



March 2012

## Progress at ACV!

Last month, we mentioned a few of the projects that needed to be done here at the village, which we considered to be priorities. We are so thankful to report that we have been making progress in many of these areas. The bats have been evicted from the premises and have found a new place to stay, as far as we can see, away from here - Praise God! We hope to begin the next phase of that project (repairing the ceilings) next week. As far as the Room Project goes, God has amazingly and faithfully provided the funds that are needed to buy the kids new mattresses and we are now working on getting quotations to build the closet organizers for the bedrooms. We are also getting quotations from contractors for

some of the other big projects that need to be done, including the fencing around the village and the electrical issues (which is another priority). At this time, the pit latrines and the bathing rooms (which are outside) have no electricity going to them at all. This makes using the facilities somewhat challenging, inconvenient, and not to mention a little bit dangerous if they are being used at night. There are so many things to be done, however, we are trying to keep things in perspective and remember that these are big projects that take time. In Uganda, there is a saying, "There is no hurry in Africa." While we haven't quite grasped that concept yet, we are learning to practice patience as we

move forward one day at a time with the projects that are in front of us. We know that God will be faithful to complete what He started in every aspect of our lives, including these projects! We are so grateful to those of you who have heeded God's call and supported this ministry through your love, prayers, financial support, and who have served here or are coming to serve here! There are not enough words to express our heartfelt gratitude for how you are making a difference in the lives of these children. We are sincerely humbled by your generosity and grateful for your sacrifice! May God receive all the glory, honor, and praise!

## ACV Mother's Retreat



Most of you know what it's like to get up early to provide for your family whether you are working in the home or outside of the home. As parents, we have the God given responsibility to make sure that our children have everything they need. We have to make sure they have food to eat, clean clothes to wear, that their homework is done, and most importantly that we train

them up in the Lord. It is certainly a privilege and a joy, but we all know that it can be difficult at times. For almost 9 years of serving the children of ACV - without ever having had any considerable time away, or any real days off - the House Mothers of ACV have done this to the best of their ability. Back in January when we first got here, we began to plan for Danyal and Suzan (the ACV Manager) to take the mothers on a much needed and well deserved, weekend retreat away from the village! While the mothers were away enjoying spiritual and physical refreshment, Papa Bill & Patrick took care of ALL 30 kids that are here at the village (read about their fun weekend on page 2 of this newsletter). The women spent time in worship, devotion, and Bible study sessions. They also enjoyed their free time enjoying activities that they have never done before; the mothers each got a massage, some of them went swimming, they relaxed, and ate delicious food that they didn't have to prepare or clean up! On our way home, the mothers expressed that they were feeling encouraged, equipped, and ready to give all for Jesus as they serve the children unto the Lord once again!



## MARCH ACTIVITIES:

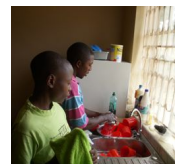


This month, several of the girls joined together to learn some tips in sewing from Natalie. She took this opportunity to help the girls learn how to sew by hand. They each stitched a small bag for their first lesson and did a great job! Next time they hope to finish their bags and decorate them.



Here in Uganda, kids who are in Jr. & Sr. High go away to boarding school. They are basically gone for two months and then return to the ACV for about a month. We had the privilege of going to a few of the schools that had family visitation day this month. Many of the children have never had anyone come to visit them at school before, so it was a huge blessing to them that we were able to come as their family! It was so much fun to see the kids, see what their schools are like and to see how they live while they are away. Honestly, they live in very challenging environments, and they miss being at ACV. Nevertheless, they continue to try hard, doing their best unto the Lord! Please pray for them as the Lord leads.

Over the last several weeks, some of the kids have been coming over to our house to learn how to play the guitar. There is at least one boy from each of the four houses here at the village that has shown a desire to learn how to play guitar and has been faithful to come and practice. They have learned several chords and they take turns coming every day of the week to practice what they have learned. One of the boys has already written the words to his first song, which we just put to music with some of the chords that he has been practicing. Now a few of the other boys are using this song to practice with. It's so precious to see these sweet kids using the gifts God has given them to write songs and sing for Jesus! We are praying that God would increase their love of worship and strengthen them in their gifts! ***I will sing to the LORD for He has been good to me. Psalm 13:6***



Papa Bill and Patrick put on a Christian Soldiers Camp while the mothers were away on their weekend retreat. Everyone participated in worship and devotion as a part of their soldier training. They played games, watched movies, and ate all kinds of fun foods like, spaghetti, PB & J, and a classic soldier meal of SOS. ☺ They had a kitchen crew who helped prepare every meal and a clean up crew who took care of all the dishes. All in all they had a fun time! Everyone slept well, everyone had fun, everyone was blessed - especially the mothers! We are so thankful God, for how You continue to watch over us and pour out Your love upon us! And everybody said, "AMEN!"

## PINEAPPLE ANYONE?

After a short trip to western Uganda to take Nathan (the ACV security guard who retired) back to his home; Papa Bill, Pastor Tom, Patrick, and Mama Josephine returned with a pineapple for every child here at the village. You should have seen their faces light up when the kids realized that they were going to get their very own pineapple to eat all by themselves! To think about how the simplicity of how just getting their own pineapple made them all so happy, really brought our hearts joy! *O taste and see that the LORD is good - Psalm 34:8*



## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. God's continued direction and provision for the upcoming projects we are doing.
2. The team that will be coming in May to work on projects.
3. The kids in the local school / community that we are reaching out to.
4. Agape Chapel and the ministries within it, especially Sunday school & Outreach.

For weekly updates about what's going on at ACV, visit our website @ [www.agapechildrensvillage.com](http://www.agapechildrensvillage.com)