

EWCV Newsletter – April, 2006

Spring Greetings and Happy Easter from the Masaka site of Eagles Wings Children's Village Incorporated in Uganda! We understand that the geese are flying north – back into Canada – these days, that the snow is melting, and that the prairie crocuses will soon be blooming. Isn't that great!

We have noticed changes here in Uganda after the Spring Equinox on March 20th. The rainy season began at the end of March, although the rains don't fall everywhere, and some areas have more rainfall than others. These days we are hearing the sounds of the birds returning. Everything is usually quite green all year, but now we can see the flowers blooming more than ever and the vegetation turning even greener.

UPDATE PROGRESS REPORT ON EWCV INC.

1. The water is flowing again from the water line on site after over a month without water in the town of Lukaya. This water is so important as it is needed for the mixing of cement for bricklaying.
2. Three of the nine buildings being constructed at EWCV site are nearing completion: the kitchen/store, Farmer's/Cook's house, and the latrine (toilet). The foundation for the House Parent's house has been constructed.



Foundation for the House Parent's house at EWCV, Uganda

3. Over seven acres of land were recently plowed by our Danish Missionary Farmer friend, Dan. Much of the land required clearing; stumps and bushes were removed by a team of eleven workers. There were frequent delays but the job was completed just as needed, just as the rainy season was upon us.
4. Crops of maize, beans, cassava, peanuts (gnuts), matooke, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, and bananas are being planted by the same eleven workers who cleared the land. Our agricultural teacher friend tested about ten areas by taking soil samples and found that the soil has been fairly leached. He is advising us on the type, amount, and spreading of fertilizer to improve the soil fertility.
5. A family of monkeys has moved onto the EWCV property near Lukaya and are waiting for the beans to grow so they can feed on them. This means that we will have to acquire several dogs to chase away the monkeys so that they will not ruin the new crop when it grows.
6. We have now increased the number of lone orphaned children with us at our house in Masaka to seven and are preparing for nine more. We will maintain that number until the buildings are completed at the property. When this first family moves to the site, we will increase the family unit from sixteen to twenty four children.
7. Our classroom now is looking like a nursery/kindergarten/Grade 1 classroom with brightly colored small tables and chairs for the children and teacher-made charts on the walls as teaching aids.



Nursery/Kindergarten/Grade 1 Classroom at EWCV, Uganda

8. The House Parents have settled in nicely now and have taken much of the load from the rest of us. The house parents come with years of experience working with children and having raised their own family.

9. We are waiting for our NGO (Non Governmental Organization) renewal certificate to be issued any time now. We need this certificate to apply for our Work Permit from the Government of Uganda.
10. We have completed the first auditing of our financial records here in Uganda. Our office is here in our home in Masaka at present. It was quite a stressful time getting the audit done , and the next audit will be done in three months due to a need to catch up with this work. Ann has been working long hours entering all the entries into the computer and will be happy when caught up with a balanced account!
11. We are considering taking in some children from the area around Gulu in northern Uganda where the children have been orphaned due to their parents being killed in the twenty-year-long war. Several of our workers, including our farm manager and cook, John and Stella, have come from that area and have relatives living in the IDP Camps (Internally Displaced People). Some of the leaders of World Vision in Uganda are looking into this as we have been challenged as an NGO to do our part to aid the people in the north. We believe that children's needs do not have boundaries.
12. We have applied for a subsidy offered by the Ugandan Government for a new Solar System for electricity to offset the frequent outages of power.
13. Our first website on-line Sponsorship for Children has been successful due to the work of Celesta and Leo Thiessen in setting up this new link in the website. You might wish to check it out at:

PRAISE ITEMS

1. For the new house parents.
2. For the plowing and most of the planting being completed.
3. For the recent rain that will make the crops grow.
4. For running water on site and progress with construction of buildings on site.
5. For a donation that makes possible the purchase of a motorcycle for the social worker.
6. For the many people praying for EWCV project.
7. For the many generous donors who have enabled this project to continue developing in its infancy stage.



Thankful kids at EWCV, Uganda

CURRENT NEEDS

1. Double Cabin Pickup Truck @ \$16,000 USD.
2. Monthly sponsorship for ten children @ \$35.00 per child and two House Parents @ \$125 per parent.

PRAYER NEEDS

1. Strength and good health for the workers and children.
2. Quick approval of the renewal of our NGO status and our Work Permits.
3. Approval for the Government to give us the 45% discount for a new Solar Energy System.