

# AMAKA

The Newsletter of Africa Renewal Ministries

Summer 2008 • Volume 2, Issue 2

## Welcome to Bethany Village: A Model for all Uganda



Pastor Peter Kasirivu  
President and  
Founder  
ARM-Uganda

The Bethany project has evolved into a model of Christian ministry that I, along with all the supporters of Africa Renewal Ministries (ARM), would like to duplicate throughout the nation of Uganda. Currently Bethany Village, a campus tucked along the rolling green hills lining Lake Victoria, consists of a children's village, primary school, church, vegetable and animal farm, camp site, child sponsorship program and medical facilities. And, we have exciting plans for the future!

Shortly after the initial land purchase, ARM began holding a youth camp at the land across the lake. The leadership noticed that some of the villagers from the surrounding area would come at night to join in the singing and worship, in fact many accepted Christ as their savior. The ARM leadership made the decision then to plant Bethany Community Church with hopes of providing for the spiritual needs of the community. The first service was held Christmas Day in 2001.

Simultaneously, my wife Irene had taken in several orphans in Gaba. ARM rented two single family homes to house the children. When the population in our small fishing village of Gaba began to rise, so did housing prices. We felt it was wise to move out of the densely populated village and into a more rural neighborhood. Eventually the decision was made to build homes on the Bethany Village land. Seventy children were moved from Gaba to Bethany Village at that time. In the search for a lower cost of living,

increased quality of life and space, a dream that today is Bethany Children's Village was born.

Since then, the mission of Bethany has been to provide the feeling of family unity in a traditional home environment, to give a sense of identity and hope to orphans and vulnerable children, and to raise them up as Uganda's next generation of Christian leaders. Initially ten homes were built to house the children who were orphaned from disease or other unfortunate

circumstance. The first, Praise House, was built in 2003 alongside Rocky Peak Church sponsored by missionaries from California. Today, thanks to the commitment of devoted sponsors and the church, there are twelve homes housing 170 children! And, the land has many uses including a farm, elementary school for more than 600 children and a youth camp site.

Also note that ARM and Acres4Life have partnered to begin an agricultural program that will cultivate eight acres with a variety of crops and livestock. We hope to expand the program to include lessons in agriculture for the children that will provide the skills necessary for the village to become self-sustaining, raising up leaders for the future.

Much more than an orphanage providing care for the children who reside there, the Bethany model has proven that a church institution can provide a loving home,

instilling each child with a heart to serve, equipping him or her with the love and truth of the Gospel. ARM hopes to develop this model throughout Uganda, particularly in the North where over 20 years of war has torn families apart.

ARM's latest Bethany venture is to expand the campus to include a high school. Currently children of high-school age must attend boarding school

or take a 45-minute commute across the lake which costs approximately \$6 in a country where

the average family income is less than a dollar per day. Children from other areas that have no school would also be able to attend.

Finally, Bethany's goal for the coming years is to provide adequate housing on-site for its staff. Currently much of the staff commutes in from rural areas because Bethany lacks suitable housing. We continue to pray for your generous support of the Bethany Village project. This mission has been blessed immensely and we know that the Lord will continue to meet our needs. If you would like to support the on-going success of this mission project, you can donate online at [www.africarenewal.org](http://www.africarenewal.org) or call 210-979-7441.



Boys from the Bethany children's homes  
bring in a harvest from  
one of the gardens.

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\* AMAKA means "family" in Luganda, the tribal language used in Gaba, Uganda, where ARM is headquartered.

## Bethany Village News

### Bethany's New Clinic Delivers Healthcare to Hundreds

This year, Bethany Clinic was finally able to move into its new facilities, thanks to our partners Mark & Margaret Noblin and our friends from Mississippi who not only raised funds but also helped with construction. For over two years, one of the Bethany camp site cabins served as a clinic for the campus. Now in its own building, the clinic serves approximately 700 people in the Bethany area. Milly Mwase, a full-time nurse, oversees the day-to-day operations and assists doctors from Gaba who visit regularly. Plans for the future include an extension to the clinic in order to better meet the demands of the community.

ARM really appreciates all the friends who have stood by the Bethany Clinic over the years, in prayer and through financial support, including all the mission teams that have come and worked with us. You have been such an encouragement!



*Nurse Milly Mwase examines a student at the new Bethany Clinic*

### Enrollment Up at Bethany Christian School

Bethany Christian School, founded in 2003 by ARM, started with an enrollment of about 100 students. By the end of 2005, the school had registered 450 pupils and had 14 staff members.



Currently, there are a total of 615 students from pre-school to seventh grade, 20 teachers and five support staff. We have eight permanent classrooms and a dining facility which doubles as a church on weekends. Recently three new preschool classrooms were constructed through donations made by Uganda Child Care Foundation in the Netherlands.

The school offers services to all children in the primary section who are supported by ARM

under the Bethany Sponsorship Program. This includes all children in the sponsored home and others who may live with a guardian or foster parent in nearby communities. Approximately 100 students whose parents are able to support their education also attend from surrounding villages.

Bethany Christian School has improved the standard of education immensely in this area; previously many of the children were not attending school at all. At Bethany, like other ARM schools, Biblical principles are applied in the approach to teaching, making the school stand apart from other educators in Uganda.

We want to thank all our friends and partners who have made it possible for ARM to serve in this community.

### Bethany Youth Camps Enrich Lives

Just a short 40-minute boat ride away from Gaba, Uganda, nestled on the shores of Lake Victoria rests Bethany Camp Site.

ARM's goal has been to provide a safe, fun camping environment for the children and youth involved in ARM ministries, as well as other groups or organizations that want a serene place for retreats and prayer, all at a nominal fee.

The camp strives to be self-sustaining and consists of seven cabins with the capacity to house a total of 210 people. Annually, it hosts ten camps that reach as many as 1,000 children, youth and college students across Uganda. The primary goal is to meet the spiritual and emotional needs of the children

during their stay. Often those participating in camps come from challenging backgrounds, many being orphaned,

abandoned, homeless or abused. The camp site also houses short-term mission teams serving at Bethany Village.

ARM uses the time during camp to bring the children hope and the assurance that Jesus provides. The staff works at improving their self-esteem while providing counsel for emotional needs in a fun, natural

environment. They strive to help each child discover his or her spiritual gifts and to find

a purpose in the body of Christ. Each year Bethany Camp expands its programs and looks forward to future growth with your help, enriching the lives of even more children.



*Students worship at a Bethany Youth Camp.*

## Transitions & Transformations

The Christian life is a model of transitions and transformation. As the apostle Paul tells us in Romans, *do not be conformed to the nature of things around you, but be transformed by the ongoing renewing of your mind and spirit.*

This has been the mission of Africa Renewal Ministries and its leaders in Uganda – not to accept the poverty, the corruption or the conditions around them – instead, to transform Uganda by giving its children a Christian model of living through spiritual, Bible-based teaching, role models for ethical and moral living and a chance for a good education, that they all may eventually become productive citizens of Uganda.

Over the past two years, the ministry has come full circle. Former students and young leaders of the sponsorship program have graduated, invested in additional ministry education and have become pastors of their own churches. They are making a difference by transforming the communities they serve.

There are now over 100 church plants in Uganda that have been started under the leadership of ARM and Gaba Community Church. And, lives are being transformed through the local church as ARM provides water wells, public healthcare and educational opportunities to the families of the village. The need for more people called to this ministry work resulted in the founding of Gaba Bible Institute. There pastors and Christian leaders are better prepared for the many ministry opportunities throughout Uganda and other parts of Africa.



Several of the children's homes in Bethany Village.

Bethany Village is ARM's model for the transformation of a child. Children who've been removed from the pressures, challenges and undesirable influences of city life come to Bethany for a place of Christian refuge and sanctuary. While there, their wounds are healed and they are immersed in the love and message of Jesus Christ. Several articles in this issue describe the nature of Bethany and tell of the impact it is having on various lives. Under the direction of Christian leaders and pastors, the children are provided with an excellent education, healthcare, proper nutrition and the discipline for learning life skills.

Each orphanage dwelling at Bethany allows 15 children to live in a "home setting" with



Francis Mugwanya,  
Manager,  
Bethany Children's Homes

house parents who love and mentor them. The children take on many important responsibilities integral to life on the campus including gardening and animal husbandry. We thank the many orphanage sponsors, individuals and churches who have contributed to making Bethany Village the God-honoring campus that it is.

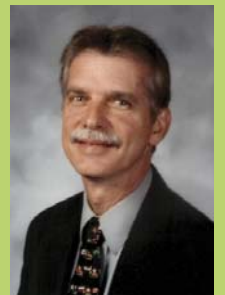


Don Jones  
Executive Director  
ARM-USA

Finally, closer to home, the ARM-USA office is experiencing a much needed transition. As most supporters know, the office operates with many volunteers who sacrificially give of their time to support our diverse ministry work. As Executive Director, I am one of those part-time volunteers who experiences great joy in serving. But ARM has grown to a point where the ministry needs a full-time, paid Executive Director to take the ministry to a new level, managing the many complexities of ARM. I am pleased to announce Craig DuBois as ARM's new Executive Director; his full bio is just below. The Board of Directors has substantially underwritten the cost of this critical position for the first year to keep donations and support going to Uganda. Please welcome Craig and pray for wisdom and guidance as we all seek to stay under the umbrella of God's good and perfect will for ARM. Welcome aboard, Craig!

### Meet ARM-USA's New Executive Director: Craig Dubois

The Rev. Dr. Craig DuBois comes to ARM with an enthusiastic heart for our work in Uganda. His personal mission statement is "to use his gifts to make a genuine and positive Christian impact upon others." He has served as Senior Pastor over congregations in Iowa, Texas and Wisconsin, and has extensive experience in church administration, fund-raising, and mission



involvement in Slovakia, Scotland and England. Craig is celebrating his 29th wedding anniversary with his wife, Kathy. They enjoy the gift of four children; Christopher (age 28), Jennifer Parker (age 26), Heidi (age 17), and Holley (age 14). They also enjoy the addition of a daughter-in-law, Amanda; and a son-in-law, Franklin. Craig is a native Texan and rejoices to be back home serving Christ. He is the author of the book, *The No-Nonsense Church*, published in 2006. His hope and prayer is that through his efforts, many others will come to possess a heart for helping ARM in raising up next generation Christian leaders in Uganda.





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## From Poverty to Grace — One Child’s Story

*Phillip Sawula is just one 13-year-old whose life has been transformed by the Christian atmosphere of Bethany Village. Since 2005, he has enjoyed a life filled with love, support and spiritual renewal, thanks to the ongoing success of the Bethany project. Here is his story in his own words.*

**W**hen my parents died in 2000, I was taken, along with three siblings, to live with our grandparents, but they were already taking care of other relatives. We lived with them for five years and went to various schools for our education. Eventually my grandparents could not afford to care for all of us and pay our school fees, so they requested Africa Renewal Ministries to help care for us.

So I came to Bethany Village in 2005 with my siblings Amos Mbaziira, Flavia Namazzi and Ndagire Rebecca. I have lived at the Grace House since then and am grateful to have come for several reasons. First, when I was at my grandfather’s house, I used to have only one meal a day, but at Grace, we are able to eat to our satisfaction. I used to miss many of my classes because of the lack of school fees, but I now attend school full time; I am in Primary 7 at Bethany Christian School this year. I never miss any classes unless I am sick. At my grandparents, we were forced to share bedding, but I now have a good bed of my own. Also our water source was a great distance away, but here at Bethany Campus, clean water is nearby.

Living at Bethany has benefited me greatly and I am very thankful because many things have changed in my life. I have improved in my school work since I am able

to attend every day. I have grown in my relationship with the Lord and I am learning how to serve Him. My house

mother has been teaching me good morals since I arrived. I have also enjoyed the opportunity of participating in one of the Mwangaza Children’s Choir tours. My desire is to continue serving the Lord through singing and I want to eventually become an Accountant.

I especially want to thank my house parents here at Bethany for taking good care of me and my sponsors for paying my fees and meeting my other basic needs. I sincerely encourage our parents, staff and sponsors to continue supporting Bethany Village for the wonderful impact the campus has in so many young lives.



Phillip Sawula

### Needed: Short-term storage space in Southern California!

Many gracious supporters are collecting medical supplies, school books, library books, teacher supplies, classroom resource materials, computers, office equipment and other high-value items to ship to Uganda on our next container. We are in need of about 250 to 500 square feet of storage space in the Los Angeles or Orange County area to secure these items until the next container goes to Uganda. If you know of an organization or person willing to provide such a space for ARM, please notify the ARM office at 210-979-7441 or armusa@africarenewal.org with the contact information. Containers are the most cost effective method of getting resources to Uganda!