



A ministry of
InterVarsity
Christian Fellowship

18W271 Kirkland Lane
Villa Park, IL 60181
(630) 268-9436
GJTaz@comcast.net

Greetings from Grace

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If I learned anything in Uganda, I learned that to be successful, I needed to be in God's will.

Rewards of Teaching

“The rewards of teaching are often delayed” my professional mentor told me many years ago. After 35 years, those words have proven true. Just like the Hall-mark greeting card commercial that shows a former student thanking her mentor as he retires, I've had the privilege of meeting former students who remind me of words that I had long forgotten and that had influence in their lives.

Last summer as I was working late one night on the Urbana 06 conference, I received a phone call. The man on the other end of the line asked, “Is this Grace Tazelaar? Do you know a John Kiyimba?” “Yes,” I replied. “He’s going to be calling you in a few minutes,” the man said as he hung up. I continued working and sure enough, about 45 minutes later the phone rang and it was John Kiyimba. John was a medical assistant that had attended the training of trainers sessions and an organizational

planning session that I led in Uganda. John told me that he was attending the World AIDS conference in Toronto. He is now working with the Kyetume Community Based Health Care project. He thanked me for all the teaching that I had done in Uganda and told me of the incredible work that he is doing in his community. “I wanted to tell you all this and I knew that if I got to Canada, I could call you more cheaply than from Uganda,” John said. “I thought I had lost the paper with your number on it,” he continued, “We leave tomorrow. Then I was sitting next to Reuben (the first caller) and the paper with your number fell out of his folder. I just had to call.” I assume that during the 45 minutes between calls they had gone out to buy a phone card to call me.

At the time, I was discouraged with the Urbana 06 work. Everything was about 6 months behind schedule and Urbana 06 was 5 months away. I received the

phone call from John as a message from God to continue. The HIV/AIDS work in Uganda 20 years ago had required a daily renewal of faith and obedience. We didn't know then that God would pour out His Spirit and use the educational efforts in abstinence and marital faithfulness to turn the tide of the pandemic in Uganda. I might never know the impact of the Urbana 06; but I know that God could use our efforts and redeem our failures for His Kingdom purposes just as He had done 20 years ago in Uganda.

It has been nearly 13 years since I last visited Uganda in 1995. Many others – students, friends, colleagues, and even family –



Fall Schedule



August 22-24, 2007

August 24-25, 2007

August 29–September 9, 2007

October 26-28, 2007

November 7-11, 2007

NCF Staff Leadership Team meetings, DesPlaines, IL

NCF National Advisory Committee meetings, DesPlaines, IL

Vacation in Kauai. I have a frequent flyer ticket!

InterVarsity Women's Conference, Itasca, IL

Global Missions Health Conference, Louisville, KY

Planning team meeting on Wednesday

Global Health Outreach Advisory Board meeting on Thursday

Presenting workshop “Things They Didn't Teach in Nursing School”

(Continued from page 1)

have come and gone to Uganda over the years bringing me updates on friends, carrying messages and greetings in both directions. Ugandan friends have traveled to the States and I have been privileged to host them in my home. There is a Ugandan proverb that says, "Once you have drunk from the waters of the River Nile, you will return to quench your thirst." Since the most of the headwaters for the Nile River is located in Uganda, it is a way of saying that Uganda, once visited, will have a lifelong hold on you. I have found this saying true. For several years, I have desired to return to Uganda; but when I prayed about various opportunities, the Lord answered negatively. If I learned anything in Uganda, I learned that to be successful, I needed to be in God's will.

For the past three years, Troy Van Dyke, my step nephew, has been traveling to Uganda with his church. I teased him the first time about wanting to fit into his suitcase and go along. Troy is planning to visit Uganda in January 2008 and his mother is going with him. They've invited me to come along to see the orphan work in which Troy has become involved. So to make a long story short, it looks like I will be joining the extended family traveling to Uganda in January. This time God seems to be saying yes.

There are many reasons for going at this time. Uganda Christian University has begun a Christian baccalaureate nursing

program with consultation from faculty at Bethel University. I met the provost of UCU at the Global Missions Health Conference in Louisville last year. I'd like to learn more about what they are doing. The director of FOCUS Uganda, InterVarsity's sister movement in Uganda, is a young man who was involved in Scripture Union at Mvara Secondary School in Arua where I served as a "Aunty" to the group. He completed his master's degree at Gordon Conwell Seminary several years ago. I'd like to meet with him to learn more about the current work of FOCUS Uganda. So while my family will leave after about a week in Uganda, I am planning on staying for several more weeks to see friends and explore what God might have for me and NCF at this time.

I know that life in Uganda is very different from when I left it 13 years ago. I'm told the road to Arua is paved; people have cell phones and it is possible to call around the country; Kampala has many traffic jams and driving is almost impossible. So I'm preparing myself emotionally to meet a very different place. But I am looking forward to seeing some folk whom I haven't seen for some time and learning what God has done in their lives. As I prepare for this trip with mixed emotions, I covet your prayers. I continue to desire to hear God's voice and respond obediently to what He has for me.



Crested Crane
Uganda's National bird

Prayer and Praise Report

Praise God for:

- A great NCF summit at Bethel University in June. I was able to meet with Dave Muhovich a nurse with whom I worked in community based health care in Uganda. Dave has been consulting with Uganda Christian University's nursing program. I gained valuable insights from him.
- The team of people on the west coast who put on the West Coast Missions conference at Fuller Seminary. As the globe becomes flatter and the gospel takes root in the Global South, we are learning more about partnerships and learning from one another.
- A good Global Project to Kenya experience for Renee Lick, the NCF staff in Northern Illinois Division of InterVarsity whom I supervise. She accompanied 10 students from Northern Illinois University to Kenya for a cross-cultural immersion experience.
- Those who give to the ministry of NCF. Your gifts make this work possible.

Ask God to:

- Put me in contact with the people whom He wants me to see while in Uganda. There are many people on my list, but after 13 years it is difficult to know where they are and how to contact them.
- Help me make the necessary logistical arrangements for the trip to Uganda. It's very different visiting a place versus living there. Accommodations, transportation, and communication all need to be planned.
- Guide the NCF staff leadership team through the transition to a new director. InterVarsity is going through and organizational restructuring and Pat Emery will become NCF director this fall after having Mary Thompson at the helm for over twenty years. We are excited about the opportunities that God is placing before us. We need his wisdom to set priorities while keeping the current activities going.