

# Gulu, Uganda

---

Educate for Change Trip March 14-April 5 2014

Cynthia Sullivan

# Uganda

## Location

Uganda lies astride the Equator in Eastern Africa between longitudes  $29\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  East and  $35^{\circ}$  East and between latitudes  $4\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  North and  $\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  South, at an average altitude of 1,100 meters above sea-level. The total area is 236,580sq.Km.

We are bordered by the Republic of South Sudan to the North, the Republic of Kenya to the East, the Democratic Republic of Congo to the West, and the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Rwanda to the South.



# Uganda

The **flag of Uganda** was adopted on 9 October 1962, the date that Uganda became independent from the United Kingdom. It consists of six equal horizontal bands of black (top), yellow, red, black, yellow, and red (bottom); a white disc is superimposed at the centre and depicts the national symbol, a grey crowned crane, facing the hoist side. The three colours are representative of African peoples (black), Africa's sunshine (yellow), and African brotherhood (red being the colour of blood, through which all Africans are connected).<sup>[1]</sup> The grey crowned crane is fabled for its gentle nature and was also the military badge of Ugandan soldiers during British rule.



The flag was designed by the Ugandan Minister of Justice, Grace Ibingira.

**Motto:** *"For God and My Country"*

**Anthem:** *Oh Uganda, Land of Beauty*



# Invisible Children – Teacher Exchange

## Summer 2012

---

- The Teacher Exchange is a program that allows Ugandan and international educators to form teaching partnerships while exposing their students to a world outside their borders. International educators team-teach in northern Uganda each summer for six weeks, and, in a reciprocal exchange, Ugandan educators visit the schools of the international educators each winter. In 2012 there were 2 groups of 26 teachers who went to Gulu. Kristine was among the first group to arrive in June 2012.
- Kristine – applied and was accepted to teach in Gulu, Uganda. She fund raised for the trip. It was \$6000; air fare, food, transport, and housing.
- Kristine's assignment was at Gulu Secondary School, a day school in Gulu.

# Mother Teresa's

---

- After school hours, Kristine and a few other teachers felt a need to engage more in the local culture.
- Sister Helen, a teacher at St Joseph's College, Layibi was also director of Mother Teresa's Primary Boarding and Day School.
- Sister Helen encouraged Laura and Kristine to come to Mother Teresa's school to help out with the primary students. It was love at first site. Kristine and Laura would go to MT's every day after school and on weekends to be with the children. MT's had many deaf students (as many as 50 of the 200+ student population) and there were P-7's who would be graduating in December 2012, taking exams for Secondary school, with little or no funds to pay for the education.
- Kristine and Laura started Educate for Change in August 2012. Educate for Change – sent 16 GLOBAL Scholars to secondary school in 2013. Thanks to the help of many including our Rotary club, Paul and Maureen Doherty and Environmental Consultants.



# Educate for Change

---

- **Mission Statement:** *To empower the at-risk youth of northern Uganda by providing sustainable educational opportunities that will create independent global leaders.*
- Educating the most vulnerable children allows them to become productive members of their village, town, region, country and the world. It is through education that these children can change their lives.
- All schooling in Uganda is costly. Including primary, however, many times primary schools allows bartering for education, food etc can be used to pay fees. This helps feed the children at school. Secondary school, costs approximately \$500 / year to send a student; includes uniforms, fees. The Uganda education system tests children to allow them to move from P7 to S1. Educate for Change accepts applications for student who score among 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades. In Dec 2014 – of the 39 students who took the exam from Mother Teresa's, 37 scored 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.
- Secondary School is 6 years, S1- S6, where S1-S4 is pretty much like our high school and S5 and S6 is almost like Jr College. Students take exams after S6 to go to University. Depending on how well they do, they may qualify for Government scholarships.

# March Trip – March 14<sup>th</sup> – April 5<sup>th</sup>

---

- 7 hours to London, Heath Row
- 3 hour layover
- 9 hours to Entebbe, Uganda
- Overnight in Entebbe – no one will drive to Gulu late at night
- 7-8 hour bus ride to Gulu (only 200 miles!)
- Leave Friday night and arrive in Gulu Sunday night. (+7 hour time difference)
- Return to US – Leave and arrive on the same day!







**Bus ride to Gulu on day 2**

Uganda form of Orange Cones



Baboon

Nile River from the Bus





# St Joseph's Day Celebration

---

- St Joseph College Layibi – we were invited to their feast of St Joseph's
- Included Mass said by the Bishop
  - Most of Mass said in English, most music in Luo
  - Gifts include host and grape juice..along with baskets of fruits, mangos, pineapple, etc.
- Breakfast – Hard boiled eggs, bread and butter, coffee and / tea
- Many, many speeches .... ~ 7 hour event

## **Road to Amuru District**

On the Boda-Boda







# Villages

---

- Reminds me of Little House on the Prairie Days or 'Wild, Wild West'... long dirt roads... every once in a while you see a village; group of huts... between patches of land... that is going to be farmed. They do sustenance farming in this part of Uganda.
- Villages – may be one or more families – extended families; living in huts.. (one room) no windows, made of brick from their own land. As children get older, build hut nearby to move to. Many chickens and goats running around the grounds. Most run free. “Broom swept each and every morning” while the charcoal is getting ready to cook breakfast.



# Roads

---

- Mostly dirt. Some pavement in cities or on the main roads between cities or towns
- “They drive on the left .. Or what is left of the road.....”
- Many kilometers between villages, schools, etc... people are always walking ....
- **Children** walking, some carrying babies, many carrying jerry cans of water.
- **Women** walking carrying heavy loads on their heads.. Including jerry cans of water
- **Men** – few walk, most bike, some ride boda-boda’s or their own motor cycle
- Boda-boda’s carry most anything, from live chickens to goats to cabinets, couches, straw for thatch roofs.. Jerry cans of water. I saw as many of 7 people on one boda-boda!

# Propaganda

---

- English is taught starting in P4. Luo is their native language of the Acholi people in the north.
- Take everything very literally, especially what is read in newspaper.
- Very little TV, mostly radio, sports bars have ‘soccer matches’
- New law passed – only 1 passenger on a boda-boda... the next day we were stopped by police and asked didn’t you hear.. Passed yesterday .. Now pay a fine..
- Taxi and boda-boda drivers very interested in talking about new laws passed about Gays and Lesbians..
- “silly” is an insult – Webster: *adj. having or showing a lack of thought, understanding, or good judgment : foolish or stupid*



## Some Signs at secondary schools





## **Ocer Secondary school**

Jesuit Priest from USA

– Father Tony

Sustainable education

- took 5 years
- 100 acres – farm with chickens, pigs, goats
- Small lake for irrigation, fish
- Solar







School Speeches @ Mother Teresa's  
Head Boy  
Head Prefect  
Head Girl  
... about 15 positions –  
each student needed to speak,  
addressing the school audience as well as  
visitors.



## Fort Patiko

Used for Eastern Africa Slave Trade  
Sir Samuel Baker took over to stop  
slavery..







3 points of interest:

- Cross
- Half Moon
- Map of Africa







Boys we met at Fort Patiko – They stayed with us the entire time we were there.. Then they went back to get their ‘oranges’ to bring home. There are many palm trees in the this area.. Looks like it could be a tropical paradise...







Kristine and Anena Ketty Gloria (S1 at Graceland)



## St Joseph College Layibi – Visitation Day



Aroma Innocent – right (Paul Doherty)







Kristine with Obina Brian (left) and Opiyo Brian (Right)  
(Environmental Consultants) at Layibi Visitation Day. Opiyo is in S2.  
In S1 - Last year (2013) he finished 33rd in his class of 243



Me with Issac – Sullivan

Visitation Day at Layibi



## Sacred Heart – The Zoo



“Years of Sustainable Education”



Messages from ‘home’





Kristine with Auma during our visit to Sacred Heart



Sacred Heart – Weather Delay – Allowed us to spend another 2 hours!

Auma Innocent (Maureen Doherty) – Attends Sacred Heart





## Auma Innocent's village

No one was home. Her sister was 'out in the fields preparing the fields to plant'. Her village was broom swept.. Very .. Very neat.





**Me with Ajok Mirriam (Environmental Consultants) at Keyo**

We brought her a 'torch' (flashlight) and some laundry soap.

Mirriam is in the club marching, like ROTC.





Opiyo Brian's Uncle at his village

Opiyo's cousins (4 of the 12)







Walking to Opiyo Brian's village – very remote – Opiyo's hut was a little way away from the others just up the path.

Opiyo's cousins tried to teach me to roll a tire! It was very hard!

They make due with very little. They are happy as long as they have basic necessities; food, water, clothing and shelter



Rotary GLOBAL Scholar:

Opiyo Simon Alexis at Pope John Paul II



Opiyo Simon Alexis (Rotary)

Pope John Paul II





Kristine with some of her friends...



# Gulu

- Cows in street right near Kristine's house







At Mother Teresa's with two students (Okema and Patrick) and the daughter of one teacher (Aber).



Sunset in Gulu





Way back to town from Mother Teresa's



Kampala – From the deck at the ‘new mall’ that just opened