

# AMAKA\*

The Newsletter of Africa Renewal Ministries

1st Quarter 2007 Volume 1, Issue 1



\*Welcome to the inaugural issue of **AMAKA**, which means "family" in Luganda, the tribal language used in Ggaba, Uganda, where ARM is headquartered.

In response to the many new friends and supporters who desire to know what's happening in our programs, this newsletter is designed to draw you into a closer relationship with ARM as you see God's hand at work in Uganda.

If you'd like to contribute, please send your photos, experiences, and stories to [news@africarenewal.org](mailto:news@africarenewal.org) so that they may be considered for use in ARM's newsletter and website.

## Mwangaza 2006 Update

The 2006 Mwangaza Tour was a great success and left many people with special memories of the children, new friends, and changed lives. Take a look at what the Lord accomplished through the tour:

- 1,600 new children sponsored and now have a chance at a better life
- Several professions of faith and rededications
- Hundreds of new supporters and friends of the ministry
- Funds raised for schools, orphanages, scholarships, churches, and other support services of the ministry
- \$57,000 raised towards the \$200,000 goal for building a new high school

The statistics do not show how many lives are touched personally by time spent with the children in their homes. ARM continues to receive letters from both children and adults describing the blessings



that have come from Mwangaza children. The statistical data also does not show the expansion of world views as people in America become aware of the needs in Africa.

The children have returned safely to Uganda. They are in school, and most have adjusted well to their return home. Unfortunately, some returned to difficult conditions. The Ugandan pastors are deeply involved in resolving these situations. Please pray for God's intervention in the lives of these precious children.

The choir will continue to sing together as a ministry to the people of Uganda. ARM's heartfelt thanks go out to the many volunteers, churches and host homes that made the 2006 Tour a resounding success.



### Contents

Pastor's Perspective	2
Viewpoints	3
Mercy Network	3
Missions Update	4
Bethany Village Update	4
Joseph's Story	5
Where your Sponsorship Money Goes	5
Sponsorship... YES!	6
Volunteers Needed	6

## Visitors from Uganda

Two special visitors from Uganda will be in the US during April and May – **Dr. Martin Nkundeki**, Director of the Wentz Medical Center in Ggaba, and **Abby Nakku**, Supervisor of Schools for ARM. Dr. Martin will be sharing the state of healthcare in Uganda, current medical practices, and the needs of the clinic to meet community health issues. Abby's goal is to

develop partnerships between Christian schools in the US and ARM schools in Uganda.

**Dr. Martin Nkundeki** Wentz Medical Center, which opened in late 2005, provides medical care to the people of Ggaba who have limited access to healthcare. It also serves as a hub for medical care for the

*(Continued on page 2)*



*Dr. Martin Nkundeki  
Director,  
Wentz Medical Center*



*Pastor Peter Kasirivu  
President, ARM*

*Through Him and  
through your  
participation, we shall  
see Africa changed...*

## Pastor's Perspective

We are so excited to produce the first issue of our quarterly newsletter, **AMAKA**. In this newsletter we shall provide you with updates on the various activities of our ministry. For many of you, Africa Renewal Ministries is a child sponsorship ministry, but it is so much more.

Our ministry's vision is to:

*Develop "Next Generation"  
Christian leaders in Africa,  
who transform society by  
living Christian lives based  
on biblical principles.*

Accomplishing this mission requires multiple approaches,

such as child care ministries, education, church planting, leadership development, our Mercy Network ministry, and healthcare. We intend to cover one ministry in depth in every issue so that you, our partners, will be up to speed with God's work here in Africa. This quarter you will see articles related to the Child Sponsorship Program.

We are so grateful to God for each of you for the way He has used you in helping us achieve our mission. Some of you have used your God-given talents to serve either in your country or here in Uganda, while others have given generously to

sponsor a child, or given financially to help accomplish the job.

Our greatest excitement is the many young men and women who have gone through our Sponsorship Program and are now serving the Lord in our local church and in the ministry! This is proof that together we have seen Jesus exalted. Through Him and through your participation, we shall see Africa changed by the leaders you are helping to raise.

May the Lord God bless you!



Be sure to visit our new and improved website at [www.africarenewal.org](http://www.africarenewal.org)! See more pictures, more news articles... more everything! Sponsors, you can now email letters to your sponsored child through our website.



*Dr. Martin treating children at the clinic.*

### **Visitors from Uganda**

*(Continued from page 1)*

many ARM projects in remote villages. Under the direction of Dr. Martin, the clinic continues to grow amidst ever increasing needs. His desire is to develop a "Friends of Wentz" network of medically-oriented people to support the efforts of the clinic, and to provide future medical teams for short-term mission trips. Dr. Martin will be in the US during the month of April.

### **Introducing Abby Nakku**

Abby came to ARM in 2006 and has greatly improved the quality of the teaching staff and education, and has deepened the spiritual life on

each campus. She will be in the US to share the education practices in Uganda and the goals and needs of the Africa Renewal Ministries School System with those individuals and organizations who may be able to support these efforts. Another priority is bringing a "Christian world view" into the classroom, so she will rotate through a number of Christian schools with similar curriculum to gain additional experience.

If you have speaking or educational opportunities for either Dr. Martin or Abby during their stay in the US, please call Don and Kathy Jones at 830-537-5224.



*Abby Nakku  
Supervisor, ARM Schools  
Abby will be in the US from  
mid-April to mid-May.*



*Wentz Medical Center,  
Ggaba, Uganda*

## Viewpoints

In early 2001, my wife and I sponsored our first two youths in the ARM Sponsorship Program at the never-ending insistence of two of my Bible study group members. We selected one young man, Joshua, and one young woman, Irene. It was a compassionate act with no intention to go further in the ministry. However, within the year, Pastor Peter and his wife, Irene, visited the United States and stayed in our home for a couple of days. In that time together we began to understand the heart of the pastor, the needs in Uganda, and the abundant resources we have in America to support the spiritual vision to change a nation to Christ through the children.

Who would have guessed from that simple beginning, we would be led to a passionate, all-out calling to ministry in Uganda. The life we had planned for our retirement years was thrown out the window, and we let the Lord lead us. We could never have written a life-script as fulfilling and enjoyable as ministry with ARM. It is a joy and a privilege to be a small part of a ministry that God is so richly blessing.

We were blessed to meet our sponsored children on our first visit to Uganda, and they immediately became part of the Jones extended family. We were instantly impressed with their character and involvement in Christian leadership. Both have since

graduated from high school. One has finished college with an education degree, and the other one will graduate soon with a music degree. Both are returning their gifts and experience to ARM as they actively participate in the various ministries of the church and Sponsorship Program.

One of the highlights of our sponsorship activities occurred this summer when we were invited to Uganda to be part of a pre-wedding introduction ceremony. This is a big deal! This past fall our adopted Ugandan son married our adopted Ugandan daughter. What an experience!



*Don Jones  
US Executive Director*



*Joshua and Irene's Wedding*

## Mercy Network

Four years ago ARM entered into a partnership with Children's Hunger Fund (CHF), an organization which distributes aid to hurting people around the world. What began with a shipment of vitamins for 600 children has grown into a program called the Mercy Network. ARM trains church leaders to reach out with the love of Jesus to touch the poor in their communities through childcare and feeding centers, training programs for church leaders, and relief work in the unstable parts of northern Uganda. ARM now has feeding programs in Kabale, Rukungiri, Entebbe, Kawempe, Lusaze, Kibuli, Soroti, Ggaba, and Mubende.

Additionally, a resettlement program is underway in the Soroti region, and ARM and CHF are providing hoes, ploughs, oxen, machetes and seeds.

Pastor Edward in Kawempe reports that, "We have had more converts this year through the Mercy Ministry than all of our other evangelistic strategies." Pastor Luis of the Kibuli Freedom Christian Center recently baptized more than 20 people, most of whom were former Muslims, and all are saying that they have discovered the love of God through the church as they cared for their physical needs.

The Mercy Network was boosted to the next level this summer when, thanks to CHF and their partners, each center received a motorcycle to assist in the food distribution efforts.

*"We have had more converts this year through the Mercy Ministry than all of our other evangelistic strategies."*



*David Phillips, President of Children's Hunger Fund, and Pastor Peter Kasirivu hand out supplies in Soroti (northeastern Uganda).*

## Missions Update



*Some of the many professions of faith and rededications at Jesus Festival*

### Jesus Festival

ARM held many mission events this past summer, and the major one was the evangelistic outreach to the high schools, concluding with Jesus Festival. More than 600 first-time decisions for Christ were made by students from the 15 schools attending the festival which brought together 3,000 young people. The staff at ARM thanks God for Pastor Dennis Spire of Calvary Baptist Church in San Marcos, Texas and his team who taught and counseled at the festival.

### University Outreaches

ARM's university outreaches at Makerere University Business School in Kampala included a

Campus Mega Festival where 1,500 students attended.

ARM also held an outreach at Makerere University hosting Dr. Sammy Tippit of San Antonio, who to more than 5,000 students. Several hundred young people responded, both accepting Christ for the first time and in rededication of their lives.

### International Conference of Evangelism

During August, more than 1,500 people flooded into Ggaba for ARM's International Conference of Evangelism. Attendees included leaders from eight neighboring nations and all corners of Uganda. Peter Kasirivu was a featured

speaker and put out a call for revival—for people to reach out to evangelize the nations. Dr. Sammy Tippit spoke on praying for our families as ministers, while Pastor Steve Troxel of Wayside Chapel in San Antonio spoke about the supremacy of Christ in the Word, church and ministry.

### ARM Prayer Requests

#### Please pray for:

- Those who serve and their families—that they will be nourished as they serve.
- Teachers and funding for salaries to meet their needs.
- Children to desire to read.
- Students to continue their education through college or vocational school.
- The protection of all of the children.

#### Wentz Medical Center

- Needed fund raising for additional facilities and salaries.

#### Maranatha High School

- The funding to complete the expansion.
- Supplies and curriculum for the school.

#### Bethany Children's Village

- Clinic facilities.
- A nurse and a doctor to locate onsite.
- Funds for a high school to meeting the growing needs of the community.
- Kindergarten facilities for the younger children in and around the community.

## Bethany Children's Village

God is so amazing in the way He has blessed ARM's largest project – Bethany Children's Village. Three years ago a team from the US traveled over and worked with ARM as the first orphanage home at Bethany village was built. The dream was to trust the Lord for ten homes, a primary school, clinic, campsite and later, a secondary school.

By the end of 2006, God answered the prayers of ARM's staff and supporters. Because giving was over and above the prayer requests, the twelfth home is just now being completed!

#### Other progress includes:

- Nine of the homes are already in use, each housing 15 children.
- 500 students now attend the completed primary school—those from the homes and other children from the surrounding community.
- The dining hall for the school is finished and in use.
- Two tractors from the US were sent to Bethany Village. ARM staff members are now farming to reduce the cost of overhead. In the future, the children will be taught to farm.
- The ministry is currently planning for the construction of the secondary school.



*A young resident of one of ARM's children's homes*



*A completed children's home*

## Joseph's Story

"I have met children who have had complex problems related to the nervous system, but Uganda has few neurosurgeons. I would like to be part of a team that will work to help people's brains, spines and lives. As a Christian neurosurgeon, I will practice with the heart of Christ. I will reach out to people with a love that acts." These are the words of 18-year-old Joseph Katetemera, who aspires to become a neurosurgeon. Joseph received the opportunity to rise above poverty because someone decided to sponsor him.

Joseph was born in Nyantsimbo, a small village in western Uganda. Joseph's father died two months after Joseph was born and

Joseph's mother died of AIDS when he was ten. Even though Joseph's uncle had just lost his job, he brought Joseph to live with him. "Life was not easy for us," he explains. "There were nights we went without food. I always prayed with my uncle and his wife for God to see us through this situation. Our prayers were answered when God used Pastor Peter Kasirivu who sent a truck to bring us to Ggaba."

The move to Ggaba brought new life. Joseph's uncle got a job as a chemistry teacher at Maranatha High School, and Joseph was registered in Maranatha Academy and the Sponsorship Program.

Joseph is now attending one of the most prestigious high schools in Uganda studying

physics, chemistry, biology and mathematics. "If I can say anything to the thousands of people sponsoring children through ARM, then I would tell them about the depth of the act. You sponsor a child, the child soon dreams and you give the hope that the dream will come true. I would like to use words greater than 'thank you' for the lives you are helping."

Joseph discovered God's great love for him through the ARM Sponsorship Program. He accepted Jesus as his Savior, and he began to cling to God's promise to give him a hope and a future. He will enter university in October 2008.



*"As a Christian neurosurgeon, I will practice with the heart of Christ. I will reach out to people with a love that acts."*



*Joseph and Pastor Peter*

**You can sponsor a child through ARM at [www.africarenewal.org](http://www.africarenewal.org) or by calling (210) 979-7441.**

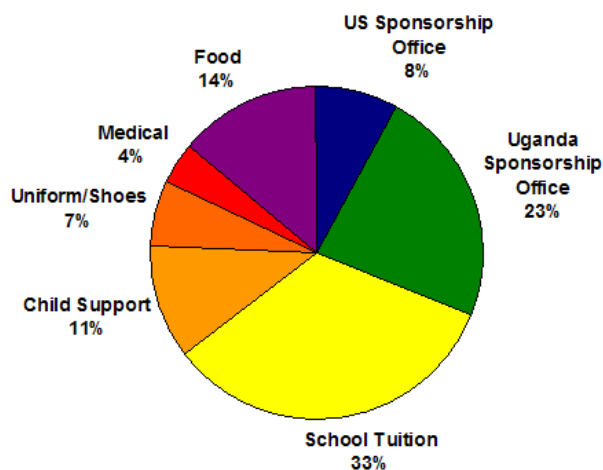
## Where Your Sponsorship Dollars Go

One of the most frequently asked questions is "How is the sponsorship money spent on the children?". You will see from the chart that 100% of the money goes directly for the support of the children. Even the US Sponsorship Office is used to provide the communication, paperwork, and mailing services that are required to effectively coordinate the sponsorship ministry with Uganda.

Jesus demonstrated God's ability to extend small resources far beyond human understanding as He

distributed the fish and bread to the people. That is how God blesses ARM's ministry. It is amazing to see how God stretches the funds to do extraordinary things on behalf of the children.

As good stewards, ARM is evaluating each cost area to determine how to extend the value of the benefits. For example, there is now an agricultural initiative underway to produce more of the food used within the ARM system, thus lowering the food costs and providing self-sustaining opportunities for others.



**Child Support** includes any unexpected needs a child might have, initial and annual photos, extra curricular activities, Center days, and annual camp expenses. **Uganda Sponsorship Office** expenses include social workers, village coordinators, bookkeeping, home visits, administrative support, and occasional projects on behalf of the children.



*Meredith du Plessis  
in Uganda*

## Sponsorship...YES!

Enjoy this excerpt from an email from Meredith du Plessis, a first-time visitor to Uganda: "It really is an amazing ministry that is using every dollar to its full potential and keeping accountable along the way. In addition, they have some of the most faith-filled employees working for them

that really have Jesus as their core and know He is faithful. I am so impressed with them. We did some home visits of sponsored children. Although it was in the deep slums, there is hope and life. Really, the difference between a sponsored child and an unsponsored child is immense.

It is a lifestyle difference, and the ministry takes care of the family as well. We brought food and sat and talked with them. On both occasions the gratitude was overwhelming, and I guarantee anyone back in the US seeing this would sponsor 20 children immediately..."

## Volunteers Needed

If you'd like to receive  
AMAKA electronically,  
please email  
[armusa@aficarenewal.org](mailto:armusa@aficarenewal.org)  
and let us know!



Just as a church is composed of many members, each serving according to their spiritual gifts and talents, so ARM depends on a network of volunteers, called by God, to participate in the various activities of the ministry. ARM's

volunteers and supporters are the **Body of Christ without Walls**. With the exception of the Child Sponsorship Department, all US staff are volunteers, enabling the ministry to send the maximum amount of dollars and

resources to Uganda. ARM asks you to prayerfully consider a place of service within the ministry. Please email [armusa@aficarenewal.org](mailto:armusa@aficarenewal.org) if you are interested in volunteering.



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