



20 YEARS LATER...

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!

Cornerstone

NEWSLETTER February 2009

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

Like a group of people painting a large mural on a wall - the complete chronicle of Cornerstone over the past 20 years could only be told by combining the collective composition from a thousand different perspectives. Naturally, each one of us tells the story and paints the picture of the community from the viewpoint of our own particular experiences. So hopefully, in this newsletter, as we combine a few stories, memories, photos and reflections we will recall how we have grown from an idea in the minds of three young American "amigos" (the guys in the picture above) - to what we see today: *A shared vision collectively embraced by an international family of friends within Africa and around the world.*

It's also a time to honor all of you who in one way or another have played a part in making this 'family of friends' something beautiful for God to use in healing and nurturing the young souls of those who come into our care. Some of you are mentioned in this newsletter and some of you may not be mentioned. But we sincerely thank each of you for your unique contribution as we celebrate our friendship and partnership together. Special recognition goes to Mzee Michael and Mama Nancy Timmis who have believed in us. And, whose unfailing counsel, support, prayers and love have sustained us all over the many years.

Our mission has been: *To be a family of friends in the spirit of Jesus who love and support each other while committed to:*

- *Equipping and advancing a movement of "servant leaders" with a shared vision for the transformation of their communities, nation and region.*
- *Compassion for the poor - with a focus on young people.*
- *Working across the lines of culture and faith differences.*
- *Maintaining a long-term partnership with each other.*
- *Loving God and loving our neighbor as our self.*

One of the unique aspects of our mission statement is that, first and foremost, it defines *who we aspire to be* and then secondarily - *what we do*. In God's economy "*being something*" (the quality of our character and relationships) is more important than '*doing things*' (achieving various tasks.) In other words what we do should flow out of who we are and not the other way around.

Although it is harder to operate this way, we believe, more than anything else, this orientation accounts for what Cornerstone has now become - for the impact we have had and for the degree of vitality we possess. Our work is largely about the spiritual transformation and molding of young people. As long as we retain this orientation and our other core values we will continue to grow stronger and change the lives of many more young people in the years ahead.



Michael, John & Tim in the early days

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Our COSA Heritage

and...

- Updates on Cornerstone schools, Youth Corps, and COSA programs
- Stone reveals the beginnings of the Wolves Soccer Club
- New developments in Cornerstone
- Visitor profile: "the Waylands"

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

Location

Head Office:

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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
- Halo 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.

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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 throughout 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.

See more online: www.CornerstoneDevelopment.org

Reflections

DAVID MWESIGWE



David's cool look from the mid-nineties

I am very blessed to count myself among the graduates of Cornerstone Leadership Academy - Uganda and even more so to have been among the pioneer class of 1994. Not only did I benefit academically from this opportunity but I have grown in almost every other area of my life because of it.

Thinking back on my earliest memories, I recall the first two weeks during the practical part of our interview/application process; we were subjected to all sorts of activities ranging from cultivation, opening up new paddocks for cows, participating in fellowship groups and even jogging - among other things. Even after we made it thru selection process and were admitted to begin classes, we continued with regular work contributions. To ensure that no one missed work, I remember, John Riordan introduced what was termed as 'a Rain Schedule' - meaning that even if it rained, there would still be indoor work to be done!

Some of these funny activities we were not used to and caused many of us to think that perhaps Cornerstone was linked to some kind of military group or were at least here being trained to form one! Indeed this was shared by various people including local government agencies as at one point they sent out some agents to spy on Cornerstone activities in Nakasongola.

I still have memories of those early days like: Stone Kyambadde waking us up at 5:30 am for jogging and exercises (whoever defied him was denied breakfast and many of us fell victim!), 'paddocking' (bush clearing), riding on the tractor for matches in Katuugo, Nakasongola are still fresh in my mind. Back then we were sometimes inclined to perceive this as some kind of exploitation - but, with time I came to appreciate and value it because it was done not out of bad intention.

All these experiences gave us opportunities to learn and grow in ways not only limited to academics. It trained me

to maintain a balance between academics and work, to learn proper time utilization and management, and to be physically fit. But above all, to know that at least I am contributing something towards my education, accommodation, feeding costs. It also afforded us an opportunity to earn income for our personal needs through "optional work".

One more thing that I treasure and thank God for having joined CLA - is discovering how precious and valuable relationships with other people are, not only in the sight of God, but also in our own lives despite our diverse tribal, racial and religious backgrounds. It was unheard of for people from different tribal or religious background to live together, interact and share almost everything the way we were doing it.

This to a greater extent was evident especially in our first year at CLA. At first, I could not feel secure and comfortable interacting with anyone who was not of my faith or from the same region. But, as I continued interacting with my fellow students through work contribution, fellowship/discipleship classes etc. - my attitude drastically changed and I came to realize I had held a really a wrong mind-set. Consequently, I began to value and treat each person with dignity regardless of their background.

The challenges of those who began this work were enormous especially at the onset and I believe along the way they could have been disappointed and discouraged in one way or the other but they persevered. They never gave up - they carried on trusting that God is in control. And today, as a result we are now witnessing God's blessings and provision in all our programs - because of their perseverance and commitment to the vision and through their hard work, Cornerstone Development has now expanded within and outside Uganda.

We now have another Leadership Academy for Girls about 40 minutes drive north of Kampala, 3kms off the Kampala - Gulu highway. We also have a co-education Leadership Academy in Rwanda. We also have Youth Corps homes within Kampala city, northern Uganda, South Sudan, Kigali and other places. And all of these initiatives are designed to give hope and direction to young people coming from underprivileged backgrounds - to give a sense of family and instill in them a commitment to the principles, precepts and person of Jesus.

Will you please join me to say 'thank you' to our three American brothers (Michael Timmis Jr, John Riordan and Tim Kreutter) and to all of you - for the work well done and the journey well traveled - which is an inspiration to many around the world and a source of hope to many within Africa.



The crew - working hard... or hardly working?

MICHAEL TIMMIS

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

I want to congratulate everyone on this 20th anniversary of Cornerstone. It is a great milestone and worthy of celebration. I wanted to share a few memories that you probably do not know.

Our first offices were in Spear House. We had one room office on the 1st floor and an upstairs flat where John and I lived. The office was very small, and often we worked from the flat. It was very hot in that flat. The building was not designed for an African climate. On hot days we would have fans running and windows open, but it would still be sweltering. Often by the afternoon, we would have taken our shirts off. There we would be no shirt, no shoes, working and sweating. Often people were sent from the office up to the flat to speak to John or me. Many people were surprised to knock on the door and find themselves face to face with a large, shirtless, sweating Muzungu. They often just stood there looking at us, forgetting why they had come in the first place.

I also remember the night when the vision for Cornerstone Leadership Academies was given to us. Tim, John Riordan, a lady named Lee Thompson and I were sitting around the dining

table in the Spear House flat. I cannot remember if our shirts were on or not. I don't know what we were talking about, but suddenly John said, "I have been thinking... One of the things we do really well is working with young men. (We had begun Wolves by this time.) What if instead of doing an orphanage at the Ranch we did a boarding high school for men?" I will never forget that moment. John was speaking, but the Holy Spirit was also speaking through him. It was so clear. All of us around the table realized it. So we began with that seed of an idea, never imagining the great tree that the CLA schools would become.

In the early days many people said that Cornerstone would never work. In those days few could conceive of combining love for Christ and people with practical projects. You either preached the gospel or did development projects but not both. They also saw us as young, inexperienced, not knowing how to do things "properly"...and in general they were right. We were all



Michael and Laura in Kampala (1992)

those things. However God uses the foolish things of the World to confound the wise.

Today many see Cornerstone as a model and recognize our success. These accolades are wonderful and gratifying, but we need to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and our focus on pleasing Him. We need to remain close to God and be willing to be fools in following him. We need to spend time in prayer daily if we hope to be able to continue to hear his voice.

Congratulations again to all. Thanks for your faithfulness and perseverance.

Love, Michael

KEITH & HEIDI WRIGHT

Heidi to help start the community development program. With some gaps for school I had the opportunity to be directly involved with Cornerstone off and on until 2000. Ekitangaala has also been an important place for my family. I was engaged to my wife Heidi there over fourteen years ago and our oldest son, Denton, lived there for the first two years of his life.

It has been exciting to see how God has blessed the vision of the Timmis', Kreutters and the many others who have been a part of the Cornerstone family over the years. When I think back to that first class of students at CLA and now see those same young men serving as leaders in Cornerstone and around the country, region and world, I give thanks that God has established the work of the many hands involved in the work over the years.

Heidi and I now have four children, two born in Africa (Denton 10, Fiona

2) and two born in the USA (Fraser 7, Brody 5). We now live next door in Nairobi, Kenya where I work as Regional Director for East & Southern Africa for Food for the Hungry and serve on the board of directors of Faulu-Kenya, Ltd. My days at Cornerstone in the early 1990's shaped my passion for making a difference in the lives of the poor around the world and I am grateful to still be involved with that work. Because the Cornerstone family is such an important part of our past we have always wanted to bring all of our children back to visit and we hope to do that this year!

As Cornerstone celebrates it's first 20 years I look forward with anticipation to what God will accomplish through all of you in the coming 20 years, claiming God's promise that if we 'commit everything we do to the Lord, our plans will succeed' (Prov 16:3) - Keith & Heidi



Keith & Heidi in Kampala '99

When I first travelled to Uganda in early 1993 to volunteer at Cornerstone I did not know how important the Cornerstone family would be to me and my family over the years and how that experience would influence my life's work. When I first arrived at Ekitangaala there was no CLA, no Frisian cows or big primary school. There was the beginning of a vision and a lot of work to be done. I volunteered at Cornerstone for about a year and half and then returned there after graduate school with my wife

Reflections

JOHN RIORDAN

First and foremost I apologize for being so "lost"! I have indeed been lost. *Life here is Unrealistic!* (a popular slogan when John was at CLA Boys). It has been such a major shift in our lives going from living in Uganda to living here in Washington, D.C. It may be hard to believe, but I struggle with the daily feeling of trying to stay one step in front of a bus. The bottom line is, this is where the Lord has us - probably the hardest place He could have me in. I ask your forgiveness for hurt that my sin causes.

It's amazing to think that it has been 20 years since the Lord used Michael to start Cornerstone. The most blatant lesson we should all take from this is the power of a Godly Vision.

I came to Uganda in January of 1990, after Mike had been there for a couple years already. I'll never forget walking around the "Ranch" - which at that time amounted to a big patch of thick bush with a few local tick-infested cows - and hearing Mike talk about the vision the Lord had given him. He pointed to where a school could be - nothing but a patch of trees. He pointed to where houses could be - nothing but an open space of grass. It didn't matter that there was not one single "real" thing in place. What mattered was that the Lord had put an impression on his heart and he was sharing it with whoever would listen.

John now & his wife Marg with their kids at their home in Washington, D.C. - 2002



Allways full of good times, John (left) and Michael (right) take a moment here to incite a few laughs with their "party" costumes (1990)

Many people have come together around that Vision over these past 20 years. Today, that Vision is a Reality - bearing fruit in each of us that has had a part to play. But that fruit did not come about in the way I had expected! Nor did it come about without years of "working the soil" and God's pruning, and the continued faithfulness of Tim and so many of you.

For a number of years, it was not clear that any fruit would come at all. We definitely did not understand what it would take to make the Lord's vision come to fruition! I am looking at a picture of the Pioneers and the second class at CLA - it hangs right above

my desk. I can only imagine what you must have been thinking!! "These crazy Muzungus! They're nuts!" We made a lot of mistakes. It was really hard to know what was really going on... Who to trust, who to believe... and I'm sure our first several classes of students felt the same way

about the Muzungus. It would have been just as hard for you as the first students to trust and understand us as it was for us to understand you.

Looking back, it makes perfect sense that it would take years for all of us to see what was really going on... for each of us to realize that someone's heart might be working toward something good, even while we may hurt each other with our words or deeds from day to day. Our sinful nature comes in, even while we are trying to walk with the Lord. Today I see this in my feeble attempts to be a good husband and father - just ask Marg and my kids! Life in the Riordan Household is Unrealistic!

We are so incredibly blessed to see the fruit that the Lord is bringing to bear through each of you. We are amazed by your persistence, your willingness to serve others, and your forgiveness of our mistakes. We are SO proud of you. As I look at this picture on my wall, my heart is so full and so thankful for each of you - those we are blessed to know, and those of you who have come since.

Press on. Press on toward the goal - to win the prize for which God has called you heavenward in Christ Jesus. - John Riordan



Martin Suna and Vincent Mbalangu at the opening of CLA - 1994

CORNERSTONE SCHOOLS

CLA for Young Men - Uganda

Cornerstone Leadership Academy, located on Ekitangaa-la Ranch, started in 1994 as an Advance Level Boys Boarding High School. The initial vision bearers of the school were three young American men- Michael Timmis Jr., Tim Kreutter, and John Riordan. These three young men, after a period of prayers, conceived the idea of the Leadership Academy, which would meet one of the most pressing problems that Uganda has faced since independence (i.e. the problem of quality leadership which has kept this county in near perpetual anarchy).

These young men realized that one of the main aspects of Uganda's leadership crisis stemmed from leaders who maintained the tribal prejudices and religious intolerance that were major factors behind the various conflicts and social political divisions in the country. They also realized that there is a general laxity in matter of integrity and morality, which easily corrupt even the most gifted leaders.

With the above realization, The Cornerstone Leadership Academy for young men was started with the vision of producing servant leaders who are men of integrity - men who would be the cornerstones of leadership for Uganda's next generation. The mission of the Leadership Academy therefore focused on creating a life transforming learning environment in which young men selected from all over Uganda (all tribes and religions) would be not only given an Advanced Level educational

curriculum, but also impacted with character qualities embodied in the teachings and life of Jesus - the chief cornerstone. To fulfill this mission, a character development and discipleship curriculum was developed, which included:

- a) *An Introductory Spiritual Basics - The Wheel*
- b) *The Ten Principles of CLA*
- c) *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*
- d) *The Seven Promises of The Promise Keepers*

Right from its inception, the Leadership Academy held a lot of promise. Indeed, over the years, the labors and investments of the vision bearers and their friends from within Uganda and across the globe have not been in vain. Right now there are about 400 CLA graduates out there involved in all spheres of life- in Education, Politics, Armed Forces, Leadership in Universities and Colleges as well as in the Corporate world and Non-Governmental Organizations. In all areas, these young men have distinguished themselves as high performers, trustworthy and effective leaders.

Mzee Paulo Lukwiya - who was the Headmaster of CLA Boys played an important role in guiding the school for over ten years. His unique style of mentoring young men has left a legacy in the lives of those who passed through his hands. Over the years many other teachers caught the vision and invested their lives in the lives of the students. These include Aziku Santos, Issa Ntege, Ambrose Lukusu, Miriam Enyanga, Monica Monge and the author of this report - to mention but a few of the 'historicals'.
- by Charles Ayo

CLA Rwanda

Our beautiful school on the hilltop opened in early 2007- conveniently located in Rwamagana district of Rwanda, 45km east of Kigali. Our motto from the beginning has been **6** "Let your light shine" and we are

committed to being the light of Rwanda while encouraging unity and reconciliation among the students and the community in which we live.

For those of you who have not been there - the school is situated on a hill-top ridge overlooking Lake Muhazi. The land was located

by Tim and David Mwesigwa - who oversaw much of the first phases of construction. Our good friends from Little Rock, Arkansas in the US have played a vital role in supporting the establishment and on-going operation of the school. The Headmaster Johnson Karamuzi, his wife Rosette along with a team of teachers have

done an excellent job in pioneering the beginning of the school despite various challenges.

Bringing you up to date Johnson reports: We have just admitted 40 new S.4 students from all over Rwanda (20 boys, 20 girls) to complete our 3rd class making a total of 124 students and 13 teachers. In the Rwandan system for this level of High School we have 3 classes S.4, S.5 and S.6, so our students are with us for a year longer than they are in the Uganda CLA program. Our students have been able to participate in countrywide Student Leadership election and two of them made it to the District level while one to the National level after being elected the District student leader!

This year for the first time, CLA Rwanda will have the graduating pioneer class (S.6) sit for National exams in November 2009. We are doing our best to excel in these crucial tests. We will also have Inter-school Soccer Competitions in late February and early March. This will be followed by an Inter-school Leadership Seminar in July and graduation of our pioneer class in November after which all our students will go for a Students Conference scheduled for mid-November. Both the Leadership Seminar and the Students Conference are being organized by us: CLA Rwanda. The purpose for the Leadership Seminar and the Conference is so that our students may show what they've learnt in CLA and be an influence on others.

The CLA Rwanda has developed good relationship with the local community. This is through the community work program where both teachers and students participate in gardening for the poor especially elderly widows. We also participate in 'community days' where the community members are invited at CLA to interact with CLA students and staff. On such days we have fellowship and meals together. This has enabled us to improve the relationships which were strained at the start as some families who had been squatters on the land had to be relocated to a neighboring area when the government allocated to us the land where the school is now situated.

CLA for Young Women - Uganda

C.L.A Girls began in 2004 (in part due to the persistent prayers of the boys!) The land on which the school was built - was located after a year of searching for a suitable property by Tim and David Mwesigwa. The 20 acres property was bought from a gentleman in his 60's who had been given the land on the day he was born. When we bought the property it was covered in bush and we only realized later that it included a partly finished house which now is the Headmistress's residence. The village community around it is called Jakana.

Jacob Buzabaryaho oversaw the construction with the support of David who handled much of the logistics. The design and layout of the school were determined by Tim. Jim Brown helped connect us to 3 different parties who helped with the initial finances for purchasing the land and the first phase of construction.

Ekitangala Secondary School

Ekitangalla SS has grown rapidly since its humble beginnings in 2004 with the first two classes of S.1 and S.2 with a single classroom block and a grass thatched brick hut that served as the administrative office. In the first couple of years it was purely a day school for kids from the surrounding area -but with the addition of boarding facilities it has grown to over 400 students from around Uganda.

The school now has the full 6 classes of both Ordinary Level and Advanced Level High School - that is S.1 up to S.6. Credit goes to people like Flukas Enyanga, Christine Namumbya, the current Headmaster Stephen Ongodia and others who have helped the school grow to its present size and quality - both academically and in regards to its spirit.

Madam Monica Monge - who was one of the pioneer teachers at the Boys Academy, was the favorite choice to become the first Headmistress and she gladly accepted to also pioneer the Girls Academy. Her initial administrator was Johnson Karamuzi who is now the Headmaster for CLA Rwanda.

The current administrator is Tayebwa Modern Mukwine (a.k.a Pastor) gives this update: *We thank God who enabled us to begin well this year on January 17th. The school is steadily progressing in all fields of life. The term was begun with changes in both administration and staff. Administratively, the pioneer headmistress- Madam Monica Monge had to move on following the transfer of her family to Nairobi. She was replaced by Madam Sarah Mwesigwa, our former Director of Studies. We were also blessed with new teachers: Mariam Naulas- teaching history and Kabweru Samuel teaching entrepreneurship. We're looking forward to receiving the new S. 5's and therefore we need your prayers.*

We welcome the new year with some 5 new teachers (3 ladies and 2 men) added to our wonderful staff. Last year we parted with Lydia Namubyru, Walubo Paul and Madam Namumbia Christine- we were sad to no longer have them but are proud to announce that John Bosco has been promoted to replace Madme Christine as Deputy Head Teacher. Our S4 students did very well last year with 2 students making grade 1, we had 23 in grade 2, 33 in grade 3, and 23 in grade 4. Senior 6 results have not yet returned.

Marriage is in the air on our campus after Moses Alutia's marriage last year, his wife will soon join us at school as a nurse for the students. Choga Henry will wed on 7th March, and Opio J.V. weds in April. We love having visitors and alumni coming back to be with us, It gives us encouragement and inspires us to continue the work.

The History... Youth Corps began in 2000 as a way for our CLA graduates to live in community with disadvantaged children - acting as mentors and developing their leadership potential. The first home began in Kibuli then shifted to Bukessa with Caleb Rukundo and William Bukenya as mentors supported by Philip Ojok. As the program grew and we added more homes - Bukenya and Caleb took over the coordinating responsibilities. Other mentors at this time included Vincent Lumago, Deogratias Byarugaba, Luke Kavuma, Stephen Lumumba ...among others. Peter Ssegembe joined in 2004

to support the student sponsorship program. In 2005 Bukenya left to pursue other opportunities and Caleb moved on to Rwanda to supported the beginning of our Youth Corps home there. Muyomba Godfrey took over as coordinator from 2005-6. In 2007 we had 7 homes in Uganda (Kibuli, Bukessa, Makerere, Ntinda, Mengo, Lira girls and Gulu girls) and one home in Rwanda - Charles Mugabi took over the coordination responsibilities for Uganda, with the help of David Laker in the north, before he(Laker) moved on to work with Restore. Today Eric Kreutter, Simon Kabi, and Philip Ojok help in coordinating homes internationally.

Youth Corps Homes

The life together

HALO Home

We thank God for the beautiful house for vulnerable girls that began as the Halo Home in December of 2008. We are a group of 3 mentors (Florence, Brenda, and our head- Miriam,) living together with 8 girls. The first few weeks in our home were spent planning, organizing and praying for the group of girls we would bring in. Then we began visiting areas in Kampala to develop relationships with these girls. At first we brought in just three but once they had settled we added another five. Several of our

girls now have started attending either primary or secondary school. Those who can't go back to school will start vocational training in April or May- depending on the opportunities available for them.

We have discipleship lessons on Wednesday and Saturday evenings. Through out the week we also read together, pray together and sing worship songs. The girls have gotten involved in a local church and in activities hosted there. The pastor has even invited the girls to his home for dinner.



Miriam Florence Brenda

We thank all of you who have visited the home and welcome all who soon shall. You have given us confidence and inspiration. God has been so faithful in his provisions and we pray that the Lord will enable us to help the girls transform into women of faith and noble character- the way God created them! - Florence

Ntinda Home

In many regards we saw last year as a great success and witnessed a lot of transformation in our young girls. All of them passed their classes, many with very high marks. Several girls became more involved in our community by joining church choirs or cultural dancing groups. We also received a number of visitors who encouraged and inspired us in many ways. At the beginning of the New Year, 4 of



Joselyn Addrine Agnes Lydia Moureen

our girls graduated out of our home- Ruth, Julie, Lydia, and Natasha. We are in the process of filling their shoes. We also welcomed Moureen and Lydia- 2 CLA grads, as new mentors into our home, making us 5 in total.

To all our visitors who came around last year- we are still in the same location! You know where to find us! We appreciate your presence, encouragement, comments, gifts, and time spent with us. Our doors are open to all! -Addrine

Bukesa Home

Bukesa home is doing well, moving forward each day by the power of Gods love! We are excited to see our home growing. 5 of our boys have completed university and tertiary institutions and are planning to take on the new challenge of life on their own outside the home. With the available vacancy, we welcomed 8 new boys into our home from Kibuli. Our place is looking vibrant and promising as all the kids have gotten sponsorships for school

and will start this week. We also welcomed a CLA grad Sam Kimuda as our 4th mentor in the home. We have been continually blessed by friends of Bukessa and by visitors coming through our doors. The legacy of Leah and Ellen has left us with improved health standards and most especially safe drinking water. Their ambassador Wilter, our health inspector, has continued to be a great support. She



Counselor Denis Benon Sam

has helped us re-construct our kitchen and the boys no longer have a difficult time finding a place to cook when it rains. We are very hopeful for the year ahead and pray that Jesus reveals himself more and more with each day that we strive after him. - Daniel Bennon

Kibuli Home

We thank God for the gift of life we have been given. The New Year has begun with wonderful developments in Kibuli- several of the boys are very excited that they got sponsorship to go back to school. Many had lost hope as they have been out of school for several years.

Last year in December, several of the boys were able to go back to their villages to reconnect with their relatives. Wonderful testimonies have been relayed from them regarding the transformation this experience caused in their lives. We usually use the holiday period to send boys back for small amounts of time to develop these

kinds of relationships with their extended families. Mentors also utilized this time to reflect and refresh on their work so that with renewed energy they can get started in the new year with full momentum.

As mentors, we are challenged to check in on our own lives and the progress we have made. The boys have honestly taught us many things during the time we have stayed together and lived as brothers. We are not the same now in terms of behavior, character or attitude compared to the way we came into the program.



Babu

Sam

Paul

Denis

Glory be to God for giving us this chance to train in preparation for bigger responsibilities ahead of us. Finally, we are so grateful for the larger body of friends in Christ that has helped in supporting this program. Great impact is seen physically and felt in invisible ways in the lives of all the young men involved. The home is doing well and the kids are happy with all that they benefit from this work. -Babu

Mengo Home

I am glad to share with you what we are going through as a home and give you a few highlights. The home has a total number of 18 girls. Most of them traveled up country to visit their relatives or villages during the holidays. We do this to help them reconcile with whatever family they have left, in hope that they will eventually be a positive influence and beneficial presence in their villages. Those who have no living relatives remained here in the home with us.



Esther

Alen

Josephine

Emily

At the beginning of the year Aunt Florence moved out of our home to help support the creation of new home

for young women - HALO Girls. She was replaced by a graduate from CLA- Hellen. We also welcomed 3 new girls into our home- Ester, Rehema, and Juliet, who came from a collapsed orphanage in Nansana.

We continue to appreciate and welcome all visitors who have made it a point to come and visit our home. Your positive contribution can never be taken for granted because of the love you give us. Thank you everyone for your various contributions and may this new year find you blessed. - Esther



Some of the HALO girls

Makerere Home

In each of the years that pass, we give God the glory for his mighty protection and for his provisions. A highlight of recent times here at Makerere Home was our Christmas Bash. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Courtney and Wayland for the party they hosted for us at the Botanical Gardens. It was marvelous and will remain in the minds of many of our kids especially Wako Brian who really revealed his eating abilities that day. Brian dominated the competition presented by other

homes to win the food eating competition and won a t-shirt. We are proud of our young man!

At the beginning of the year our dear uncle Allan graduated out of the home to take up more responsibilities at the Cornerstone head office. We thank God for the distinguished work he invested in the home during his stay with us. We received a young CLA graduate mentor in his place, Charles Labalpinny.

Our boys did well in school last year and several will begin secondary this



Justin

Alan

Sula

year. One of the homes New Years resolutions is regarding our paint. We would really like to see our house repainted this year. We also are looking forward to more community service projects, more focus on precept sharing and guidance for the boys. Please stand with us in prayer as we look forward to the year ahead. -Sula

Gulu boys/girls Homes

First of all we are thankful to God, our Cornerstone family and all the friends who listened to our prayers and made us enter a new year in a glorious way. We began the New Year with the boys shifting locations and moving to a new building with enough room for the mentors, kids and visitors. The old boys home was a bit small and could not accommodate visitors, so we are very grateful to accept all without fear! There are currently 15 boys in the home- 13 primary, 1 secondary and 2 in vocational training. The boys are grateful to be in the home because initially they had no hope for education, but now they are at school, and they are living in a loving home, where every one is treated equally without discrimination from the mentors.

Okeny Francais and Okello Jonny,

were former child soldiers of the Lord Resistance Army who had bad experiences from life in the bush such as killing, torture and agony. Because they grew up without fear of killing other human beings, they viewed this behavior as normal life. Okeny today dreams of becoming a member of parliament in Pader district when he is through with school. He is currently a student in senior two. I am so grateful about him because a dramatic change is taking place in him, because back when he joined the home he had no dream of this kind, he used to bit his friends and stayed alone not talking much, but now he is a man of people and a man of integrity who can make a good leader in future.

Okello Jonny is also another guy with a strong ambition and determination of becoming one of the top right guys



Titus

Francis

Angelina

in Gulu given 5-10 years. He began his path to success by joining a tailoring school, from where he hopes to open a business. It is unfortunate that he is not loved by his relatives at home. When he was a child soldier his superiors forced him to kill his father and his extended family has not forgiven him for this yet. We hope and pray that as he grows he will be able to mend the broken relationship he has at home.

The girls are also doing well, still in the same house they have been and welcoming all visitors! May you all be blessed.

Lira boys/girls Homes

Lira home brings you greetings in the name of Jesus Christ and we also wish our cornerstone family members and friends a successful New Year 2009. The Lira home is a project of Cornerstone Development, set up with the aim of providing a loving home for the homeless children here. This home was particularly set up on realization that there was drastic rise in the number of street kids that emerged as a result of the northern insurgency of the Lords Resistance Army. The homes now comprise of a girls and a boys house. The program in Lira started with the girl's house in 2006 and shortly later, the boys section was opened up. The two homes which are currently hosting 17 girls and 11 boys within the age limit of 9-18 years are situated in the same courtyard/ compound though in different houses.

We are so grateful for the providence that God has given to us- from the time the homes were opened, and thru all the challenges we have faced,

out closing. It not by our power or strength that we have done this but it is all God, through his servants, who he uses to channel the finances and the skills, knowledge that is passed on to his children (beneficiaries). We also extend our appreciation to our friends who have always endeavored helping us with the finances in support of the lira youth corps family, we pray that God may bless you for the kind heart that you have and protect you from the hands of your enemies.

One thing God has blessed lira home with is the good performance of our children in school. In fact one of our boys Obote Oscar Peter emerged the best in his primary school. The girls also did quite well with some emerging among the best despite the general poor performance by kids all over the region. The challenge we are now faced with is that these young boys and girls are beginning to realize their purpose and vision in life but we experience financial constraint that limits us from giving them all the necessary support. We try our best to link them to other organizations



Eunice

Ambrose

that also support child education and most of our children are reporting back for school this year. God has always been so faithful to us and has provided six of our boys, whom we have reintegrated, with finances to go back to school.

We look forward to recruiting some new children- three girls have already joined us and possibly a few more may soon. We re-united the graduates with their families, and we still continue extending support to them so as to help them carry on with their endeavors for life. Two new mentors joined us this term: Susan and Thomas. We are very grateful for them because they came at the time when we needed to be rejuvenated and there is a synergy now that is good us and the children.

Susan, Eunice, Thomas and Ambrose Loves you all!!!

Burundi- Bujumbura Home



Benard

First and foremost I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of you who are behind this program for the opportunity I had to be part of this home over my Christmas holidays. My name is Godfrey Nzirimu from Cornerstones Ekitangaala Secondary School in Uganda. Burundi is close to my heart because my grandparents left the country in the early 1970s due to ethnic conflicts and migrated to Uganda where I came to be born and grown up. This was my first time to return back to Burundi, my home country, and I was excited that I would have an opportunity to visit some of my old family members in the village. After spending 4 days with them in the village I came back to Mentoring Home, where I spend almost one month with the young men there. My experience in the home was great - continuous interactions, praying together and sharing with each other our lives. One of the guys comes from D.R Congo and shared with me his prison life in Kisangani

during the 1999 war in eastern Congo. He was tortured for two years and God rescued him through Red CROSS international from an army truck which was transporting them to be killed. He has managed to reach Bujumbura where he is currently in university. It is a blessing from God that he is a part of this home.

One thing I noticed is that that these guys are thankful for this program because life was hard for them in the city. They are proud of the character development and discipleship material that is opening their minds and creating an environment of hope and reconciliation across divisions of their ethnic backgrounds. My contribution here has been mainly in encouraging the boys who seem to be divided and have lost hope, because of war and ethnic conflict. I have encouraged them that despite their past they can succeed in life if they remain focused and principled.

I have learnt a lot about relating with people from different cultural and religious backgrounds. My prayer is that God continues to expand this work because there are many here who need it. May God bless you and bless Burundi.

Tanzania- Dar Home

Greetings to you all, I hope everything is well. We are all fine and staying together happily here in Tanzania. All our guys are back from holidays and Dar University has reopened after being closed because from strikes. We continue to experience tremendous progress in our relationships with each other, God has kept us together as we try to become better people. Each day has been an opportunity for us to learn a new thing and learn what it really means when Jesus asks us to "Love God and Love our Neighbors as ourselves". We are discovering each day the excitement of giving our lives



Peter

Isaac

to follow a Leader that will not fail us. On a personal note, ever since I became acquainted with focusing on these teachings/principles of Jesus - my life has completely changed. My fellowship with God and fellow friends has been greatly enhanced as I learn how to live in the word of God. Thank you all so much who are supporting us in one way or another! -Peter

Rwanda- Kigali Home

Greetings from the Kigali Youth Corps Family. We are grateful to God for the opportunity to live in the youth corps family. There are 10 guys in the home who are well built in character and have a passion for serving God and their communities.

We have daily fellowship in order to keep the love of Jesus reigning in our lives and also discovering the call of God in our lives. All the young men in the home take part in fellowship and many days, because of our various schedules, that requires meeting at 5am!

Discipleship is the core of our success as a home. This is where we share the principles, precepts and person of Jesus and share together our understandings of them. In January we shared the 7 habits of Highly effective people, which was great to get a broader sense of how the simple teachings of Jesus can transcend all walks of life and lead people to success.

We have been involved in impacting those around us through community service. Every month in Rwanda we have day that the whole nation dedicates to community service. Most people use this as an excuse to not work for a day, but the guys in our home have embraced this opportunity to contribute to our larger vision of community. We are so very grateful for being given this opportunity to stay together as brothers.

-WILLIAM CHINUNU

Sudan- Juba Home

I am very grateful to God for putting me in this position of honor. Our home is a simple place, with no plumbing or electricity but it is amazing what transformation occurs here in the young men! On Saturday and Sunday at noon share from the character development program and every evening at 6:00 we share in counseling/guidance in all aspects of life. Currently involved in our program are 4 boys who live in the home and 5 who live nearby. This is only the core group however, because as the relationships continue the boys intro-



Charles

Gita

duce us their friends and this makes a great impact in the community. Our small group is represented by all the corners of Southern Sudan: Torit, Yambio, Koji-Keji, and Bar-al-zal Region. Because of the intense tribal differences in Sudan, our vision for this year is to live a life of difference our the community through: Loving and caring for one another and demonstrating service to our community. - Gita

Cornerstone

Newsletter Pictorial

A LOOK BACK IN TIME...



The longest snake! A 16 foot python shot on the ranch



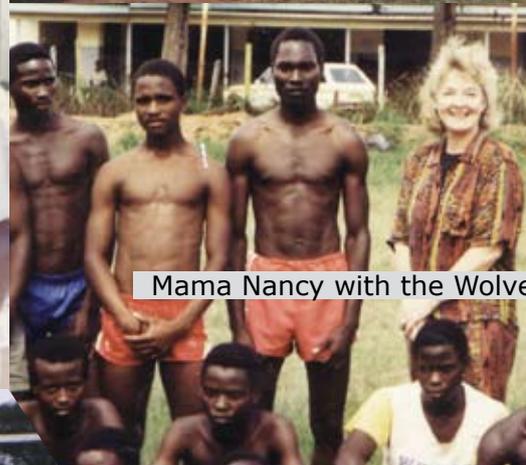
The first cornerstones
Wolves F.C. home



The first students arrive on CLA campus!



Presidential helicopter lands
at the cottages on the ranch



Mama Nancy with the Wolves



First staff retreat at ranch

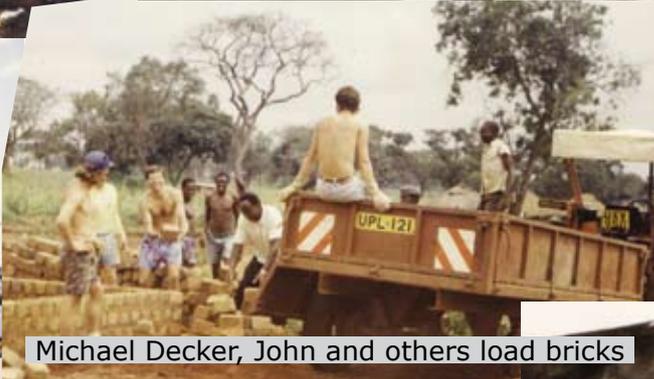


Ranch visit with D

Construction crew arrives at the ranch-
headed by Joseph Nambombi! (far left)



Construction of CLA Boys



Michael Decker, John and others load bricks



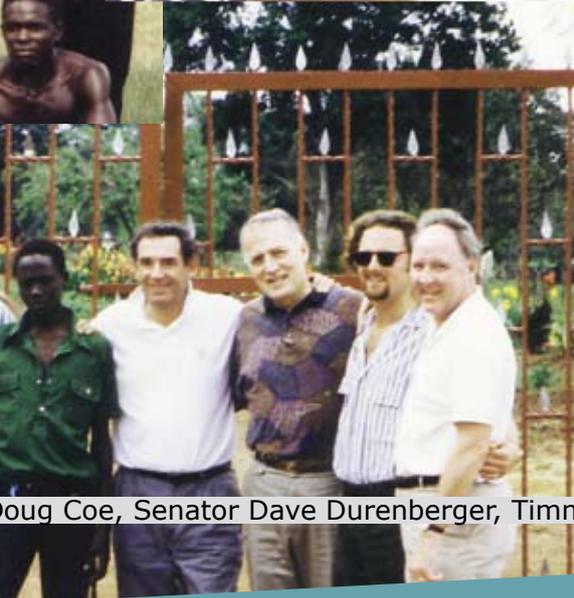
FINISHED!



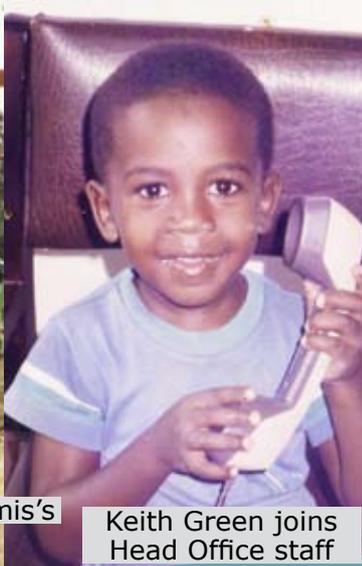
Betty on Ranch radio - do you copy? Over.



Mzee Michael Timmis visits the first CLA class



Doug Coe, Senator Dave Durenberger, Timmis's



Keith Green joins
Head Office staff



President Museveni with
Eric & Jess at CLA Boys opening

A Family of Friends!

COSA Updates by Alfred Edakasi, Henry Kigozi and Mbaziira Josephats

OUR COSA HERITAGE

Edakasi Alfred - Chairman COSA



Alfred

In 1997 the idea to create a movement out the former students of CLA came as a revolutionary concept. In an effort to meet everyone's expectations, this idea has gone through the furnace of fire - tried, debated and tried again. Over the years, their have been some with different visions of how it should look and what purpose it should serve. But this group is not mastered by any one individual, it is made up of many and what exists today is a product of all our collective contributions. In celebrating the 20 years of Cornerstone's work in Uganda, I wanted to remind us of the people who have contributed to make us what we are to date - this is our heritage.

Initially John Riordan and Tim Kreutter in the early years took time off each week to meet with us at our different University campuses. They labored to let us know of the power and influence we can have when young men commit themselves to each other in the power and spirit of Jesus of Nazareth.

What was the idea? The idea was the one of faith, hope built in love. It was first faith for the founders; it was faith that the three American brothers Mike Timmis Jr., John Riordan and Tim Kreutter coming from different parts of America

and from two different Christian backgrounds - Roman Catholic and Baptist could work together, it was both in hope and faith that they could bring ethnically conflicting Ugandan tribes together in their leadership.

And let me tell you it was even greater faith that it would happen in an environment of freedom. CLA, may be the only school where instead of rules and regulations - students are given principles to live by. This, brothers and sisters, is quite revolutionary. Management science is all about managing peoples' behavior and most prefer the easy, conventional approach of a strict, legal framework to satisfy individual rights and to punish offenders. And indeed there were times when my class and the pioneer class before mine demanded for School Rules. And, there were times when teachers were desperate to introduce school rules. These desperations were real and the need seemed real but in the end faith and love prevailed.

We learned to be true to ourselves without a law to guard us, we lived in harmony without a law to regulate it, we served each other without a law enforcer, we worked for hours without supervision, we entered class after admission without a contract. The teachers chose disciplinary measures not from the normal outlines of properly designed rules but from truly listening to each case. "Case by case" was the slogan. CLA became truly special in nature and completely transforming to those who were open to synergy. And for all this - we owe a lot to those heroes who from

the very beginning were willing to explore with us this unique approach: Paulo Lukwiya, Monica, Tim, Michael, John and Stone. It is on this legacy that our brotherhood and sisterhood is built.

As current chairman I also stand on the legacy that has been passed on to me by Moses Mumbya who was our first Papa (as he then loved to be called). David Mwesigwa then took on the mantle for a time, he wrote our constitution and got us registered status at the University. Brothers like Xavier Ejoyi, Charles Oligoi, Arocha Samuel, all took their time to serve the interests of the brotherhood ensuring that resources are made available for brothers and sisters to get the most cherished education. And lastly, thanks goes to my immediate predecessor - Fulukas Enyaga whose leadership helped us to face the new challenges in our times - the challenges of growth in numbers and interest.

Our mission is: To create a life long brotherhood & sisterhood of friends in Christ that will support each other in a movement of "men of integrity" and "women of virtue" within Uganda and beyond." The initiatives of a brotherhood and sisterhood or a community and a movement are similar - they all reiterate relationships over legal restrictions.

And as I see COSA through the eyes of CLA, I am convinced that we will stay true to our



Smiling & happy at a monthly COSA meeting

WANTED!

ALL CORNERSTONE
OLD STUDENTS
(ALUMNI)

APRIL 9-13TH 2009

FOR THE ANNUAL

COSA REUNION

AT
EKITANGAALA
RANCH

legacy - the way a few people with courage took the guts of putting back into the boxes the typical rules and regulations. We too can continue the revolutionary, higher calling of living by principles and within the trust born of committed relationships. This I admit is not easy but it is possible and it's what we need. Yet, in a movement we must try and bring everyone to the meeting of minds. And this is our challenge.

As I write this article the words of Mother Teresa *"We long to shine as the stars in the heavens at night, like the sun by day... yet our vocation - our true calling - is to burn, burn, burn like the candle - giving light to the our surrounding."* This reminds me of what COSA must focus on.

This also resonates with something that Judah Nsengiyumva repeatedly questioned in the initial years: Should we be focusing our energy on solving the national issues of corruptions, etc. or should we first focus on being the change we need to see in the world? I believe if we choose the less traveled road of 'doing the small things in big ways' - like investing in our relationships in their totality - then with time the bigger issues like corruption in our society will also be addressed.

Alistair Cooke said *'A professional is a man who can do his best at a time when he doesn't particularly feel like it'* To be fair

in a midst of unfairness, to be honest in the times when everyone eats out of corruption, to love your enemy when you have the opportunity to hate them is being a 'professional' at this highest calling humanity invites us to.

Bill Vaughan once said, *'An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in, a pessimist stays up to make sure the old one leaves.'* We brothers and sisters can learn "to see" the new way with the eyes of faith and the example of others in history shows it is possible.

Finally the idea of "Leadership." Leadership it was that we were called to at CLA. We were all envisioned to become leaders - leaders in bringing about that which is exceptional, like: leadership in reconciling not breaking, leadership in excellence in our service to others, leadership in creating the environment of good relationships (making relationship deposits and not withdrawals).

And, it's all about leading by example in service to others, not merely talking about grand things philosophically.

Therefore, as we focus on 2009, we should remember the foundational ideals we hold in common like: commitment to long-term relationships and intentionally cultivating them; hard work, commitment to excellence and continuous improvements - both at a personal level and corporately; leading ourselves first then influencing each other towards good deeds. And above all remembering what Paul wrote to the Galatians 5:22, with *'...love...there is no law.'* For love is the perfect fulfillment of all laws. That is what our heritage gave us: in our friendships with each other a brother/sisterhood; in hard work the gifts and fruits of our daily labor.

Cosa News

MARRIEDS FELLOWSHIP:

The fellowship we have together as married couples continues to grow from strength to strength with the women taking on more of an identity of its own. They have successfully organized several get togethers. Land has been bought and plans of the development of the community continue to grow with nine couples slotted in for the initial pilot phase.

BUSINESS FORUM:

by Kirabira Richard coordinator

The genesis of our business forum lies in the realization that COSA members had been doing fairly well in various fields of life (i.e. politically, socially, spiritually...) but economically we needed employment. So, we started with workshops which were attended by 40+ members in which we brought up issues to work on that would help us become more successful- the focus of which was in the area of drafting business plans.

We had a business plan competition with 18 members submitting their plans. A team of 5 members (Alfred Edakasi, Wayland & Courtney Cossey, Josh Smith and Richard Kirabira) worked to develop and fine tune them- and then 5 plans were selected to present to investors. From these 5, 3 were eventually funded by a group led by Doug Harris from U.S.A.

This is just this beginning and we encourage members to join and get started in small business as we seek funders. This is because it is easier to get funding if you are already in business than if you just have an idea.

Since we are still developing this forum, we encourage members give us any advice or ideas. We would like to thank the Wayland family and Josh Smith for the time and wisdom they have given to this group.

**CSTONE OLD STUDENTS :
CALENDER OF ACTIVITIES**

	March	April
COSA RETREAT		9 th - 13 th
Monthly meets	1 st 8 th	
Weekly Meets	15 th 22 nd 29 th	
Business	21 st	
NAV	12 th	
Marrieds	22 nd	
AYLF	7 th	
C&PAF	28 th	

PLEASE NOTE: 1. 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.
2. If you are a regional coordinator and would like to post your activities here please give them to the COSA head office.

CAMPUS FELLOWSHIPS

by Henry Kigozi

To date we are vibrant on the University and Collage campuses of Makerere, Kyambogo, Gulu, Mukono and Nsamizi - over the years we have had our ups and downs but we are still trying our best. In the last year with funding from some friends we were able to purchase 6 computers stationed at our Acacia offices for skills betterment. This is available for all the students to keep them safe we have some regulations. Also because of the initiatives around the Sorority House we have been helped to purchase a piece of land on which we hope to build a hostel for COSA.

The year 2008 was wound up in a fabulous style as many of our members within Kampala joined our students from various universities and work places around town to just enjoy the company of the movement in a dinner setting. Close to 250 people attended this first Annual Dinner at the Head Office and the Chief Guest Mr. Pascaal Freeman in his speech made reflections to our own Principle of having a "PURPOSE AND SENSE OF DIRECTION" as well as the habit of "BEGINNING WITH THE END IN

MIND." He cautioned people not to just celebrate walking through the year, but to evaluate ourselves periodically to see whether we are actually achieving our wonderful annual plans we always set to achieve.

INTERNSHIPS

by Josephats Mbaziira

The Internship program is an in-depth practical way in which Cornerstone is equipping her recent graduates to attain meaningful professional growth and make impact in organizations around Uganda and the region. This program is providing the end product to fulfil the reason for Cornerstone's existance: Servant Leadership Development.

Our Mission Statement is: *"To facilitate the career employment of our graduates through use of short term internship program."* and the Vision of the program is that: *"All our serious and qualified COSA university graduates are able to find career type employment with in one year of leaving university."*

We started in September 2006 with just two interns Opio Linos and Vuchiri Joseph. We then soon went on with another group of five and... on and on.

Since that time we have had 33 of our people as interns and then as employees in various Parastatals, Companies, Government Ministries and Organizations. Among them: The Ministry of Finance, Uganda Investment Authority, Land O'lakes, Red Cross International, Kampala Evangelical School of Theology, Uganda Wild Life Authority, Invisible Children, Plan International, Uganda Change Agent Association, Dynapharm Uganda Limited, Nature Uganda, Achilles Uganda, World Vision Uganda. Standard Chartered Bank Uganda, Makerere University, Eco nation, Uganda Heritage Roots, among others. Out of the 33 there are 24 that have since gained

full-time employment and the rest either part-time or still searching.

The program now focuses mainly on finding jobs for members through the networks we have at Cornerstone, and providing trainings in the form of seminars and workshops. Other initiatives include: on the job training for those in placements, counseling for those in leadership position, seminars on team work and administrative skills done by professionals in Public and Private sector.

We are currently organizing trainings targeting the young women since we are having the first class of the women graduate from university this year.

We thank God and all the people who have supported us in every way to see this program come to where it is today. In a special we would like to appreciate Art Reimers for his wisdom and financial support which have greatly enabled this work to go on.

PERSONAL UPDATES:

Komakech Santos was involved in a motorcycle accident and was hospitalized for a month, but he is steadily improving. **Akampurira Annitah:** lost her Daddy. **Namatovu Grace** lost her Mum. **Asimwe Davis** lost his Mum. **Byagagaire Bernard** lost his brother Mr. Twehero (he used to work on the ranch). **Oligoi Charles** lost a sister.

Some further developments: **Asimwe Wilson** got a scholarship and is now in Malawi for the first part of the studies. **Tabu Ronald** is in the process of moving jobs from Med Air to GOAL in Pader. **Ojok Nelson** is also moving jobs to Micro Finance Limited. **Peter Kibirango** is moving from Kabale to Masaka.

Wedding bells are also ringing for **Kasaka Johnson**, **Mbazira James**, **Kyoga Henry**. And **Dema Peter** is planning to be introduced.

Hope restores & reassures

By ELUKU Michael

I begin with a lovely quote that keeps me going:

"... the hope of glory that we have within us is - that time is marching towards a moment when every knee will bow before the beauty of the One who has saved our souls. This is the culmination of every longing we have ever known, the promise for every longing we have ever know, the promise for every death we have endured, the wonder that wakes us each morning with expectation and yes, hope even amidst the darkest hours of our humanity . Because Jesus is our destiny, once we taste of Him, the hope of glory that lies ahead becomes for us the real life"

(Tricia Rhodes)

Looking back to years that I was in CLA spending two years undergoing different teaching and discovering new things - I am filled with hope to know that the future holds much for us. During that time, I met several friends which have counted a lot in my life. We were presented with the opportunity to know Jesus more and the choice still remained on us whether to reject him or accept him.

CS Lewis said, "You must make a choice, either this man was and is the son of God or else a mad man or some thing worse. You can shut out him for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon; or you can fall at his feet and call him lord and God."

I made up my mind to fall at His feet and call him Lord and God of my life, and that alone restored and reassures

me - that gives me hope. I am currently involved with student ministry in northern Uganda and my heart is fulfilled when I see the lives of this student challenged through my involvement with them. I also find that I am strategically located to influence this nation because these students are very key in bringing change to this nation.

Jesus has filled us with hope as a family of friends, we may not be able to achieve all that we want to see happen in this world in a few days, weeks, months or years but I am certain that when we remain in Him it will come to pass. I am inspired whenever I think of the great work we are called to do. Friends, it might take us long but we are on course. We now have friends and family spread all over the country and this trend is only growing.

To update you on our COSA chapter in the north, especially in Lira and Gulu - we have continuously met monthly to encourage, pray, visit, and support one another. Our meetings occur in individual's homes and this has given us the opportunity to know each other better. Sometimes we meet at the Youth Corps homes and we have felt that those kids are part of our lives. The members have constantly gone to the home to visit and pray with the kids and the mentors and this has been a great encouragement.

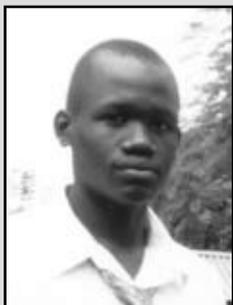
Towards the end of 2008, there was alot of marriage talk- it seems that our bachelors are continuously becoming uncomfortable with their state and so early this year, 10th Jan 2009, Opira Alex opened the way by introducing his wife in Pader and we hope that many more are yet to come (including me!) Enanga Charles also added to our number with a baby girl. A new member joined our community towards the end of the 2008 -Ojara who is currently working UML Lira branch.

We are filled with hope and have continued to search and know Christ not only to deploy him on a Sunday in our churches to cheer us up, give us new vigor and vision, but to live for him daily and seek to know him. That is what I have continuously challenged my friends to do and to know that Christ should be in charge in all our struggles. Just like J. R.W. Stott says, "The riches of Christ are unsearchable (Eph 3:8), like the earth, they are to vast to explore, like the sea too deep to fathom. They are untraceable, inexhaustible, illimitable, inscrutable and incalculatable. What is certain about the wealth Christ has given is that we shall never come to an end of it " .

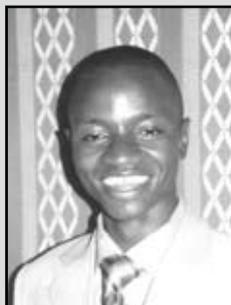
Friends.. Hope Never runs Dry.. Let's keep keeping on!

In Loving Memory

Our brothers passed on November 29th, 2008



CONRAD
ALIGA



STEVEN
OKIROR



THOMAS
BALTAZAR

We sadly announce the passing of our dear brothers Conrad, Thomas and Steven... they were loved and shall be missed by all in our community. They passed on to glory after a road accident at the end of last year. Thank you Conrad, Thomas and Steven for the love and life you shared while you were with us.

Cornerstone Projects

The Wolves Soccer Club



Early wolves FC - 1992

As we are looking back over the last 20 years - we can remember that The Wolves Soccer program was one of our first programs which began in 1990. As an inner city sports outreach, soccer serves as a magnet to draw idle young men off the streets and into a program that leads toward personal transformation. Through the mentorship of Stone Kyambade and others young men become proactive and productive men in society. Wolves began as a fairly informal gathering of market boys who came together to play soccer and enjoy themselves. John and Michael started playing with them and helping them with the balls, etc. But soon they wanted to develop a serious training program so that they could become semi-professional players in the Kampala City Football League. A few of them knew a former professional called Stone and asked him to become the Wolves Coach.

Stone wanted to be more than a coach to these boys but also a mentor. And so he gradually built up a family-like culture as been created where every year the guys in the program learn to relate to each other in the spirit of unconditional love based on the teachings of Jesus - as about half of the boys are from Muslim backgrounds and the other half are from Christian backgrounds. When financial support is available we are able to create opportunities for the boys to learn work skills that they could use later on in life. For instance through small funding groups like Trickle-Up some of the boys received small business loans- assisting their transition into the real world. In 2004 we were able to build a clubhouse for the teams. This is a place where they are able to hang out after hours- it keeps them together and out of trouble. In the clubhouse there is a small residential room, a kitchen, a weight room and a main hall. The group of young men interested in football now had grown steadily to where we now have several Wolves teams of different age and ability brackets playing other teams around town. We currently have 5 teams, 2 teams in 1st division, and 3 teams in 2nd division,



Stone

Musa

the total number of boys coming for training throughout the weeks can be as high as 300.

The boys who mature into talented players are picked up by various Super Division teams, where they earn a professional salary. Others who aren't able to make a living in football move on in life to develop respectable lives and healthy families. While in the program we teach the boys team work, positive competition, integrity, kindness, love, patience, forgiveness, hard work, and the value of honoring parents, among others. The old players and graduates of Wolves meet together every month to encourage each other and share their experiences as they grow in their respective directions and take on new exciting responsibilities.

Our key to success, which has never changed as the program grew throughout the years, is that Love is our true foundation. I have never withdrawn my love for the boys, and because of that they learn to love each other despite their ethnic differences and religious background - so we continue to grow.

The Widows Program

In late-2005, a small group of widows began meeting in Lugogo Baptist church. Pauline and Joyce led the group, sharing together about Jesus and the world of God. In 2006 Pauline left the group and was replaced by an American lady- Carrie Miller. Carrie, who is back in the U.S. at the moment, has helped get sponsors for some of the widows children. The widows make crafts- paper beads, and handbags to sustain themselves. The group has since grown in to two

groups- the original one at Lugogo and a new one in St. Peters church Naguru. It is a great support group for women who would otherwise be on their own. Last year the land was purchased for the landless widows to build their houses on and the vision for this year is to begin constructing some of the homes. Carrie will be in the United States until June trying to raise money for the construction of the homes. The widows who will be resettled are visiting the land and it may be possible for some of them to begin their gardens.



Joyce

Carrie

The widows continue to meet twice a week for fellowship. Generally they are encouraged and thankful that some of their children have been sponsored to go to school. They also continuing to get orders for the beads they make which are sold to generate income.

The Ekitangaala Ranch



Gesa and Son

The ranch began in 1989 with about 100 long horned Ankole cows, on an unfenced bush land of 2.5 square mile. David Kamukama, Moses Issoba and Stephen Ssenyonga all played a part in its development over the years. At first it was mainly a beef cattle operation but with the introduction of Friesen bulls

the herd has gradually developed toward dairy production. Currently Stephen Gesa is the Ranch Manager with a staff of about 35 workers including looking after 500 ani-

mals. One of the long serving staff members is a Cstone Old Boy - Michael Okiriya.

The period from December to March is the dry season so we are spending a lot of time working on keeping our perimeter fences strong to keep our ranch members (the cows) from moving out in search of greener pastures.

Our milk production had dipped down a bit in the past few months due to the reduced rainfall but in February it started to rise again with some earlier than normal rain.

For 2009 our goal this year is to reach production of at least 700 liters of milk per day and to sell it in Kampala at the price of 500/- shillings per liter. And for the live-stock we want to raise at least 30 bullocks at the cost of 600,000/- Shs. each and will have at least 25 steers at the cost of 500,000/- Shs each.

Ekitangaala Primary School

Ours is the first and oldest of the Cornerstone schools - from our humble beginnings in 1990 when we just had a few primary school classes. With the arrival of Wayne and Mary Daniels - African Children Mission, the school began expanding rapidly in numbers and to the full complement of 7 years of Primary (Elementary).

The current Headmaster Simon Okwera has played a long term role in leading the school with his gentle parental touch towards the young souls entrusted to him. One of the 'cornerstones' of the school has been Mad-am Jovia Ayo - who has been on staff for many years.

Simon reports: We started this year with a new classroom block to help accommodate our over 600 stu-

dents that have returned so far for the semester. This is a huge blessing as we have been very crammed in our current facilities, and the new block will serve our P.3 students who now number around 100. We look forward to developing our current solar capabilities so that the students can benefit from electricity.

This year we also added 2 more female staff to our roster as our crew was a little heavily weighted on the male side. This will give some of our girl students a chance to have more positive role models in their lives.

Our vision as a school for the year ahead is to improve our teaching and mentoring of the character development studies in a 'child by child' manner. We also want to develop our efforts towards achieving academic excellence - even though we admit students who come from poor schooling backgrounds.

Ranch construction

The Ekitangaala ranch community continues to grow! We are currently working on construction of a large community hall that will accomodate up to 600 people. The facility will have a stage and rooms behind, it will aslo have a balcony on the second floor for extra seating capacity. Completion is expected by the end of the year. Also recently constructed nearby is a new house for the EKT SS headmaster, and cooking facility for the school. The primary school has also expanded in addition to the new dorms, chapel and kitchen built last year, we have just completed a new class room block for the students who are too many for the existing classrooms!

NEW DEVELOPMENTS



New community hall being built on the ranch

Dorcus home- Kampala



Sentongo

Peter

An orphanage in Nansana area of Kampala recently colapsed due to bad/corrupt management. We had been following the case for quite a while as several of our friends(Chris West and Kami Coy) were involved and once the director ran out leaving the kids helpless and vulnerable, we decided, with the support of our friends, to step in. The kids are currently in a temporary home as we decide the best way to deal with the situation, 2 of our mentors (recent graduates from CLA- Sentongo and Peter) are living with them and monitoring the situation. Michi has been an angel and is coordinating from the office.

Cornerstone's Long Range Strategic Vision

"Developing the Cornerstones of Africa's Next Generation"

With our strategic planning process we have sought to clarify our long range strategic vision and the integration of all our various initiatives as Cornerstone Development. These initiatives include the Youth Corps, African Youth Leadership Forum, Prayer Breakfast Fellowships, the Cornerstone Leadership Academies, the Ekitangalla Schools and other schools that we are supporting.

The underlying foundation of all we are doing is simply to promote in the people and societies of this region - the values embodied in Jesus' conception of the "Kingdom of God coming on earth." These are values such as harmony, reconciliation, unity, order, justice, wholeness and personal transformation - that leads to social transformation.

• Our Core Focus:

We are raising up a movement of young servant leaders - men of integrity and women of virtue. They are taking positions of influence within all sectors of society while maintaining life-long brotherhood and sisterhood with each other, in the spirit of Jesus - across all ethnic and religious divisions.

• The Character Qualities we Champion:

A genuine commitment to the central teachings and character qualities exemplified by Jesus including:

1. Being ambassadors of reconciliation across all that is dividing humanity
2. Maintaining high moral integrity
3. Portraying Servant leadership
4. Being resourceful and hard working
5. Commitment to excellence
6. Balance in all spheres of life
7. Covenant relationship with a few others
8. Practicing spiritual disciplines of prayer, study, fellowship and service/witness.

• Our Core Values:

The core values flow out of what Jesus called - the sum of all the law and the prophets:

First: *To love God with all your heart, mind and soul.* This is a personal dedication to grow in the knowledge, love and likeness of God. It implies, a love of life as a gift from God and a desire to make one's life count for something in the eternal scheme of things.

Secondly, *To love your neighbor as your self.* This implies an understanding of the Brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God. The distinguishing sign of the followers of Jesus is love for one another. It leads to working for unity across the dividing lines of faith and culture. It also leads to compassion for the least, the last and the lost.

• Our Organizational Culture:

The broadest aspect of our vision involves a world-wide *family of friends* - who find common ground in the message and ideas of Jesus. We look beyond race, tribe, religious or political affiliation and recognizing each other first as brothers and sisters. We do not view relationships as a temporary convenience but seek to maintain a life long commitment to love and support each other.

• Three Stages of our Work:

1. First Stage - Maintaining the life-transforming learning environments of our programs that serve as the entry points into the movement. We bring young people into loving, family-like environments combined with teachings leading toward individual - spiritual transformation. This takes place in conjunction with equipping them with formal education, leadership principles and life skills. The majority of these young people are in our schools which combine a top-quality academic curriculum with an in-depth discipleship curriculum based on the principles, precepts and person of Jesus.

2. Second Stage - Supporting our young people as they go on to higher education after high school to stay together and also assisting them with career development initiatives to get them into key positions within society.

3. Third Stage - Maintaining fellowship/support groups for career people to walk through life committed to the relationships and principles we hold in common. As the young people that come up through the Youth Corps Programs, Student Leadership Work on Universities, the Leadership Academies and other programs become productive members of society we will integrate them with the world-wide 'Prayer Breakfast' Fellowship movement that shares our values.

• Future Expansion:

The Leadership Academies, Youth Corps programs and Student Leadership Work is spreading to our neighboring countries. At the moment we have programs or friends in Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania, Sudan, South Africa and Burundi who are partners in this vision.

• Strategic Planning Process:

We continue to strategically orientate our programs, staff, time and resources towards our core focus of *Youth Leadership Development* - as follows:

Stage One Objectives:

Molding the Young People fulltime under our Care:

1. Ensure that all the staff understands the philosophy and vision - through proper orientation procedures.
2. Ensure that the programs are producing the required transformation in the students.
3. Provide adequate facilities and opportunities to support the spiritual transformation process.
4. Maintain high standards of academic excellence

Stage Two Objectives:

Developing further those in the Transitional Period of Higher Education & Internships.

1. Ensure that as many of young people get University education
2. Support those who can take up positions of leadership while at campus

3. Ensure that they are meeting together regularly while at campus.
4. Support communal accommodation for college/university students.
5. Career Development Seminars
6. Employment Seminars
7. Internships
8. Development of the African Youth Leadership Forum to influence peers
9. Generally, support them to secure employment, get married and to navigate through major challenges in life.

Stage Three Objectives:

Supporting our members as they take up Careers - to exert Leadership throughout Society in the field of their choice.

1. Support the vision of positive influence in all areas of society:

a. Influencing the political arena - democracy, good governance, friendly foreign relations

b. Influencing the economic sector - through development, elimination of corruption, job creation

c. Influencing the academic institutions - character development

d. Influencing the judicial systems - human rights, real justice, law enforcement

e. Influencing the social structures - stable families, promotion of charitable and development organizations

f. Influencing the religious institutions - unity and tolerance across denominations and other faiths, depth of teaching on essentials of loving God and loving our neighbors

g. Influencing the 'cultural elite' - music, film, sports, arts and other media and entertainment

2. Support meetings of career people and leaders - in weekly fellowship groups around the person, precepts and principles of Jesus.

3. Link up with existing Godly leaders throughout Africa who are affiliated with the National Prayer Breakfast and help them advance the vision of mentoring young people.

4. Identify and influence other initiatives that operate with similar 'Kingdom values' toward greater cooperation and acceptance of one another.

(CONTINUED FROM COSA UPDATES)



AYLF By Allan Byarugaba

This year comes to us at AYLF with great opportunities. The month of January saw us having a breakfast meeting to discuss what we will be focusing on this year. The plan is to establish functioning campus groups in Makerere University, KIU, Kyambogo and Uganda Christian University Mukono. To emphasize to our core campus group leaders the whole philosophy of AYLF we held an informative seminar that turned out very successful. At this seminar we planned and resolved to launch Uganda Christian University Mukono AYLF branch- which we did on 14th Feb 2009. The occasion was graced by the Director of student affairs who commended the importance of such a movement in their university since they had had leadership problems in the previous guild.

Alfred Edakasi gave a speech highlighting the vision and mission of AYLF. He also showed a documentary about Benazir Bhutto and Sister Margaret from Burundi as a point of

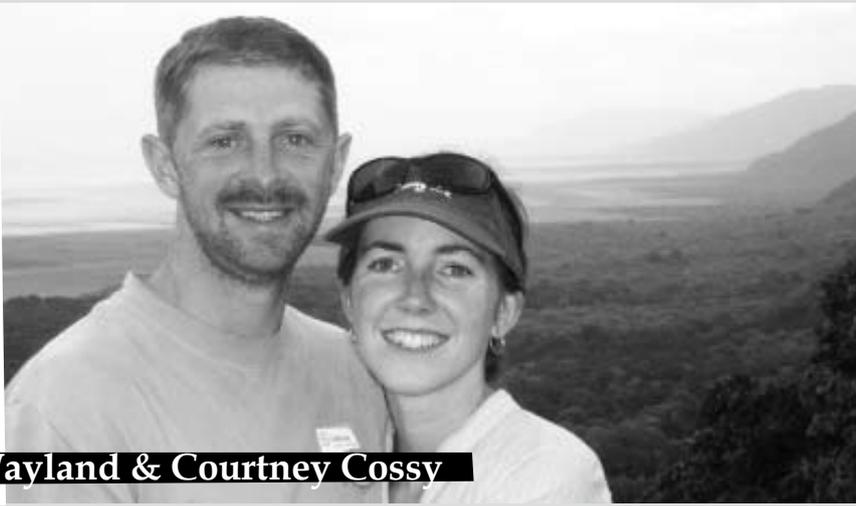
emphasizing the importance of reconciliation across all divides. It was a very successful launch. We wish to thank the Coordinating Committee for UCU, Michael Omara and Katushabe Naomi who have shown great leadership there. We are looking at launching more of these branches at other campuses.

In February, Peter Nkayagwa, our coordinator for the Tanzania chapter was in Uganda and met some members of the coordinating committee. He was also part of the seminar that took place in January. We encouraged him to keep up the work he is doing.

Allan, one of the members of the coordinating committee in Uganda was in Burundi and Rwanda visiting friends and some projects for Cornerstone. He visited our friends Bernard Niyonzima and Cohen Gahile and Samuel Birondwa of Burundi and Rwanda respectively. It was good to hear from them how our approach to leadership at AYLF can be of great importance in shaping the leadership of their countries.

Before the end of March, we will open up a blog for AYLF to increase and develop our networking. Do not miss our monthly breakfast meetings while you are in Kampala, every first Saturday of the monthly at 7:00am -9:30am.





Wayland & Courtney Cossy

Cornerstone has added two new members to the family over the last six months, Wayland and Courtney Cossey. Wayland left a job working for T-Mobile in the United States and Courtney will return to her job as a career and college counselor at a public high school in Seattle, WA. Courtney is an old veteran of Africa, having spent two years living in a village in Senegal and Wayland has traveled extensively in third world. The Cossey's will be with Cornerstone for a total of eight months and will leave shortly after the big COSA reunion in mid-April 2009.

Wayland has joined the ultimate frisbee community in Kampala, plays football (soccer) with The Wolves

headed by Stone, and has already mastered the complex art of driving in Kampala. Courtney is known for taking long walks early in the morning every day, for her love of the Ekitangala ranch and community, and is active in Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) in downtown Kampala with many Ugandan women. They recently returned from a trip where they successfully reached the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro, a "tall order" at 19,300 feet.

Beginning even before they got married three years ago, both agreed that they would take a year away from their jobs, family and lives in the US to serve Jesus in a foreign country. After much prayer and search-

ing, God connected the Cosseys to Cornerstone through a friend who visited Cornerstone for a short few days in 2007. After a long email dialogue with Tim, it was clear that their prayers would be answered and they would be coming to Uganda.

Since they have arrived, they have quickly assimilated into the Cornerstone family, participating in Married Couples Fellowships and even road tripping to Queen Elizabeth National Park with Phillip and Sarah Ojok and Daniel and Wilter Ololia. While here, they have focused on equipping Cornerstone students and graduates with the practical "life skills" necessary for CLA grads to truly become the future leaders of Africa. Besides writing a "life skills" addition to the character development/discipleship curriculum that will soon be taught at all the CLA's, the Cossey's have helped as part of the Business Forum, given workshops for CLA university students at Makerere University for over 80 people, and helped procure a computer lab in the Cornerstone office where they've taught introductory computer classes. We hope that God leads Wayland and Courtney to return to Uganda soon as they will be leaving in mid-April to travel and then return home to the United States.

...CONTINUED TEXT - (from back page) Tim's Article - THE PAST 20 YEARS

This emphasis on friendship was also strongly reflected in the nature of the partnership between John, Michael and myself - which could be simply characterized as: *'attempting to do something worthwhile with a few friends.'* And, I should add - to enjoy ourselves in the process - to have some fun while we were at it!

Humor and joy has always been a deliberate part of the Cornerstone culture: lots of laughter, enjoyment of one another's company and the occasional practical joke. Additionally, in all our programs we encourage the African traditional dancing and drumming which is a celebration of life. In a land where there has been much suffering, brutality and human tragedy - there can be a tendency to become perpetually somber and sorrowful. And it's not that we never feel these emotions in times of hardship, we do, but we don't let them dominate

us and make us depressed. So, when we laugh and celebrate life in spite of the hardships - we do so in recognition of the higher, transcendent Reality that *"All is well"* - God is in control and *'trials turn to gold'* when we live in this higher truth. Somehow beyond our present comprehension - everything belongs and works together for good. As Jesus put it, *'...in this world you will have tribulation - but be of good cheer - I have overcome the world.'*

Another significant reason that attracted me to working with the Timmis' and John was that they were from Catholic backgrounds while mine was Protestant. Even before meeting them I had begun working across the denominational barriers between the followers of Jesus. I have always felt that I should be active in the *'revolutionary'* edge of things -especially in regards to crossing barriers that have divided people. And I am particular-

ly inspired to further the ideal of the Brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God, as expressed by Jesus, *"...you are all brothers...for you have one Father who is in heaven."* Mt. 23:8-9

So I felt working with these guys would allow us to practically demonstrate the ideal of brotherhood and creating unity in the spirit of Jesus despite the theological differences that will always be around. And at the time it was particularly significant in that Uganda's past political parties had historically been split on Catholic/Protestant lines. Furthermore, the same kind of tribal prejudices and animosities that had existed for centuries between Africa's ethnic/tribal divisions were now also being fully reflected between the various Christian church denominations that have come to this continent. Consequently, one of the major focus within our programs and perhaps the one area that

we have made the greatest contribution to the wider society around us – is in this area of furthering reconciliation and unity across the religious and ethnic divides.

As a result of John's recent mentoring experience at Ivanwald he had been exposed to concepts and methods related to living life according to the principles of Jesus that he wanted to pass on to other young guys. An important one of these principles being, what we now refer to as, 'intentionalizing' relationships. That is, making strong, committed relationships with a few friends for the purpose of maximizing spiritual growth and influence. Because of this he and Michael started playing soccer with a small group of the many semi unemployed young men in the city which eventually led to meeting Coach Stone and the formation of the Wolves Soccer Club.

Furthermore, this orientation John had also led him to suggest to Michael and I - that we switch the whole concept of the orphanage on the ranch to a school that would have a 'discipleship' aspect to it. This idea immediately resonated with both Michael and me, so immediately we began to move toward developing this new concept - even though the construction of the building (CLA Boys main block) designed as an 'orphanage' was already underway. As we progressively refined the idea we decided to make it an Advanced Level High School which in the Ugandan system covers a 2 year segment just prior to University. This would allow us to mentor young guys (18-25 years old) with reasonable English ability,

for a 2 year period. In a brain storming session the name 'Cornerstone Leadership Academy' was suggested for the school and this stuck.

In Uganda at that time there were many young men who had made it partly through high-school and wanted to continue their education but whose families could not afford to send them further. In contrast, girls who had not been able to continue their education were being married off in their late teens and were absorbed into the traditional social structures. The streets of Kampala and other towns were full of these idle young men but there were much fewer single girls of this category able to advance to higher education. Over the 10 years after CLA Boys began in 1994 the country continued to stabilize and the entire education system improved. This allowed many girls to stay in school longer and so in 2004 when our capacity had grown we were able to open the Girls Academy.

During that interim time period – the ranch was also going through changes. The coming of Wayne and Mary Daniel and their African Children's Mission was a huge boost to the ranch primary school as well as neighboring schools. We have also had a steady stream of young people coming from all over the world (around 200 so far!) Two young couples in particular - Clive and Emma Dale from Australia and Keith and Heidi Wright from the US greatly enhanced our community. Also, during these early years Michael married Laura and John married Margaret. Both of these ladies were very involved in helping us get things es-

tablished in the early years. In the same way, my wife Cathy has always supported me and played a part where she can in our various programs. God also ensured that we were joined early on by some exceptional Ugandans like Stone, Monica, Paulo Lukwiya, Aziku Santos, Charles Ayo and others.

More recently friends like, Rand and Kristy Blair have further added to the landscape of the Ekitangalla community. And likewise, Maggie Josiah's African Hospitality Institute with her Guesthouse as become an important fixture. There are many others who have contributed over the years but space does not permit to list them all and some prefer to remain anonymous. *We honor and thank you all for your valuable contributions.*

In other pages of this newsletter, the story is told of how other programs started and of those who were involved - in the chronicle of Cornerstone, so far. All of it just adds up to our small contribution towards a better world – and the fulfillment of Jesus' prayer that *'the kingdom would come on earth as it is in heaven.'* This is the divine agenda of the One who creates and sustains the universe: That we would bring our circle of influence into alignment with the divine principles of love, order, peace, harmony and justice. So, that every child born into this world and made *'in His image'* would have a chance to develop their true potential. *For this reason Cornerstone was born, has grown for 20 years and maybe... this is just the beginning?*

Cornerstone "muzungus" all together: Kreutters(Cathy, Tim) Daniels(Mary, Wayne) Riordans(Marg, John) Timmis(Laura, Michael) Wrights(Keith, Heidi) - 1999



THE PAST 20 YEARS

how did it happen?

Thoughts from *Tim*

The Uganda of 2009 is quite different than the Uganda of 1989. Back then, there were no mobile phones, no 'boda-bodas' (motorcycle taxis), no traffic jams, no shopping malls, no internet, few expatriates, few hotels, few computers and many potholes on the roads. The city of Kampala has especially seen the greatest change with an explosion in the numbers of new buildings, cars on the roads and people flocking into the city. In the same way, Cornerstone Development has experienced a great deal of change over the past 20 years since Michael Timmis first set things in motion.

When Michael initially came to Uganda in 1988 he thought he was just going to be here for a short while. But, after he and his father committed to building Rushere Hospital at President Museveni's request - he developed a vision for staying on longer and starting other initiatives aimed at making a contribution to the rebuilding of Uganda as it was trying to emerge from nearly 25 years of civil unrest. He soon came up with the idea of building an orphanage for young kids on a farm in what was then called 'the Luwero Triangle' - the area that served as the primary battlefield for the guerilla war that brought Museveni to power. That is why the property now affectionately known as 'The Ranch,' about 2 hours drive north of Kampala city, was acquired in 1989.

I was introduced to Michael for the first time by Lee Thompson at the Speke Hotel in Kampala during October of 1989. (Lee had worked in Doug Coe's office and had gone through the same Graduate program where I had just finished an MBA in the US.) At the time of our meeting I had just recently returned to Uganda with my family. We had come back to resume work in the war-torn area of Teso that was severely affected by rebel insurgency opposed to the Museveni government that took power in 1986. We had previously worked there from 1985 to 1987 with the same group called Hands In Service.

I also had a consultancy contract with Lee Thompson's group, the Grain Security Foundation, which meant I needed to travel down to Kampala from Soroti once a month. And so, for the next year, I would come down to the capital city every month - where I would often stay with Michael and John Riordan. John had come out to help Michael in January of 1990. Over the course of the year as we became friends we began talking about working together. John originally planned on being in Uganda for a few months - but eventually ended up staying 7 years as the vision that grew out of the partnership between Michael, John and I - evolved toward what has become Cornerstone Development's main focus: *youth leadership development*.

John had just come out of a mentoring program at the Ivanwald house in Washington DC - operated by the 'fellowship

of friends' who support the international 'Prayer Breakfast' movement that seeks to positively influence national leaders through furthering friendship, understanding, reconciliation and personal integrity. Like ourselves, this movement bases its core values on the ideas and message of Jesus as a way of creating common ground across all that is dividing humanity - but without affiliation to any one religious institution or denomination.

One of the main things that attracted me to working with Michael and John was a result of the changes I was witnessing that were taking place in Africa since my childhood. It was obvious that a new segment of African society was coming up who were not limited by their traditional, tribal identity but were increasingly seeing themselves as part of the newly emerging 'global culture.' In other words, the old social/racial barriers separating the 3rd world and the Western world were breaking down - especially among the educated, urban African elites. And Michael and John in their youthful innocence were relating to this segment of Ugandans much as they would to fellow Americans back home.

This was quite a contrast to the relational dynamics of expatriates and rural missionaries of my parent's generation who faced an enormously greater social/educational/economic gap in regards to relating to the local populations.



Boys perform at the opening of CLA - 1994

They were also still partly influenced by some of the attitudes and outlooks carried over from the past colonial era. But Africa was changing rapidly, old stereotypes needed to be dropped, new structures developed and adjustments made to fit the changing times.

So I sensed that with Cornerstone we could develop a new kind of an organization that allowed us to work in partnership with Ugandans on a much more equal basis. And with time the organizational culture we developed was not the typical, task oriented NGO (charitable org.) but one based on the priority of relationships - that we called: 'A family of friends.'

(CONTINUED on page 22)