



Greetings Beloved:

The work of Reaching The Nations (RTN) is in full swing in the East African country of Kampala Uganda. Lisa and I would like to thank all of those who faithfully pray and support the ministry the Lord has entrusted to us. I recently returned from Uganda and was so blessed to discover all of the relationships that I had established the prior year, are as strong as ever. The work that we are attempting to accomplish is heavily dependent on strong relationships with the local community of believers and the local church.

We believe that God has designed the Para-church organization to come along side the local church in order to work together in dynamic partnership. The Lord has allowed RTN to partner with Makerere Full Gospel Church (MFGC) under the leadership of Pastors Fred and Sabrina Wantaate. RTN and MFGC together have identified a geographic area of Kampala that will be the focus of RTN. Last year I visited a slum no more than one hundred meters from MFGC. I mistakenly called the slum by the wrong name, Kivuulu. Kivuulu is in fact another slum in Kampala but not the area God has called to be the focus of our efforts. My apologies! The area God has assigned to RTN is a small slum just outside MFGC called Kiwuunya (pronounced chee-woon-yah).

Kiwuunya means The Place That Smells. Kiwuunya was used, in the 1980's under the dictator/mass murderer, former president of Uganda Idi Amin, as a mass dumping ground for innocent people he slaughtered. Hundreds of thousands of people who refused to abide by his policies were killed. Kiwuunya was the place that many of the corpses were left to rot. The smell grew day by day especially on the days when it was extremely hot.

After the killings were finished and Amin was no longer in power, it was some time before people began to settle into the area. Slum lords began to purchase plots of land in Kiiwuunya with the intent of building sub standard dwellings. These dwellings made of pieces of wood, sometimes mud or scrap metal were rented to the poorest in the society. The tenants of modern Kiwuunya pay an average of 15,000 schillings (about \$7.50) per month for rent in order to live in a slum. This is where we need all of you, our supporters, to focus your prayers.

The Lord has given us a Vision to see Kiwuunya transformed by the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. When you look at the area it looks like an impossible task. We like to call it a God size task! Hebrews 11:1, ***"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."*** Lisa and I want to know who is willing to be "crazy" enough to believe with us that God will transform Kiwuunya? We need support like never before both prayer and financial.

Have you ever seen the pathology of hopeless spread like a contagious disease through a community, consuming both young and old, men and women? Have you ever looked into the eyes of a child and seen desperation? We've walked through Kiwuunya. We've sat with family after family in dwellings so small that you can not stand straight. We've held children in our arms, with HIV, malaria and other diseases, wishing we could help them escape their misery. We've asked God why He would allow us to see such things. And the only answer we have ever received from Him is, "because I care. If I care I know you will care, and if you care I know you will tell others and they will care. And together we will work together and transform one child, one family, one slum at a time."

Last year I wrote about a little Ugandan girl that captured my heart. I called her "the little girl in the red dress." Her name is Rita. God had burned the face of Rita into my heart and every time things got tough or I was discouraged because support wasn't sufficient, He reminded me of Rita. What an amazing smile. From that point forward Rita became the Hallmark, the face of RTN. Upon arriving to Uganda finding Rita was at the top of my agenda. It wasn't long before I received the terrible news that

Rita could no longer be cared for by her mother and was sent back to live in her village. Going back to live in the village would guarantee that she would eat but it would seal her fate, dash her hopes for a bright future. I gave her mother a few shillings and asked if she could go and get Rita. I wanted to see her. I wanted to make sure she was alright. We scheduled the day she would return with Rita. The waiting was unnerving. I didn't know after a year if she would remember me. The day arrived. I went to Kiwuunya to meet Rita. I crouched down to enter the small dwelling and there she was. She looked up at me. I asked my translator if she remembered me, after all I had only seen her one time, one year ago. She hesitated, and then nodded her head yes. I was overjoyed.

I couldn't allow Rita to go back to her village. I asked the Lord what to do. He said that Rita will be the "First Fruit" of what He will do in Kiwuunya. It was decided, RTN will sponsor Rita to attend a Christian boarding school. Boarding school is culturally acceptable throughout Africa and Europe. Now Rita will receive quality Christian education, English learning, three meals daily, clothing, a warm bed and a amazing community of believers that will love her into her full potential. She will be able to return to her mother and her village during the holidays in order to maintain her cultural heritage.

We are far from attaining the goals we have set for the Kiwuunya project, but we are moving forward. Currently James and Wendy Clark, of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church Portland Oregon, have joined the RTN team and are in Kampala Uganda overseeing and working with the team of believers at MFGC to further develop the Vision the Lord has given us for Kiwuunya. They will return home in November, where we will debrief and determine our next steps. We are praying that 2010 will be the year that we facilitate short term trips to Uganda to experience and participate in the work the Lord is doing in Kiwuunya. Those who are a part of these short term teams will not only experience the work in Kiwuunya but will enjoy a safari, local cuisine, cultural activities and spirit filled Christian fellowship. Some will go, other will give and many will pray. Please continue to send your donations. Continue to cover us and the Clark family in prayer. In the next edition we will share in greater detail what we will be doing, what the specific needs are and how you can get involved with RTN in transforming Kiwuunya for Jesus Christ. We love you all dearly.

Reaching The Nations,

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