

From the Pieratts



CRI Children's Relief International

Taking the light of Christ to the poor

Alan & Melody Pieratt

WORLDVENTURE

In our training of new staff and interns, I teach this principle for working in poverty: **Focus on the individual.** Keep the work personal. Relational. Real. Even the largest mission agencies don't have the where-with-all to change an entire community, let alone a region or a country. But we can change one life, and one family, at a time.

Last summer Melody and I visited our old friend Martin Koko. He pastors a small church in the *Kiryadongo* Refugee Camp. These unfortunate people fled the war in the Sudan and are now hunkered down in this camp in northwest Uganda, waiting for peace in their country so they can return home.

Martin's youth group put on a skit for us. It was about life in the camp. No money. Little food. Nowhere to go. Time slows to a crawl. What's there to do?! The lead player in the skit was Helen Mustaffa. We shook hands when the play was over and asked for God's blessing on her and the rest of the young actors. We then headed down the long road back to our hotel.



Pastor Koko praying with Helen.

A few weeks later, Martin wrote and said that Helen had been assaulted by a gang. It was a brutal experience and she was depressed. Please pray for her, he said.

A few weeks after that, Martin wrote and said Helen was expecting. He was worried she might take her life.

Here is a personal, and painful, example of keeping the focus on individuals in need.

Now, it's a few months later. We have helped Helen with medical care, extra food, vitamins and have paid the fees

for her to enroll in school. We have promised to keep her in school as far as she can go.

Helen recently wrote a note to Melody and I to thank us. **Little did she know** she was thanking each of you standing behind us. **You make our work possible.** Through us, you are changing individual lives with the light of Christ. Something to feel good about today.

A & Melody



Helen with her sisters, brother and mother. Her thank you note to us, and you.

