students.

### Kichwamba Technical Institute:

There are three new students joining this institution. It is the first time we have had students here.

### Kampala International University:

We have four COSA alumni here. We have been able to find time every Thursday to challenge ourselves to live by the principles we have acquired. Our view is that we as human beings are something like angels with one wing. We can't fly with out the help of another.

**Gulu University/COSA:** We hold our combined meetings the first Thursday of each month. These gatherings bring together all our brothers and sisters employed, studying, and/or residing in Gulu and its neighboring Districts. Through this fellowship, we are able to share our experiences as we walk our respective paths, encouragement each other, and maintain the spirit/culture of Cornerstone.

We have been setting up an executive structure for our branch of COSA. As of our last meeting the chairperson is Ocaya Robert, Vice (Ocaki Harriet), Secretary (Lapwode Francis) & Coordinator (Yokolamu Tito). We have also embarked on a piggy project established by Fulukas, Felix, Kinunu, Francis, Titus and Joan - at Rwo Obilo village in Gulu. Currently the project has about 17 piglets and we're planning to add more. We will soon miss Felix Kilama who has a new job in Angola (Read his story and parting words on page 14.)

**Marriage Fellowships:** The group had a wonderful time with Michael and Nancy Timmis and the company of Nina and Ronnie Cameron for their annual dinner celebration in September. It was not only a wonderful time to appreciate the Timmis family, but also a time to renew relationships and to enjoy fellowship.

The Kampala Couples Group continues to meet on the 3rd Sunday of the month in homes of members. The group has been growing rapidly as COSA members continue to get married. Among them - in the last few months - Godwin and Elsie Muwanguzi, Daniel and Wilter Ololia, Robert and Martha Mwanje, Patrick and Alice Wangira Juma were married. We are also happy to announce that Mr. and Mrs. Busulwa recently had a baby as well as the Mutawe Family.

*"Love community  
and you will kill it.  
Love your brother and you  
will build it"  
**Bonhoeffer.***

### COSA FORUMS:

#### Creative and Performing Arts:

Sometimes we dream a lot and later feel that such dreams can never come to a reality - and at the end of the day when they do - we get surprised. In this regard, it has been a great joy for us to finally see the Cornerstone Performing Arts Forum come to fruition.



COSA monthly meeting at the Head Office

This is a group of COSA members who have various artistic gifts and a common vision to influence their fellow youth, communities and the entire world with expressions of joy, inspiration, celebration and reconciliation in the spirit of Jesus. This group includes musicians, drama actors, (...continued next page) artists, designers and all other such talented people in this field of life. We have been meeting together once a month to share together and see how best we can make this passion of influencing this world in a godly way a reality.

Those in the music field have been quite active. Every Saturday they meet at the Cornerstone Head Office to practice. They are praying and be-

lieve God for provisions to aid their performances as they are in need of new instruments like guitars, keyboards, a drum set, and microphones to aid their live performances.

Meanwhile God is working out good things in their lives - in terms of their relationships with each other, spiritual support for one another, and generally growing together in love with a community that accepts them the way they are. The CPA Forum is involved in performing at many of the COSA family activities and is continuously giving their best towards strengthening the COSA vision. Great thanks to Mr. Alfred Edakasi who has always been there to offer his support. And above all, thanks to Cornerstone at large for the continuous love and support to this group.

#### AYLF: THE AFRICAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM - KAMPALA GATHERING OCTOBER 2008

During the week of 6th to 8th October we had the privilege of having over 70 diverse young people gather for a retreat around Jesus - to renew old friendships and make new ones. This took place in connection to the National Prayer Breakfast. The majority of the young people were from a cross section of African Countries including: Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Congo, Burundi and Uganda. Most of them were University student leaders. We had also representatives from USA and Ecuador.

#### CSTONE OLD STUDENTS : ACTIVITIES Oct 08-March 09

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March
Monthly meets	5 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>		1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>
Weekly Meets	12 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>
	19 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>
	26 <sup>th</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Dinner			21 <sup>st</sup>			
Business		29 <sup>th</sup>		10 <sup>th</sup>		21 <sup>st</sup>
NAV	16 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>
Marrieds	19 <sup>th</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>
AYLF	4 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>
C&PAF	25 <sup>th</sup>			24 <sup>th</sup>		28 <sup>th</sup>
COSA W.F.	18 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>				

**PLEASE NOTE:** 1. This calendar is still under development but has a few of the proposed dates and activities.

2. This covers activities taking place in Kampala. Check with your regional coordinators for other activities. Also check with the COSA executive whenever you are in Kampala or when they are visiting your area - for further updates.

The group had Moslems, a Hindu girl, and various Christian denominations. This mix of people portrayed the true unity we can have in God when we meet in the spirit of Jesus without bias. Discussions centered on tribalism in African politics and how to move forward in a new way. Hon. Capt. Grace Kyomugisha, Member of Parliament - shared with the students the need to pay the cost of what it will take to change the future of politics in the region. She mentioned the recent tribal conflict in Kenya around the elections that led to death of hundreds of people, as well as the recent ethnic clashes in South Africa as recent examples. Both countries have been examples of developing democracies, but this issue of tribal conflict has not ceased to be a thorn in the progress of African countries. Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of her well researched presentation was the honesty with which she remarked that her generation was a dying order which can only be saved young people with a new vision.

Jim and Becky Brown along with Abraham Fiseha - created an unbeatable panel taking the young people through an afternoon sharing on the importance of building long-term relationships. It was intriguing to see how the young leaders were engaged - prompting intelligent questions. Their experiences strengthened the vision and desire of maintaining long-term commitment with each other. For this gathering we gave more time for small group interaction. This led to the young people staying up late into the night getting to know each other,

sharing their personal visions and having meaningful discussions about changing Africa - especially in regards to conflicts due to tribes and ethnicity.

The National Prayer Breakfast was followed by a luncheon where the young people met and interacted with Members of Parliament. During this time the discussion on faith and values was spearheaded by the testimonies of MPs who were present. Provision was also given for the youth to ask questions and the MPs responded accordingly. One of the major issues that arose was the need for better models for mentoring the African youth.

It's now been a year since we kicked off with the Youth Leadership Forum. Over the past year, our focus has been trying to build core groups in the various countries and - a sense of a shared vision. As a result of this effort, there are now groups in several countries that meet regularly. Next year we will work on widening the groups. One could not help but hear the cry for this need among the young people. So we plan for at least four Ugandan campuses to have weekly meetings as is happening in Kenya, Dar es Salaam, Kigali, and hopefully in DR Congo Eastern Province.

**New African Vision:** Political support group - Report by Aloysius Bigirwa also known as "Bigs" Our NAV group helped in hosting the Youth Leadership Forum in Kampala, for the 3 days around the National Prayer Breakfast. I myself have also had a particularly busy schedule during the past few weeks as I had the good fortune of being able to travel

to Washington D.C. in the USA to attend the National Student Leadership Forum.

I spent 3 weeks total in the United States and was able to see much of Washington and also New York City. I had an incredible experience there and was able to learn many new things that inspire my work here in Uganda (see picture in center.)

**Business Forum:** This is another of our COSA alumni support programs focusing on "Stage 3" (when our young people out of the university.) With this initiative we seek to create a support group that will motivate, inspire and hold accountable members who are involved in business as a career or part-time engagement.

In the last 3 months the Kampala group has focused on business skills development. **EcoNation** a services company has helped in training of members as well as the Cstone Interns. Wayland & Courtney have also been very instrumental in helping individuals polish up their business proposals for sourcing financing.

The group also was able to meet with and share experiences with some of the experienced American Business men who were brought by **ProVision** by Norris Hill two month ago. In the next couple of months, the group is focusing on raising capital to create a revolving loan for business start-ups. The group leader Richard Kirabira will also be working on increasing management skills through training for those already running businesses.

**ECOSA Fellowship:** Two of our members were admitted to the University on government sponsorship. Things have been moving on well, apart from the loss of our beloved sister Susan (see p.4) We have 7 members at different institutions around Kampala now meeting together. We recently had a reunion and the attendance was good. Phillip and Coach Stone facilitated the reunion. The funding of ECOSA alumni programs is a challenge. Please pray for that.

(ECOSA unites former students of Ekt. SS with a shared vision.)



Alumni from our Youth Corps program in conjunction with Heratage Roots perform a dance at for the Timmis/Cameron visit

# Cornerstone Projects

## The Ekitangaala Ranch



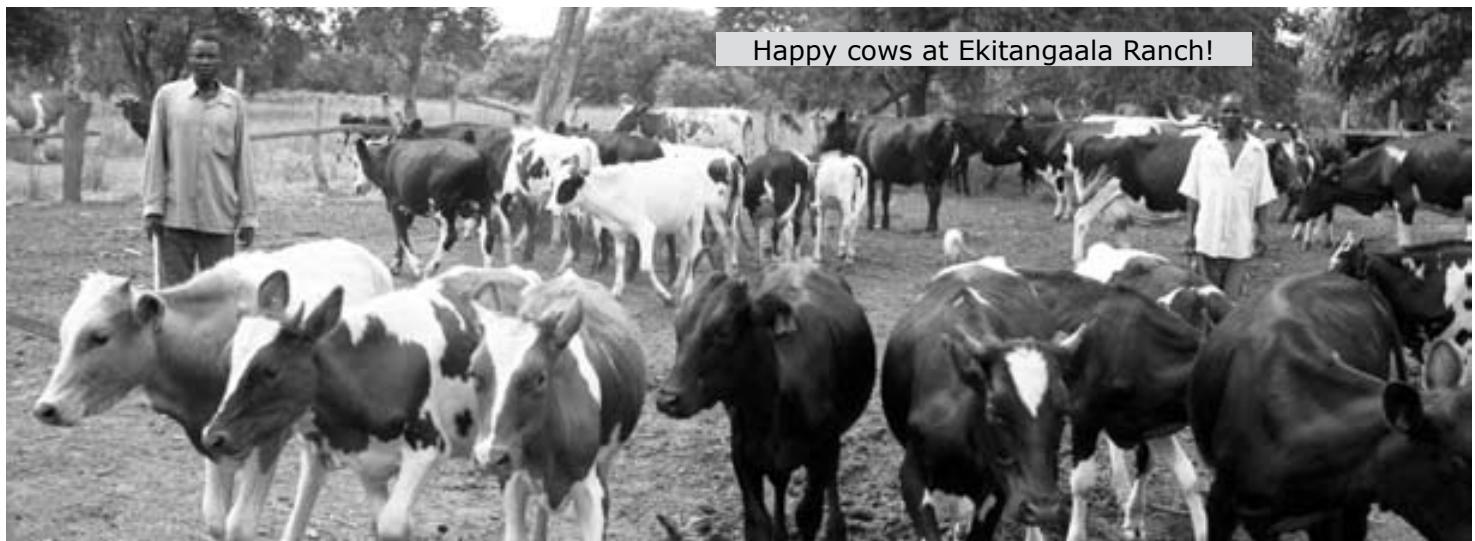
Gesa and Son

Frequent rains and the recent addition of some new young breeding bull calves have been a blessing to the ranch. There was a bout of sickness that lasted for about 2 weeks, but overall, things

are going well. There has been continued work on the fence, which included installing new fence poles. A new chainsaw and use of the "back-hoe" tractor from Hope for the Hungry has eased our maintenance and beautification efforts.

Milk production has increased from 500 to 630 liters/day. The ranch has donated 4 acres for the Community Center Hall, Ekt. Head master's house and kitchen. So we are working on opening up other bush land for the better use of the cows. This process has started with clearing the potential land.

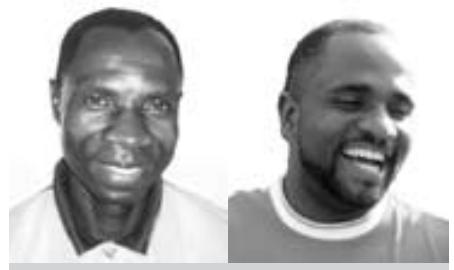
Happy cows at Ekitangaala Ranch!



## The Wolves Soccer Club

In the Wolves Football program, we have been talking lately about what

it means to please God. We recognize that success in the eyes of man is different than success in the eyes of God. For each of us, success will look different. But there is one thing that is the same for everyone. We each must recognize our individual gifts and use them to glorify God. So far in the new season, the senior Wolves have played 8 matches. The junior team has played 7 - tying 5 matches and lost two. As far as our team mentality, we have been talking about how we blame others for our mistakes. But in life - we have been given a set of tools to use, and if we do not use all of our tools properly, we cannot blame anyone but ourselves. We have been enjoying various visitors, and specifically have been enjoying having Wayland Cossy train with us twice a week. Please pray that God will provide more equipment as we are in need of new boots and uniforms for the teams.



Stone

Musa

## The Widows Program



Joyce

Carrie

There are good and exciting things going on in the Widow's Program. Thank you for all the prayers regarding our land concerns. We are so joyful to report to you that a large plot of land at Matuga has been purchased. The land was purchased with the intention of building houses for the widows to provide a place for the widows to live together in community. Carrie has returned to the United States where she will continue to raise money for the homes. We continue to meet twice a week, to fellowship with one another, share in scripture worship and to encourage one another. We are currently studying the book of Ruth. It has been such an encouragement to us as we have seen through the pages of the scriptures how God uses women to make a difference, even in difficult circumstances. As you lift us up in prayer, please ask God that there will be an increased interest in the beads we are making, as sales have begun to slow.

Also, please pray for the women currently living in Nagu and Nakawa Quarters, as the government is considering replacing the current housing with new development.

# NEW DEVELOPMENTS



The Nyalando brothers scout for land in Arusha

## Tanzania- CLA

I was able to spend 5 days in Arusha recently with a vehicle wandering the roads and bicycle paths surrounding the town near the base of Mt. Meru. The purpose of this trip was to get familiar with the area and determine the availability of land there. The two main guys I worked with were Fred and Peter Nyalando, both graduates of our CLA Uganda. Fred is based in Arusha and has been helping Tim and Dub in the past - looking for land there. Peter is the head mentor at our Dar es Salam Youth Corps home in Tanzania. We were able to identify some land that we would like to move forward with on negotiations. This piece of land, situated on a hilltop, offers a superb 360-degree view of Mt Meru to the Northeast, its foothills, and then the fading vista into the distant Serengeti to the Southwest. (By Eric Kreutter)



Daniel and Isaac (left) sharing the love in Mombasa

## Kenya- Mombasa Home

Daniel and Eric recently traveled to Mombasa, Kenya, to do an evaluation and assessment of both the need and feasibility of beginning some work there with street children. CLA Old Boy Isaac Hango from the Dar home traveled with them. They were able to visit many of the programs currently reaching out to vulnerable kids - but found few that were actually catering to the vision we had in mind. Those we met encouraged us move forward with our intentions. If the home works out it would be a project backed by a US based church.



Benon

## Burundi- Bujumbura

We have just opened a new Youth Corps Home in Burundi - Turn to page 11 to read more about it.

## Vulnerable girls - Kampala

In partnership with HALO and Kristen Vogel we are working on opening a new girls Youth Corps home that will specifically reach out to vulnerable young girls on the city streets who are at-risk by turning to dangerous means of earning money in order to survive. We will seek to rescue and restore them by finding ways for them to resume their education or learn skills to gain decent employment and move on with their lives.

## Uganda- new land projects

We have recently acquired two pieces of land, one near Makerere University and one near CLA Girls in Matuga. The property near Makerere University will be used to build a Hostel for university students housing up to 50 students. The property in Matuga is only 2km from CLA Girls and will be divided between COSA and the Widows Program. The COSA part of the property will be a "COSA Estates" of sorts where we will provide several small plots for COSA members wishing to build homes and live in community near each other. The widows property will be used in a similar way.

# Origins of the National Prayer Breakfast

Various nations in the world today hold an annual event hosted by the President or Parliament, dubbed the National Prayer Breakfast. But how did this all begin?

**The Beginning:** The origins of the National Prayer Breakfast movement began in the US just prior to World War II. Initially small group of business and political leaders began meeting together weekly to encourage each other to live out their highest and best values in ways that would address some of the problems in their cities and communities. Many of these groups met at the beginning of the day for breakfast – that is how the term ‘prayer breakfast’ came about.

It first became a large, annual, national event during the time of President Eisenhower, a 5-Star General who served as Supreme Commander of the Allied forces in Europe during World War. II. And, in 1951, became the 1st supreme commander of NATO.

**Turning Point:** During his Inaugural Ceremony as the President of the U.S. in 1953, Eisenhower broke with custom by reciting a prayer that he had written himself - without prior warning to a surprised nation. This made the headlines of all the newspapers and had the effect of demonstrating to the public that even the most powerful political leaders in the world – can recognize that they are accountable to and dependant on the Supreme Being.

The first Presidential Prayer Breakfast



The VERY first Prayer Breakfast  
By the Sea of Tiberias - Gospel of John 21:1-19  
...Jesus said to them 'Come and have breakfast' v. 12

took place at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington DC on February 5, 1953. There were 500 present including the Vice President, members of the Cabinet, the Supreme Court, the Senate and House of Representatives. It was reported that they were "...gathered together regardless of party and creed, zealous for the truth and for right relationships with God and man....they ask not so much who is right as what is right,

men who recognize that persons without principles are dangerous."

**Core Values:** Every movement requires a strong set of values to keep it going over the years and this one has chosen the principles, precepts and person of Jesus as its guiding ideal - across all the divisions existing in the world. This is because despite our differences in the way we might perceive him – Jesus and his ideas are revered global - especially by those from Christian and Muslim traditions.

One of the early supporters of this movement, A. Vereide, an executive with Goodwill Industries put it this way, "He is the only universal – belonging to all ages, races and conditions. The basic eternal truths of other religions being largely summarized in the teachings of Christ and exemplified by him...in whose life there was no discrepancy."

In other words, the truths embodied in teachings of Jesus are self-evident and need no defense to all good-hearted people:





The first Presidential Prayer Breakfast in the U.S. at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington- February 5, 1953. (left to right) Hon. Katharine St. George, President Eisenhower, Senator Carlson, and Conrad Hilton (of Hilton Hotels).

- That, to love is better than to hate.
- That, it is better to forgive than to seek revenge.
- That, we should do unto others as we would want them to do unto us.
- That, we are all God's offspring and made in the image of God.
- That, we all have the responsibility to care for the least in society and to work for a better world.
- That, one day we all will have to give an account for how we have lived our lives.

The author B. Cavey wrote about it in this way: "Consider the possibility that Jesus is in an unparalleled position to offer spiritual help for all people, regardless

of their religious background. Think of it. A rabbi to the Jews, a prophet to the Muslims, an avatar to the Hindus, an enlightened one to the Buddhists, the Son of God to the Christians, a wise teacher to secularists, and a 'friend of sinners' to the rest of us."

**Unity in Diversity:** So this focus on the message and life of Jesus alone – and the centrality of the Gospels without sectarian doctrines or attacks on the traditions of others – now serves as the basis for small groups of leaders, around the world, meeting together for fellowship. Ideally, they meet together simply as peers where they can share confidentially among

themselves - without partisan politics or denominational, racial or ethnic divisions.

Today, many nations also hold a large annual event hosted by the Parliament or the President – often called a National Prayer Breakfast – such as here in Uganda. The annual National Prayer Breakfast in the U.S. also serves as the international gathering for this movement. It normally attracts around 4,000 guests from as many as 100 countries.

In this East African region – the countries of Kenya, Uganda, Burundi and Congo have been holding these events on an annual basis – while other nations have held them on a less regular basis.

The number one problem in the world today, the root cause of all conflicts and war, is alienation. So, where the Prayer Breakfast movement has had the greatest impact – such as in the nation of Burundi – is when it has brought leaders together to further reconciliation and unity, in the spirit of Jesus - who taught us to forgive and love our enemies.

## Report on 2008 Uganda NPB

-by Paulo Kyama

The 10th Annual National Prayer Breakfast - hosted by Ugandan members of Parliament took place on October 8 and is now billed as one of the best. The turn up was excellent and was graced by the President, the first Lady, scores of Members of Parliament, guests from over 15 countries and many from the civic community. The total attendance was around 600.

We were able to screen the DVD testimony by the late Benazir Bhutto (the slain "first Woman Prime Minister in a Moslem Country") in which she reflects on her life and how the Prayer Breakfast and the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth impacted her outlook and politics. For sure the edict in John 12:32 "Lifting up Jesus and drawing all men" resonates in every aspect.

One of the hallmarks of the Prayer Breakfast movement is the priority accorded to relationships -we were therefore delighted to be joined by several friends - Sam Owen and Hon. MPs David Ngugi and Erastus Muriti from Kenya, Abraham Fiseha from Ethiopia (along with some of the young people), Prosper Turimuci from Burundi, delegations from Rwanda, UK, US, Sudan, Tanzania and many others. The keynote speaker was Prof. Angegibougu, a Nigerian Motivational speaker based in Atlanta Georgia.

Talking around the theme "Unity in Diversity" he made an incisive analysis of what has kept Africa in the throes of backwardness. He disparaged African politics which he posited had become "ethnic entrepreneurship." He also cited the negative impact of colonialism which disintegrated culture and undermined unity. He, however, challenged leaders to rise to the challenge and harness the rich diversity for development.

The Breakfast also heard a testimony from Dorcas Inzikuru, a young athlete who emerged Commonwealth 3,000 Steeple Chase Gold Medalist in 2006. Coming from a humble background, she gave a testimony of her faith in God and how he has helped her in times of joy and tears. It was a moving testimony and was applauded by all present.

In characteristic jovial mood, the President on his part acknowledged that many African countries had "wandered for 40 years" (like the children of Israel) since independence. He read Deuteronomy 28 and appealed to all to banish division. Appearing for the 3rd time in succession, we all pray that the spirit of the Breakfast and especially the message of Jesus will percolate and impact the hearts and minds of leaders.



Ellen, Wilter & Leah

If you have been around Cornerstone recently, you have likely heard of "the Ellens" or "the Leahs." (That's the Ugandan way of naming a group after one of the members). Perhaps you have seen them around the Youth Corp homes giving a demonstration on water treatment. Or maybe they were teaching that (contrary to popular belief) there are better ways to treat a nosebleed than lying on the floor and dumping cold water on your head.

With Cornerstone we have this vision of a family of friends that stretches around the world - and stays together over the years. And, so with our friends coming from abroad - we do not want to view them just as a "short-term" volunteers - but rather as an on-going, long-term friendships. Both Leah and Ellen are good examples of this in that they are here for their second trip and have invested in relationships that will continue to grow long after they head back to the U.S.

While attending school at University of Virginia, Leah watched the documentary Invisible Children, which tells the story of children displaced by the LRA in northern Uganda. In reaction to the film, Leah wanted to come to Uganda with a friend to see first hand the situation. Through a friend, she heard about Cornerstone and ended up coming to Uganda to do some volunteer work and get to know this "family of

friends." She ended up working at Mulago hospital in the Burn Unit for 2 months. After her time in Uganda, she returned to Nashville and began working at Vanderbilt hospital. Although she never knew if she would return to Uganda, she continued to pray for and think about the Cornerstone family.

*"A saint is not someone who is good but who experiences the goodness of God"*  
**Thomas Merton**

**Meanwhile...**her friend Ellen had also had this desire throughout her time in college to come to Africa. She prayed that the Lord would open a door, and during the summer of 2007 she traveled to Uganda for three weeks. At that time she first got to know the Cornerstone family of friends and familiarize herself with the various programs. After teaching a health-care class to the mentors, she realized that there was a need for more education regarding health-care, especially within the Youth Corp homes. So, at the end of her stay in Uganda, she came up with the idea of starting a more formalized health-care program for the Youth Corp program. Then she returned home to the United States to finish her last year of nursing school at University of Virginia. While work-

ing on her senior thesis, she decided that she wanted to return to Cornerstone to implement this health-care idea. So she began to do some fund raising and to pray for a partner to join her on her return trip to Uganda. Knowing Leah's previous experience with Cornerstone and nursing background, Ellen asked her to join her on a three-month return journey to Uganda. Leah gladly accepted and the two began their adventure this year in August.

Since they arrived, they have been spending time in all the various Youth Corp homes establishing the health-care program. Their focus has included water treatment, malaria prevention and first aid. However, knowing that their time in Uganda would eventually come to an end, it was important for them to establish a sustainable program that would continue after they were gone.

After an extensive application and interview process, Leah and Ellen hired Wilter Ololia to serve as the healthcare coordinator. Wilter is a Kenyan married to a COSA old boy, Daniel Ololia. Wilter was a perfect fit for this job as she has experience as a clinical officer and shares the vision of Cornerstone. Wilter will continue the work that they began by working with the Youth Corp homes to teach on: making healthy choices, nutrition, personal hygiene, cardio-vascular health, and skin infections. Wilter's responsibilities will also include creating and updating medical records for each of the children in the Youth Corp program. Both Leah and Ellen hope to come back to Uganda at least once a year to continue to provide insight into the healthcare program as well as to continue their relationships with the Cornerstone family.

*And...if you were wondering, to treat a bloody nose: Apply pressure to the bridge of the nose until bleeding ceases. Although, dumping cold water on someone's head does offer a bit more entertainment.*

## ...CONTINUED TEXT - (from back page) A NEW SENSE OF COMMUNITY

*A New Humanity – a new kind of family?? It all sometimes seems like an impossible ideal in this divided world. Yet it seems that this was exactly what Jesus was all about – as the angels declared like a banner over the time of his birth “Peace on Earth – Goodwill toward Man.”*

But whenever I begin to reflect on the meaning of this word, “community” – my thoughts tend to stretch between two poles: First, there is the big picture – lofty ideal of furthering unity across all the divides. And then secondly – there is the more mundane challenge of maintaining healthy relationships with the few who I have to interact with day in and day out. (And Jesus also had plenty to say about that as well.) So, while it’s important to talk about furthering reconciliation around the world – but equally so – how am I doing with loving my wife?

that the mothers in Kathmandu, Dubai, Kampala or Denver pretty much want exactly the same thing for their children. Despite our surface differences of color and culture – inside we are remarkably similar. And in our emerging global village it’s also increasingly becoming apparent that we are all connected despite our apparent separateness. We are in the same boat and were going to need a lot more ‘fellowship’ in order to learn to get along. (As one definition of fellowship puts it – it’s about a bunch of fellows in the same ship working at getting along with each other.)

In any case, whether furthering a better sense of community locally or globally – it always comes down to what Jesus considered to be part of the main thing: “*love your neighbor as your self.*” To me this has meant that even while I work on the big picture issues of unity and

who have had no father. And I am always challenged by the difference in the ways I might treat these kids compared to how I treat my own biological children. A few years back I read the following story that came out of Bosnia during their conflict – that speaks to this:

*A journalist was crouched down in an alleyway covering a battle in a city. In the midst of it all a frightened little girl tried to run across the street to get into the safety of her apartment building but was shot down by sniper fire. Immediately, a man dashed out after her, managed to pick her up and carried her back into the same alley where the journalist was taking cover. The man cried out to the journalist, “Can you help... my child is dying!”*

*The journalist had a car parked a few blocks back from the area where he hurriedly led the man who was carrying the child. They entered and began driving to the hospital. On the way the man said, “Hurry! She is getting cold...I think she is dying!” They reached the hospital and rushed the child into the emergency section.*

*A doctor immediately started performing procedures to try and rescue the life of the little girl but in the end it was too late. He came out to tell the man and the journalist that the child had died. As they walked into the bathroom to wash the blood off their hands and clothes the man was weeping. Then he said to the journalist, “We have to find her parents.” “What are you talking about!” exclaimed the journalist, “I thought she was your child, why did you risk your life and go through all that?”*

*The man just kept washing his hands and with tears running down his face said. “They are all OUR children.”*

I read this and I wonder, is it not just a form of veiled selfishness that we do so much for our own biological children – compared to what we would do for the children of others? And doesn’t the same thing apply when I treat those of my own tribe, country, political party or church – so differently from others? Well we all have a long way to go in this regard – but I really think this is a central part of what Jesus’ message was all about: *A new, larger sense of community.*



Our Rwandan, Uganda, Tibetan and American Brothers

*“I know that the first task of love is self-purification. When one has purified oneself, by the grace of God, to the point at which one can truly love one’s enemies, a beautiful thing happens. It is as if the boundaries of the soul become so clean as to be transparent, and a unique light then shines forth from the individual.” M. Scott Peck*

My conclusion is that we need both of these emphasis's. If we just do one without the other we are missing something. It's like individually we are each cells in one giant human body. And if the cells right next to each other are not getting along well with each other – there is definitely going to be some kind of disease. But, likewise if a smaller group of cells – for example a particular organ – gets divided away from the rest of the body – it's going to create problems for itself and the larger body.

In my travels around the world – one thing has become very clear to me –

reconciliation – I also need to try and *see my self* reflected in the eyes of everyone I will meet as I go about my life this day, this week. To recognize while looking at them that I have shared the same struggles and aspirations they carry. That, the love, joy and peace that I long for – is also what they want. That, the hopes and dreams I have for my family are nearly identical to what they hold. That very similar fears and stresses that I sometimes feel – also plague them and make them behave the way they do.

Throughout my life I have constantly faced the need to be a father to kids

# The Larger Sense of “Community”

## Thoughts from Tim

Pretty much up until recent centuries – people everywhere through-out the world lived exclusively within separate, homogeneous communities such as: families, clans, tribes and ethnic groups that shared the same language, traditions, cultures and belief systems. Even when modern cities emerged, like in America, the first residents segregated themselves into very distinct neighborhoods based on race, ethnicity or religion.

Along with this natural tendency to associate with people who are like us – often comes an equally natural tendency to dislike people who are not like us. And this has been the root cause behind all the wars, genocides and other such conflicts our world has been experiencing – resulting in 100 million people - killed by their fellow human beings in the last century alone. (World War I, WW II, the Soviet Union, Korea, Vietnam, China, Cambodia, Rwanda, Congo, Northern Uganda, Middle East) That was definitely, a new ‘world record.’

The more I understand Jesus – the more I believe that the central thrust of his vision and mission rotates around this core theme: *You have heard it said, “love your neighbor but hate your enemy” – but I say to you - Love your enemy... Why do you greet only your own brothers – even the pagans do that – that’s nothing special everybody does that. And by the way – don’t you realize that, you are all brothers...because you have one father who is in heaven?*

There are only two places in the gospels where Jesus appeared to be quite “militant” – it’s where he stated: *I did not come to bring peace but a sword* (Mt. 10:34 & Luke 10:51) But in both of these contexts he goes on to reference this statement to some kind of total paradigm shift in regards to the typical family-based, blood-kinship kind of loyalties that have characterized human societies for millenniums.

*Who are my brothers and my mother?* – He asks one day when his followers told him his family members were waiting outside to see him. And isn’t interesting that his last words on the cross as he was dying was to tell his mother Mary that his disciple John

**...CONTINUED on page 23**

was now her son and that she was his mother – even though it seems that Jesus had his own siblings who could have looked after her.

Today, most of us are rightly concerned about the breakdown of the traditional family structure which has been the basic unit of society for thousands of years. Every child certainly deserves to grow up in a loving, stable family. Jesus would have no quarrel with that. The family is a creation of Life itself and should never be sacrificed to the ‘larger’ community. It should be a stronghold, a shelter where the individual can feel safe and be nurtured.

But so far, the family unit has never managed to prevent war, racism, injustice, rabid nationalism, genocide, tribalism and the like. For those issues to be addressed we need to develop something more expansive than the narrow spirit that most people possess in this regard. Something broader and more inclusive that encompasses the whole of humanity. Otherwise the world will continue to see nothing more than the various clans, cultures and countries still fighting each other.

Our Cornerstone community is composed of people coming from all the ethnic, political and religious divides that exist in this part of the world. And we have chosen to base our ‘common ground’ on the ideas and life of Jesus. Just about every single time Jesus referred to himself he liked to use the title “*Bar Enesh*”- normally translated “*Son of Man*.” (80 times in the gospels.) But the term is pregnant with greater meaning and its full definition has puzzled scholars over the centuries. However, one of the deeper implications is that it seems to point toward something that could be described as a ‘New Humanity’ – or you could say a new kind of family of mankind.

