



Village of Hope Uganda

Urgent Relief Efforts!!!

May 2008

Last week I received news from Rose, our Director in Gulu, that the **Ugandan government has forced everyone to leave their homes** in the Refugee Camps and return to their original home villages scattered throughout Northern Uganda. The villages have no clean water, inadequate shelter, no food, no schools and **NO SAFETY**. Also, Joseph Kony, the leader of the Rebel group that has been attacking these people for over 20 years, has been abducting children again to rebuild his army.

Kony was quoted in a Ugandan newspaper saying, "I will not stop fighting until I die!"

The people are scared and unsure of their future. **"OUR" orphans have also been forced to leave** the only family units they have ever known. Because they have come to depend on each other as "family" this makes their separation from each other even more difficult. They will be forced to split up with no protection from abuse, thieves or the Rebels.

I am so encouraged by the response of "our" children! They have pulled together, staying in small groups so they can take care of one another, encouraging each other and still holding onto Hope!!! **But it is a desperate situation and our children need your help!!!**

Resettlement Package: \$400 (for 4-6 orphans)



- Food
- Bedding
- Pots & pans
- Farming tools and seeds
- Hut construction materials

Please make a tax deductible donation today to VOH.

Joyce, who loves to dance

Joyce is a precious young girl with a heart breaking story. When she was a young girl the LRA Rebels came to her village in the middle of the night. She was sleeping in one hut and her mother was in the hut next to hers. They set fire to her mother's hut and Joyce listened to the screams of her mother being burned alive.

Joyce hid in the hut and was shot in the head by a stray bullet. But thankfully she was not captured or found by the Rebels.

I met Joyce during my trip in February to Gulu. She was dancing with a group of our orphans from her IDP (refugee) camp. She was so happy dancing with everyone. After she finished she came and sat next to me. What a beautiful young girl. I had no idea the pain she had suffered, because it was not evident in her smile!



Please pray for Joyce and the other orphans. Their future is uncertain and their lives are in turmoil, and yet she holds onto hope that one day she will have a safe home!



May 26-July 2: Kelly McTavish & Lauren Webb (left) from Texas, will be living at the Safe House and working on the Child Sponsorship Project. They will take photos of all of our orphans and gather all of their bio's and information.

June 12-18: Cynthia Perkins & Marianne Phillips from Bay Life Church in Florida will be in Gulu working with the micro-economic projects for our orphans. They will see the children's bead project and help the children wherever they are needed.

June 22-30, 67 teenagers and adults from Teen Mania: will be holding a weekend retreat for the orphans, which will bring such HOPE to our kids!!! Along with helping to relocate the children.



June 16- July 2: Cindy Cunningham, Bill and Donna Baker (left) from Texas will be going to Gulu to see the projects, meet with World Help, visit the land, visit the children in their villages and spend time with our orphans and Rose.

July 2-Aug 4: Jillian Baker & Katie Ainsworth (right) from Michigan, will be living at the Safe House and helping Rose as she works with the orphans in the villages and Safe House.



July 27-31: A group of 5 from Bay Life Church in Florida will be speaking in the schools and visiting our children in their villages, playing games, singing, dancing, and loving them.

Due to the recent crisis in Gulu, our teams from the US will be helping in the relief/relocation of the orphans as they move back to the scattered villages throughout Northern Uganda.

Hope Beads



In February Jessie Rhoads went with me to Gulu where she saw the beautiful beads made by widows out of magazines. Her heart was broken by the situation of the orphans in Gulu and felt **she had to do something**.

Upon her return to the U.S., Jessie started a company called, **Hope Beads Trading Company**. She will partner with Village of Hope in training our orphans to make the beads. This will provide them with a business, skill and small income. She will purchase the beaded necklaces and sell them in the U.S.

This is a HUGE undertaking and HUGE step of faith!

If you or your group would like to participate or know more about this micro-economic project please contact Jessie at www.jeslinrho.wordpress.com.

Jessie is another example of how God is using ordinary people to make an extraordinary difference in the lives of the orphans of Northern Uganda.

"I never would have thought that hope could come with something as small as a bead." Jessie

