



Saving Lives in Uganda with a Community HIV/AIDS Prevention Program

Nalwoga lives in Buikwe, Uganda. Her husband died of HIV/AIDS, leaving her with the care of their 5 young children. Before he died, her husband denied he was HIV positive. Shortly after his death Nalwoga took an HIV test and discovered she was HIV positive. When this became known, she faced discrimination in her community due to people's fear and lack of understanding of the disease. Friends and neighbours were less willing to associate with her or even eat with her.

Sadly, this is a pattern that repeats itself for many living with HIV/AIDS. Stigma and discrimination by families, local communities and the government continues to marginalize them and undermines prevention and treatment efforts by creating a fear of testing. The Buikwe area of Uganda has a higher HIV infection rate than the national average with very little access to healthcare and deep poverty due to HIV/AIDS.

International Needs' Community HIV/AIDS Prevention Program (CHAP) aims to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS and care for those directly affected by the disease in the Buikwe District. The project

focuses on providing HIV testing and counselling, prevention of mother to child transmission, teaching life planning skills to young people living with the disease, ensuring access to antiretroviral treatments and caring for orphans and vulnerable children. The program increases the community's awareness with particular regards to eradicating the stigma and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS. CHAP conducts community mobilization and advocacy workshops to heighten knowledge, awareness and empathy concerning HIV/AIDS and create a more supportive environment. In all aspects of its work, CHAP encourages the involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS. Not only do they help provide home-based
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Private Consulting Room for Mom's and Babies with HIV/AIDS

Solange knows the importance of medical support. The 33 year old mother of two was pregnant when she was diagnosed HIV positive. The news sent her world crashing down and explained why she had been feeling so unwell. The staff at Clinique Papillon, in the DR Congo, were quick to encourage her to take HIV medication during her pregnancy to help her and protect her unborn child.

“I was surprised how well I felt after taking the medication. It made me hungry and I was so happy that Clinique Papillon provided extra food for me. I continued coming for prenatal care and counselling. My baby was born healthy and I have energy to look after my home and family.”



Solange was so impressed with the help she received at Clinique Papillon, a maternal health care centre, that she volunteers to help other mothers who are diagnosed HIV positive. She encourages them to take their medication and not lose hope. “Look at me”, she says, “I thought it was the end but as you can see my baby and I are doing well.”

Clinique Papillon would like to be sensitive to their HIV patients. There is still so much stigma and fear attached to the disease. Persons known to be HIV positive are often rejected and ridiculed. The clinic wants to add a private consulting room specifically for HIV patients. “It’s important that the mothers are able to come to us whenever they have questions or problems. We don’t want them to worry about confidentiality or other people in the room and we want to be able to take the time needed to address all their issues.” Gilson Kyungu, Administrator at Clinique Papillon.

Please help these courageous women receive the best medical care possible. Please give generously toward a private HIV Consulting room at Clinique Papillon. Thank you! •



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care and support services but they portray a picture of positive living that helps reduce the stigma associated with the disease. Many people living with HIV/AIDS provide personal testimonies at the workshops held for community leaders as part of an effort to reduce discrimination. Such public testimonies have a huge impact on HIV prevention in the community at large. CHAP also provides training and micro loans for income generating activities. The ability and means to support oneself and one’s family greatly increases the hope and self-esteem of people living with HIV/AIDS.

CHAP trained counselors and teachers support orphans and vulnerable children through their grief and work with their guardians. Child sponsorship provides social and economic support, nutrition, education and healthcare, giving orphans and vulnerable children hope for the future.

International Needs would like to thank Crossroads Church in Red Deer, Alberta, for being a dedicated supporter of this important work in central Uganda. Please consider joining them and help prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS while also caring for those affected by the disease. •

PRAYER CORNER

Items for Prayer

“I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom and that of all about me seemed insufficient for that day.” Abraham Lincoln

Please pray for the work of our Community HIV/AIDS Prevention Program in Uganda. Pray that God will grant wisdom to our partners in their battle to prevent the spread of this dreaded disease. Pray for new hope for the many orphans who have been traumatized by the loss of their parents. Pray also for a cure for HIV/AIDS.

CBS Partners with Ontario Church to Spread God's Word



Steven Romaniuk of Forestview Community Church in Grimsby, Ontario, gives Bibles to the Principal of the Joy Centre for Education in Lugazi, Uganda. The Joy Centre is a small school located in a slum area of Lugazi.

International Needs partners with this school through its Child Sponsorship program. Steven traveled to Uganda with a group from his church to share and distribute the Word of God and participate in a three day parenting workshop in the town of Buikwe.

“Even though our cultures are quite different, we stuck to what the Bible teaches about parenting. A good number of people attended the workshop including pastors and church leaders and everyone was encouraged. They were especially thankful for the Bibles.”

Mark Corriveau

Heartfelt thanks to the Canadian Bible Society for sharing the Word of God with our Ugandan brothers and sisters. The wonderful thing about God's Word is that it speaks to all of us on every aspect of life, regardless of who we are or what country we call home. •

Items for Praise

“I will praise the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.” Psalm 146:2

Praise God for the many Canadians who were able to visit their sponsored children and witness firsthand the work of International Needs. They have returned with encouraging reports of changed lives and transformed communities! Praise God for His faithfulness to our partners and the families they serve.

WWII Veteran Lends a Helping Hand



At the age of 17, Anthony Balch served as a telegraphist aboard the HMS Warspite, one of the oldest battleships in the British Navy. The D-Day invasion on June 6th, 1944, was his first tour of war action. Balch shares, “I have often been asked if I felt fear at this time and I always reply that because I was so busy and the

environment was so new and exciting, fear never really entered my mind. Teenagers generally think they're immune to danger and that was my attitude in those days.”

While Balch didn't storm the beach or have to dodge machine gun fire, there was still danger associated with his post. The naval ship faced constant threats from incoming torpedos and bombing attempts from warplanes flying above. Fortunately, Balch survived these.

He left the navy in 1956, taking a position with a British intelligence agency, providing intelligence and information to the government and the armed forces. Balch spent most of his career in Hong Kong until his retirement in 1983 and he moved to Canada shortly after the British transferred Hong Kong back to the Chinese government.



At 88, Balch still has plenty of heart. He visits schools and speaks at special events in the Grand Valley region, sharing his experiences in the Royal Navy during WWII. Balch says, “I feel it's important to spread the word about the horrors of war. History must be kept alive especially when countries call on their young people to make the

ultimate sacrifice. We should never forget.”

In May of 2008, Balch heard of the needs of children in Uganda during a presentation at his home church, Compass Community Church. He decided to support a child through child sponsorship.

“When I saw the film footage of the area where the greatest needs were, I decided that I needed to sponsor a child. The cost of sending a child to school is so small that there was no reason why I shouldn't do it. I've been sponsoring a little girl in Uganda ever since.” Anthony Balch

Anthony passed away on January 31, 2016. Condolences to his family. •



Sharing the Gift of Hope

Wayne Gater and his wife Jane are no strangers to the work of International Needs. The Gaters have been sponsoring a child in Uganda for 5 years. In July 2015, Wayne had the opportunity to go to Uganda with a group from his church, Forestview Community Church. Forestview has strong ties with Uganda and has contributed annually to providing water, a dormitory and a number of other projects in the Buikwe region.

Twelve years ago there were less than 500 primary aged children at Buikwe School, but now there are over 2,500 students ranging from ages 4 to 18. The primary school has grown to include a secondary school, a vocational training school, and a livestock project.

“The day finally came when I was going to meet Samuel and his family. When we got to his house, I recognized him straight away from the photos I had received from International Needs. We were introduced and even though he was shy, he humbly shared that he had recently made the school’s soccer team. His mother was lovely and so appreciative of our support of her son’s education. Samuel’s stepfather and 2 younger brothers were also there to greet us.”

“The greatest joy on Samuel’s mother’s face came when I told her I would try to get Samuel’s younger brother sponsored. I am delighted to say that our next door neighbours have voiced their intention to sponsor a child, so Samuel’s younger brother Peter will soon be outfitted with a uniform and will attend school with his big brother.”

While in Uganda, Wayne became increasingly aware of the difference in the quality of life of children who were sponsored and those who were not. For this reason, they decided to sponsor another child, a little girl named Whitney, and give her the same opportunities that have been such a blessing in Samuel’s life. “For the cost of a daily cup of coffee, a sponsored child is fed, educated, given a school uniform and classroom materials, is surrounded by a loving school family who cares for him or her, and receives the friendship of people who, half a world away, can share with them the love of Jesus.” Wayne Gater

The Gaters make their home in Grimsby, Ontario, and have 5 grown children and 3 grandchildren. •

A Strong Heritage

Wes and Kate Luyendyk live in the small village of Cremona, in south-central Alberta. The couple have recently welcomed a third son to their growing family. The Luyendyks also sponsor 6 children through International Needs’ Sponsorship Program. Kate shares,



“Wes started sponsoring when he was 18 years old after hearing someone share the need at his grandparents’ church, Cremona Country Fellowship. As the son of New Tribes missionaries in Papua New Guinea, Wes learned at an early age what sacrificial giving was, and the joy that often came with it. Now that we have children of our own, the idea of any child going without food or clothes or shelter, is really disturbing. I guess that’s how we ended up sponsoring 6 children. When we went on International Needs’ Website, there were so many! How could we choose?”

Wes works as an aircraft engineer and has a pilot’s license. He dreams of becoming a missionary pilot someday, having seen the importance of airstrips and aircrafts in the jungles of Papua New Guinea. There was always so much excitement when an airplane would come, bringing much needed cargo or passengers to their remote village.

Here at International Needs, we have very little doubt that wherever this young family finds itself, whether in Canada or elsewhere, they will be a blessing to those around them. Thank you Wes and Kate for your kindness and generosity extended to children in need. You are making a real difference in their lives and helping them fulfill their own dreams. •