

YOUTHWORX EAST AFRICA



APR 2014



Sunset in Soroti. *The landscape in the area of Uganda is breath taking. One is compelled to consider the creativity of God- The Creator*

A HUGE apology for our missing news last month.

May it never happen again! We were all out of town and lost touch completely with which week it was. Sorry and I hope this letter will make up for it...

So really all that I am going to share will be prayer points

Work is really going on apace. Collin and Eugene are now sharing the brunt of the up country work and are keeping very busy with this as you will see in the 2 reports to follow.

Our newly formed board is getting together this Saturday for prayer and breakfast at my house. The board is very encouraging and has a lot of plans in discussion.

I head off this coming Sunday to run 2 camps for the KIC youth where we will be studying Ephesians, Kayaking, Mountain Biking, eating a lot and enjoying camp fires by the River Nile. Jealous?

Eugene is in communication with the guys in South Sudan but progress is slow. Please pray that we make the right decisions about the potential work there.

I am finally taking the plunge and entering the bureaucratic labyrinth that will hopefully lead eventually to me holding a Ugandan passport with my name on it! I have a lawyer helping me.

We are all looking forward to David Cormell paying a visit in May. I think Collin may be planning to haul him off to do some youth work down west!!!

By the time you read this Collin may well be Dad for the 2nd time. Please pray for him and Lynette. He is planning to take some paternity leave shortly.

I will be in Kenya late April into early May for a rest on the coast so I will ask Eugene to handle the May news and chat with you again in June... So bye for now and over to the team reports:



A local market in Soroti Town. *Many of the young people in this area do not consider farming as a activity worth their time and are waiting for government to provide jobs*

point. The conference was *lovely*- as the British would say- and that led to more invites to the areas of Serere, Amuria, Kumi and Ngora districts.

One of the most obvious needs that were highlighted was the lack of entrepreneur practice in the area. The majority of the young people are not employed and yet do not consider farming something worth their time. Among the youth workers/ youth-leaders the idea of servant leadership sounds foreign to them and it will take sometime for this idea to be reconciled with what the culture in the area has taught them with regards to what a leader should act like. Church in this area is more of a religion than a conviction, even for the youth leaders. I met one who introduced me to his daughter and when I asked about the wife, I was told he didn't want to have one yet.

The challenges are actually exciting because even in areas like Hoima and Masindi, where we have been working for a while now- some of these instances still show up- BUT- the frequency of these incidences generally reduces the longer we work in an area.

Collin writes: We are now involved with training Young Leaders and youth workers in 5 massive districts in South West Uganda (Kabale, Kisoro, Bushenyi, Mbarara and Masaka) The first two of these areas border Rwanda and DRC and a lot of the population, especially in Kisoro is a mix of Ugandans, Congolese and Rwandese. The region is also very beautiful with many hills and mountains.

Richard is the key youth worker in the region and our focal volunteer. He has arranged 4 trainings since late last year with close to 70 leaders trained in youth ministry. Richard puts everything together and I go and do the teaching. I am also working closely with Richard in his overseer role for this region and we have spent a lot of time in mentoring sessions together.

(Editor: Please note this is a different Richard to our Eastern region coordinator who Eugene works closely with)

Eugene writes: A while back, during my usual visits to eastern Uganda, I met Rev. Peter Otim. He sat next to me and introduced himself as a Reverend. Since he was wearing no dog collar at that time, I asked him if he had been let off the leash, and that is where our conversation started.

It turned out that he is attached to the Soroti Arch deaconry (or Dioceses? Not sure which it is) and was in Iganga to meet up with some potential partners for the work that they were doing up in Soroti. He turned out to be a very jovial and energetic character. He invited me to come "visit" him and his flock the next week. I put visit in quotes because that's what I thought I was going to do, but when I went there, there was a conference running that I had been scheduled to speak at. The verse that calls us to be ready in and out of season clearly comes to mind at this