



Shepherd's Love

Newsletter - September 2014

TWINOMUJUNI
Twinomujuni Orphanage, Kabale, Uganda

(Pronounced Twin **ohm** zhu nee)

Shepherd's Love

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The Dormitory 90% Complete

What's New at Twinomujuni

by April Dobbs

The new dormitory for the children who board at the school is 90% complete. The walls are up, the roof is on, painting almost complete. The boys occupy the first floor, the girls the second floor, and the new third floor will be used as a multi-purpose area for testing, for chapel services, dining etc. Railings have been installed on the stairs, making them safer to use. There is electric lighting in the building.

The outdoor latrine that was close to the Children's Home building will now only be used by the school boarders. This is due to a new well we were able to install this year. Now, the toilets and showers in the Home have water all the time and the kids don't need to use the outdoor latrine when the water isn't running.



Stair Railings



The well pumps water to the plumbing



Walls being painted, and new doors were installed

We did not have indoor plumbing installed in the dormitory due to many of the children being from places where they have never used indoor plumbing. They put leaves and other objects down the toilets, they stand on them and break the seats, and they do not keep them clean. So the school children will continue to use the outdoor latrine and bathe with basins and water. The original latrine that was close to the Home has been demolished and a new one built further away so the smell doesn't come into the Children's Home or the dormitory.

Other Improvements

Formerly, the children's personal belongings were kept in suitcases at the foots of their beds. That is standard procedure for school boarders since they bring their own mattresses and personal items and live at school for three months at a time, then go home for the holiday months. However, the children at Twinomujuni live there full time and just walk next door to school. So now that they are not sharing their home with the school kids, the suitcases have been replaced with cabinets. Each cabinet is shared by two children and can be locked. The kids all carry the key to their cabinet on a chain around their necks, and they are very proud of this.

The curtains nailed to the walls will be replaced by new curtains hung in "window boxes," which have the curtains hung inside and can also have pictures placed on top. We also put full length mirrors in the rooms so they can see how they look. This will reduce the number of nail holes in the walls as well.



The rather drab looking original school uniforms have been replaced by new, brighter colors.

The inside walls have been repainted. This time, at Rick's insistence, the walls were sanded first so the paint will hopefully not peel off as it did last time. The kids will be responsible for keeping them clean of hand and footprints, and not drawing on the walls.

The kitchen, although still a separate building and using wood for fuel, has been upgraded.



Cabinets replace suitcases for personal belongings



New School Uniforms



New kitchen

Facts of Life

AIDS becomes personal to us

Our first trip to Kabale, in August 2006, we met a little boy who was 6 years old at the time. His name was Brian, but Rick nicknamed him Smiley because of his big smile. Rick and Smiley developed a very special relationship over the years. Right from the beginning, we knew Smiley was HIV positive. Two years later, his father died of AIDS. His mother is an alcoholic and was drunk almost every time we saw her. Subsequently, Smiley did not always get enough to eat, and did not always get his medicine. Although our family in Kabale always tried to make sure he was cared for, they could not take him away from his mother. Various outsiders tried at different times to make a difference. Smiley was given a place to live at a hostel close by that was owned by a local trade school. But his mother would come and share his food with him, or make him come home.

Earlier this year, our Ugandan son, Isaac, found Smiley in his mother's home, almost dead from starvation. Isaac took him to the clinic. He was transferred to the hospital and given special food to get him past the starvation crisis, but since he had also not had his medication for along time, the HIV had progressed to AIDS. Just before we got to Uganda this time, Smiley had been given a blood transfusion. The first week we were there, he was able to come over and eat with us. But he rapidly regressed again and had to go back to the doctor. He became too weak to walk, could barely talk, and was staying on a mattress in the yard of a local woman who claimed to be a nurse. Two feet from his head, a cow grazed in the yard.

The last time I went with Isaac to take Smiley to the doctor, his feet and hands were swollen, he was severely jaundiced, and he couldn't keep down anything except a swallow of milk. He was taken back to the hospital, where he lay in a small metal bed against the wall near an open window. Flies crawled on his arms and face. I asked him if he was afraid, he said no. He knew Jesus, and knew Whose hands he was in. Rick and I both prayed with him, and told him it was OK to go home to Jesus. He died 26 August, at age 14. We buried him 27 August at his mother's home, on a small hill that overlooks the stream where he liked to look for mud fish.

AIDS kills. Africans live with the specter of AIDS as part of their daily lives. Last year we heard some children singing a song at a local event. The words: "AIDS, AIDS, AIDS, the killer disease. I have no mother, I have no father. No one trusts me. I have no place to sleep. Please, Dear people, be careful."



Smiley—August 2012—finding mud fish



Smiley, August 2014— his last day



Joseph House for the Aged

Over the years, we have met a number of elderly people in Uganda who have no living relatives, or who have been deserted by their relatives. Not physically able to care for themselves anymore, they are reduced to begging on the streets, or they die quietly in their small mud huts. One of our dreams has been to provide a home for at least some of them. This year, because of a generous donation by some good people, we were able to take advantage of the opportunity to buy a place to start this home. We will only be able to house 8 to 10 seniors, but that is a start. It is the first place of it's kind in the entire area, and maybe because of it, people will begin to take care of the elderly who have no family. This trip, we met a man who is a gerontologist. The first person I have met in Uganda who has a special heart for old people! What a blessing. He is going to stay in communication with Isaac and check on the residents periodically. Our one male resident, Nathaniel, was depressed and failing physically when he came to live at Joseph House. After receiving good food and some loving attention for the first time in many years, he improved so much he told Rev. David he needed something useful to do. So, he is now the security guard at Roseville Preparatory School. No one gets past him!!



Joseph House



One of the rooms



Joy, Zaraiah and Irene like sitting outside



Nathaniel at his post

Fun with Our Kids



Talent show. Elizabeth and Grace doing a skit.



Esau on his hand made stilts

New Children at Twinomujuni—in need of sponsors



Brave, age 3—youngest of 7 children. His father died, leaving the mother with no income. Rev. David's heart was moved when he saw Brave trying to throw himself into the grave with his father as they buried him. The mother has no way to care for all the children, so it was agreed Brave would come to live at Twinomujuni Children's Home.



Brenda—age 7



Cynthia—age 3



Brenda and Cynthia are sisters whose parents both died. The girls were taken in by an old woman who did not have the resources to care for them. She had to go to town and beg for food to feed the girls. She finally approached Rev. David and asked if we could take them. She was just about to sell the last thing she owned, her sleeping mat, to buy food for the girls, and then she would have nothing left.

Other Highlights of this Trip



Seeing new places, starting new chapters of Daughters of the King



New Copy Machine



Being part of Addah and Ivan's Introduction (engagement party)



Giving donated safety glasses to the rock breakers



Giving donated eyeglasses to people

To make a tax-deductible contribution to Shepherd's Love:

- ☐ I would like to make a donation to Shepherd's Love. My check in the amount of \$_____ is enclosed.
- ☐ I would like to sponsor a child for \$50.00 per month. (*Contact Shepherd's Love if you have questions about child sponsorship*)
- ☐ I would like to make a monthly pledge to Shepherd's Love in the amount of \$_____ beginning _____.

By automatic monthly withdrawal on my credit card ☐ Visa ☐ Master Card ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____

Name on Card _____

OR My first check in the amount of \$_____ is enclosed. (You will be mailed a receipt each month)

Mailing address: _____

E-mail address: _____ Telephone: _____

- ☐ I am interested in information regarding future mission trips to Twinomujuni Children's Home.

100% of all contributions go directly to build and operate Twinomujuni Children's Home

Shepherd's Love does not share or sell addresses or personal information of supporters

Always needed

Ongoing Monthly Pledges of Any Amount—

These are what will keep the orphanage operating into the future.

**To donate specifically to the building fund or the education fund,
just specify that in the memo section of your check.**



Recycle for Twinomujuni Children's Home!

Save your aluminum cans and plastic bottles for the orphans. Rick will be happy to pick them up from you (if you live in the Sacramento/Placer County area). Just save the cans and bottles, and when you have a full trash bag of them, call Rick (916-212-7747) and he'll come pick them up and take them to the recycling center.

Sponsors are always needed for the children. You can look on the web page to see their pictures (www.shepherdslove.com) The kids pray daily for their sponsors. I cannot tell you how much they love and appreciate the people who, without ever actually meeting them, are willing to send the money every month to help them to survive. If you are not currently sponsoring a child, please consider it. The cost of \$50.00/month helps to pay for all their needs—food, shelter, medical attention, academic and religious education, clothing, recreational activities and, most important of all, a loving family environment. If they were not at Twinomujuni, they would be either on the streets or living as second-class family members with already over-burdened relatives. Use the form on the top of this page to fill out and send in if you can be a sponsor, or if you would like to make a donation of any amount.



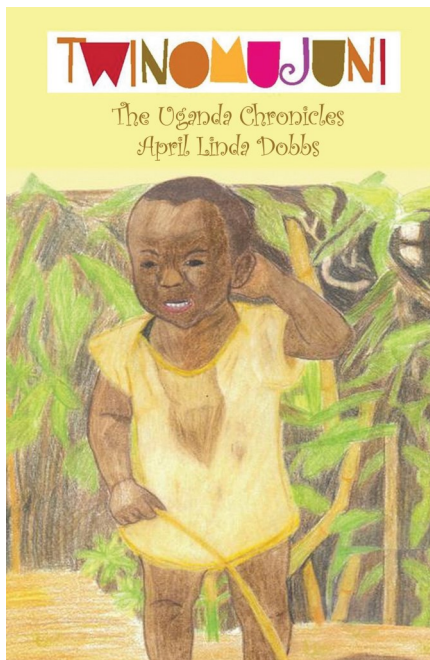
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*"Religion that is pure and
undefiled before God
and the Father is this:
to visit orphans and widows
in their affliction, and to keep oneself
unstained from the world."*
James 1:27, RSV

Twinomujuni Children's Home/
Roseville Preparatory School
Kabale, Uganda



Available now!!

Read the entire story of the founding and building of Twinomujuni Children's Home from the unfolding of the dream to the dedication of the building. The book is available for a donation of \$20.00 or more (includes shipping) to Shepherd's Love. The book includes dozens of pictures. You can make a donation and request the book on our website, www.shepherdslove.com.

"Twinomujuni: The Uganda Chronicles" is now available as an e-book on Amazon & Barnes & Noble. If you don't want to type in "Twinomujuni," you can just put in my name (April Dobbs). Easier!

If you have read and hopefully enjoyed the book, please go to Amazon.com and do a review!! It may help someone else decide to buy it and read it. Thank you!

If you have read the book and want to know "the rest of the story," accounts of all our trips and activities in Uganda for the last 5 years can be found on our web site, www.shepherdslove.com
Click on the tab "April's Blog."

CURRENT SPECIAL NEED

\$4000.00 for a lightning rod and fire extinguishers for the dormitory