



ACM

AFRICAN CHILDREN'S MISSION



ACM Mission Team Manual

Dear Mission Volunteer,

Oli otya! On behalf of everyone at ACM, I would like to warmly welcome you as a ministry partner! Since 1996, African Children's Mission (ACM) has faithfully worked to *Make Disciples and Transform Communities* in East Africa. Working with Short-Term Missionaries (STM), like you, has been a tremendous blessing to ACM and the communities we serve. We look forward to having you serve with us.

The information and guidelines in this STM Manual will help you prepare for the trip, assist you during the trip, and help make this one of the most impactful experiences of your Christian Walk. Please carefully read through this required document before each visit.

Depending on the make up of your team and ACM's needs, you may be involved in various tasks such as clean water projects, teaching sewing, evangelism, discipleship, feeding children, preaching, home visits, pastor training, medical and dental ministry, VBS, music, encouragement, and more. Be ready to see how God uses your experiences and talents to bless those you serve.

Additional information, such as links for required documentation and fundraising resources, can be found on our Mission Teams webpage, www.africanchildrensmision.org/mission-teams. If you have questions after reviewing these resources, **please contact your team leader**. You can also refer to page 62 for an index.

Lastly, it is never too early to enlist a few key prayer partners as you prepare for this trip. We are praying for you as you prepare for your time of ministry in Uganda.

Yours in Christ,

David Semeyn

Executive Director, ACM

ACM is a *member* of Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.

Applying a higher standard. Serving a higher purpose



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

PREPARATION

WWW.AFRICANCHILDRENSMISSION.ORG/MISSION-TEAMS

Required Documentation

Visit our Mission Teams webpage, for links to all required documentation:

- Application
- Commitment Form & Liability Release Form
- Pastor Recommendation Form
- Background Check
- E-Visa
- Team Roster for AHI (Team Leader only - found on Mission Trip Leader Resources webpage)

Required/Recommended Reading

- *Mission Trip Leader Resources - (Required for ACM Team Leader) www.africanchildrensmision.org/leaderresources
- *Helping Without Hurting in Short-Term Missions, Steve Corbett & Brian Fikkert (Required)
- Let the Nations be Glad, John Piper (Recommended)
- What is the Gospel, Gregg Gilbert (Recommended)
- African Friends and Money Matters, David E. Maranz (Recommended)

Team Meeting Schedule

Meeting Location

Date

Time

MISSION TRIP COUNTDOWN

DATE

10 Submit ACM APPLICATION
6 months or more prior to departure

9 Attend all TEAM MEETINGS

8 Develop a team of PRAYER PARTNERS
as early as possible

7 Arrange for appropriate FUNDRAISING
as early as possible

6 Set appointments for & take recommended
VACCINATIONS
as early as possible

5 Apply for a PASSPORT
6 months or more prior to departure

4 Submit AIRFARE funds
4 months or more prior to departure

3 Team Leader Only: Email ACM your “Team
Roster for AHI” (found on Leader webpage)
2 months prior to departure

2 Apply for E-VISA
2 months prior to departure

1 Complete remaining documentation &
submit final payment to ACM
5 weeks or more prior to departure

READY

Check PACKING LIST when packing

SET

Begin taking MALARIA PILLS as prescribed

GO!

Be at the airport at least 3 hours BEFORE departure

MONEY

The Ugandan shillings in this picture are equivalent to approximately \$2.25... the average daily wage for many Ugandans. The area we will be working in is one of extreme poverty in a very poor country. Each dollar spent by STM's in Uganda needs to be spent responsibly and in a way to impact this community for the greatest good and God's glory.



The cost of this trip is determined by airfare and field expenses, which include ministry expenses, lodging, meals, and services, such as laundry, and transportation. This does not include layover expenses, personal expenses, souvenirs, or a safari, which will be the responsibility of the volunteer. If there are sufficient funds in the volunteer's account, the cost of entry visa and immunizations needed for the trip can be reimbursed by presenting original receipts to ACM.

Each volunteer is responsible for raising his/her own funds. All funds must be processed through the ACM office. Each volunteer will have an individual account maintained by ACM for this purpose. In accordance with 501(c)(3) non-profit regulations, any donations towards your mission trip cannot be refunded and any remaining funds left in a volunteer's account after his/her account has been reconciled will remain in the volunteer's account for a future visit, which must be scheduled within one year of the date of the return from their previous trip. If no further visit is scheduled within that time frame, any remaining funds in their individual account will be transferred to the ACM general ministry account.

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising is a huge part of spiritual growth for this trip. When others help financially support your mission trip, they get to be a part in sharing the gospel. Don't miss out on the opportunity to include others!

We have several fundraising resources on our Mission Teams webpage:

Create your own personal fundraising webpage

Through ACM's website, you can create your own personal fundraising webpage (similar to a "go-fund me" type campaign) to share online through email or social media platforms.



Create and mail fundraising letters

When you visit our Mission Teams webpage, you'll find a sample fundraising letter to download, customize, and mail to friends and family.

Be sure to check out our Fundraising Resources video on our Mission Teams webpage to help guide you through the fundraising process.

The fundraising webpage and sample letters, which are both for the purpose of enlisting prayer and financial support, will assist you in partnership development. It is extremely important that you enlist a solid base of dedicated prayer partners early in your preparation time because Satan will try to discourage you from answering God's call to ministry on the mission field! Ask your prayer partners to pray for you daily from now to the completion of your mission trip. You will want to send thank you letters to all those who support you, both prayerfully and financially. Some STM's bring the names and addresses on their trip, so they can write letters from Uganda.

DEVOTION: SELF SUFFICIENCY

SHORTCUTTING THE WILL OF GOD

Genesis 16:1-6

We live in a fast-paced culture and are accustomed to quick results. Waiting appears to be an activity of past generations. It's no surprise, then, that we have a hard time if God doesn't answer a prayer right away. But when we refuse to be patient, our only option is to step out of His plan. Today's passage tells how Abram and Sarai (later Abraham and Sarah) took matters into their own hands because they did not like the Lord's timetable.

Ten years had passed since God promised them a son, and Sarai was aging. So she and Abram decided to let her servant Hagar bear a child for them. Sarah eventually did give birth in her old age, but that lack of patience led to great strife—for their family and for us today. Much of the tension in the Middle East can be traced to two people groups: the descendants of Hagar and of Sarah.

Why would a godly couple choose a path of self-sufficiency? First, Sarai's intense desire clouded her thinking. She desperately wanted to provide her husband with a son—which was a basis of women's worth in that culture. Next, she succumbed to wrong thinking. After years of childlessness and longing, she began to think that perhaps the Lord needed human help. Finally, she influenced Abram to believe this faulty reasoning, and both gave in to impatience.

These traps still pose danger today. We're not immune to strong desire, human reasoning, or the influence of others. Impatient by nature, we could easily justify taking action in our own strength. The best advice is to listen, obey, and wait. God's timing is perfect, and we don't want to miss His best.

~ In Touch Ministries 2011

PERSONAL THOUGHTS

SHORTCUTTING THE WILL OF GOD

Genesis 16:1-6

LIFE ON THE RANCH

RANCH HISTORY

Ekitangaala Ranch is a ministry of Cornerstone Development Uganda, a charitable foundation which implements and supports development projects aimed at meeting the needs of the poor and disadvantaged. This project is a 1,272-acre cattle ranch located 70 miles north of the capital city, Kampala. It consists of a working dairy ranch, a ranch staff village, a primary school, secondary school, pastor and church leader training school, vocational training school, and an advanced-level boarding schools (like a junior college), specifically for orphaned and underprivileged boys, Cornerstone Leadership Academy (CLA). There are about 300 men, women, and children who are permanent residents of the ranch. You will be here during your trip.

ACCOMMODATIONS

While visiting Ekitangaala Ranch, you will be living in accommodations prepared for you by African Hospitality Institute (AHI). Your cleaning and laundry will be done for you so that you can spend your time focused on ministry, but you will be asked to keep your living quarters neat and orderly. The facilities are safe and comfortable, with usually two people to a room with solar electricity, hot showers and flush toilets.

PROJECTS

While serving with ACM, there will be a variety of projects to get involved in. From construction, solar wiring, well repairs, and general maintenance, to discipleship, preaching, teaching, gospel presentations and health care; the needs of the people here are so great that the opportunities are almost limitless. If you have a specific area of interest or expertise, share this with your team and team leader so that your gifts and talents can be put to work for God's glory!

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

While completing projects are a great way to physically meet the needs and demonstrates God's love for the people we will be working with, the main focus of our trip will be building relationships and working alongside nationals. Our goal will be to live out James 1:27.

DEVOTION: SERVICE

BUT SEEK HIM FIRST!

Read Matthew 6:19-21

Often during mission trips, we are put into situations that are uncomfortable and unfamiliar. In these places, the Lord reveals where our treasures actually lie. When I am exhausted, scared, or frustrated, my heart shows what I am actually valuing. For example, on late nights and early mornings in Uganda, it was very easy for me to value a good night's sleep or a long, hot shower ahead of studying God's Word. My mindset was on what I wanted and not on giving glory to the Lord. However, as the Lord opened my eyes to these things, he began to humble me and change my heart.

Matthew 6 is a wonderful passage all around. The end of Matthew 6 is a section that I have clung to when life is tough and my heart is anxious.

Read Matthew 6:25-33

Try reading this section two or three times. Rest in these truths for a few minutes. This passage is so convicting because the goal of anxiety is to rob us of our trust and joy in the Lord. Anxiety is one of the ways Satan attempts to distract us when we are serving the Lord -- whether an uncomfortable situation, another team member, a terrifying circumstance, a fear of travel, a fear of failure, or many more. When I went to Uganda, this was probably the most frustrating part of the trip. It constantly felt as though the enemy was attacking me. However, the end of Matthew 6 wonders, if God cares for the tiny birds and flowers, how much more does he care for you? What a beautiful reminder that even when life is overwhelming and terrifying, we can trust that the Lord cares for us and knows what tomorrow holds. Verse 33 instructs us in the way to walk when we are anxious, "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." Life can be very distracting, however, when we feel this way, let this be a reminder to turn to the Lord and seek Him first.

~ Laney Hinton, 2024

PERSONAL THOUGHTS

BUT SEEK HIM FIRST!

Matthew 6:19-21; 25-33

ABOUT UGANDA



CULTURE In the traditional African culture, hospitality is looked at as one of the highest virtues. If you are invited to a Ugandan's home, you may be offered something to eat or drink. If you refuse this food, it could

be seen as a great insult to them. Respect and self-control are high on their list of important attitudes, and good manners are carefully taught to their children, but the people are very shy. A polite Ugandan handshake lasts much longer than is comfortable to most Americans. If the person you greet places his left hand on his right arm as he shakes hands with you, it is a sign of respect and honor directed toward you. Women or girls often kneel in greeting. The culture places a strong emphasis on relationships, and developing them is more important to the African than time, so events commonly begin much later than scheduled. Displays of affection between the sexes are not appropriate in public. In contrast, it is common to see boys or men holding hands with each other; this is also true of girls and women. This is a normal expression of friendship among Africans and should not be offensive.

LANGUAGE The official language in Uganda is English. However, typically, only those who have had formal education can speak English well so you will always have a translator available to you. While there are over forty languages spoken in Uganda, Luganda is the most widely known and is the language spoken by Ugandans in our region. You can learn some common Luganda phrases in this manual and on ACM's Mission Team webpage.



PICTURES The people in Uganda are sometimes shy about having their pictures taken. When taking photos of nationals, it is polite to ask their permission. Taking photos of any governmental buildings, facilities, or officials is forbidden by law and strictly enforced. The best policy on photo taking is to stick to people, animals, and scenery.

GIVING TO LOCALS As an ACM STM, you are forbidden to give money or gifts to any nationals (i.e. staff, children, or adults). These well-meaning gifts can take away the dignity of the recipient, damage the long-standing relationship between the nationals and the missionary community, and create a sense of jealousy. Don't give gifts of any kind, even candy, directly to the children, students, street children, workers, or staff. If you would like to take a gift to your *sponsored child*, let ACM know before your trip.



LUGANDA PHRASES

Oli otya	How are you? (Hello)
Gyendi	Fine
Wasuze otya nno	Good morning
Osiibye otya nno	Good afternoon
Bulungi	Good
Siiba bulungi	Have a nice day
Sulu bulungi	Good night
Weeraba	Good-bye (one person)
Mweeraba	Good-bye (multiple people)
Gyebale	Well done/ good job
Webale	Thank you
Webale nyo	Thank you very much
Kale	You are welcome/Ok
Mukama akuwe omukisa	God bless you
Mukama yebazibwe	Praise God
Mwattu	Please
Nnyabo	Ma'am
Ssebo	Sir
Ye	Yes
Nedda	No

Visit our Mission Teams Webpage for a video to learn how to pronounce some common Luganda phrases.

DEVOTION: EVANGELISM

THE GOSPEL IS THE SAME Philippians 4:4-9

I went to Uganda in 2010 and in some ways, I think I am still processing all that I learned and experienced on that short two-week trip. One of the most unexpected lessons was on joy and contentment.

From the moment we drove onto the ranch, we were greeted with smiles and laughter and waves. Men and women would stop what they were doing to shout a friendly greeting.

Children would run out to our truck or come along side us as we walked, skipping and laughing the whole way. The mothers would welcome us into their homes as we did home visits of the sponsored children, offering anything they had to make our stay comfortable and enjoyable. Their concern for my well-being was so genuine and warm. The church services, lit only by a center fire, were packed and lively and filled with beautiful singing and dancing.

Every day I was greeted with kindness and so many smiles and so much laughter. It's easy for me to forget that these are the same mothers who pray over their children at night as they suffer from fever, malaria, HIV, and hunger. The same children who haul 40+ pounds of water several times a day, sometimes many miles, from a well. The same fathers who tend a garden that only produces a little crop, the same root crop over and over to feed their families.

I often wonder how there can be so much happiness in a place that seems like it should have so much despair? And then I am reminded that God's promises are the same to me in Alabama as they are to the people living far out in the bush in Uganda. The work that ACM is doing in teaching God's word and discipling the people is evident in their joy in the Lord over their hard circumstances.

~ Jamie Barnhart Leo, 2012

PERSONAL THOUGHTS

THE GOSPEL IS THE SAME

Philippians 4:4-9

LIFE ON THE RANCH



FOOD The food in Uganda is simple but good. You will not be eating much meat. The bulk of your diet will consist of pasta, rice, potatoes, fresh fruit, vegetables and homemade bread. A traditional Ugandan dish is a banana, similar to plantains, which are steamed and served like mashed potatoes with a meat stew or g-nut (ground nut) sauce called matoki. Other popular Ugandan foods are cassava, sweet potatoes, dried beans, chapatti and maize. In addition to several varieties of banana, you may be served papaya, mango, passion fruit, avocado, pineapple and an indigenous fruit called Jackfruit, which is very sweet & very sticky! You will have an opportunity to taste most of the native foods. Some you will like and others you will not, but in either case, be polite and at least try what is offered.

ATTIRE Young boys in Uganda wear shorts.

The usual dress for men is lightweight trousers and a short sleeve shirt. This is acceptable attire even at church. Most ladies and girls wear long dresses or skirts and blouses. **Only** at the guesthouse may STM women wear pants or shorts. Men need to wear pants for home visits, church, and other trips out of the Ranch.

The sight of a woman's bare leg is considered provocative. The local women wear traditional dresses called "gomazi" which are designed with many layers and lots of fabric to make the woman look larger and healthy, especially in the shoulders & belly areas!



TRANSPORTATION You will find there are very few paved roads in our area. Most of the dirt roads are quite rough with large potholes. In the dry season the thick road dust clings to everything, while in the rainy season it turns in to slippery, messy mud. Few people in Uganda have their own car, although you will

see many vehicles on the roads. Most of the people walk, bike or use public transportation wherever they go. Most Ugandans use auto and mini-van taxis and buses for transportation as well as motorcycle taxis called "boda-bodas". There is an extensive network of taxis going to every corner of Uganda. STMs should be willing to use public transportation when necessary. **ACM STMs are not allowed to ride on motorcycles (bodas-bodas), as they are very dangerous.** Most of your transportation in the ranch will be on foot, by bike, or in an ACM vehicle. Occasionally, you may see an **ACM intern** on a motorcycle at the Ranch.

DEVOTION: EVANGELISM

AUTHENTIC SHARING OF THE GOSPEL

Have you thought about why you are here? Not why you chose this location... or this time... or this group. But, why has **God** called you to this location at this time with this group? Do you think it is simply for medical purposes, or handyman work, or to play with children, etc.? That work is important, but God has called you here for a purpose much greater than the 'here and now'... He has called you for an eternal purpose...A purpose that does not end when you leave and go back home.

God's Word is written on our souls; therefore, as the opportunity presents itself, you must be prepared to share the gospel. God's Word is the perfect communication tool. Just as babies learn to walk and talk by following the examples of those around them, you can be a great example - and a great encouragement to others - by sharing your faith and testimony.

As the Psalmist wrote, we should talk about what we believe in... Psalms 107:2 - Has the Lord redeemed you? Then speak out! Tell others He has redeemed you and about Him.

JESUS IS GOD, ETERNAL

John 1:1-3 "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made."

CERTAINTY OF OUR SALVATION

John 3:36 "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him."

John 11:25-26 "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he dies, yet shall he live, & everyone who lives & believes in me shall never die." Do you believe this?

NO OTHER WAY TO GOD EXCEPT THROUGH JESUS

John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

~ Stephen Burns, 2012

PERSONAL THOUGHTS

WHAT PREVENTS US FROM SHARING THE GOSPEL AS
IF SOULS TRULY DEPEND ON IT?

Go deeper than surface answers here -
AND share your answer with someone in the group.

PREPARATION

PACKING You will basically want to pack for Uganda as if you were going on a church retreat, using the provided packing list as a guide. You will be allowed to take one suitcase, one carry-on and one purse, backpack or laptop case. You may also be asked to carry one missionary bag with supplies for African Children's Mission in it with you. Mission bags may be provided by ACM or your team may collect recommended supplies to bring. Pack any prescriptions, toothbrush and a change of clothes in your carry-on in case your luggage is delayed in Uganda. Because the requirements change often, make sure you check the airline regulations for the size and weight of luggage you can take. For a detailed list on what to pack, see pages 31 & 32.

PASSPORT & VISA If you do not have a passport, you should apply for one as soon as possible. Your name, as it appears on your passport, is needed to reserve your airfare and tickets are usually purchased 4 to 5 months prior to departure. You will purchase your E-Visa online prior to your mission trip. It can take several weeks to receive your E-Visa. Complete this as soon as possible. Visit our Mission Teams Webpage for a step-by-step guideline for the application process.

MEDICATIONS Any medications you might need while in Uganda should be brought with you. Any prescription medications brought should be in their original packaging with your name on the label. Anti-malaria medications will be provided or may be requested from your doctor. Additionally, we recommend discussing with your doctor the need for a sleeping aid and a broad-spectrum antibiotic prescription. All medications should be packed in your carry-on luggage. Your team leader should be made aware of any medical issues or allergies.

IMMUNIZATIONS A yellow fever vaccination is the only immunization required to enter Uganda, but others are recommended. Visit the cdc.gov for recommended immunizations. You can get these immunizations from your doctor, your local health department or other international travel clinics. You should call for an appointment for immunizations three months prior to your trip. You will need a yellow-fever vaccine card to enter Uganda.

WEATHER The climate of Uganda is temperate, with an average daytime temperature of 80° throughout the year. The temperature at the ranch varies between 60° at night during the rainy season, to 95° midday during the height of the dry season. Uganda has two rainy seasons, March to May and from September to October. During these times, it usually only rains for about an hour. Evenings are cool in the rainy season, but fairly warm at the height of the dry season. Even at its warmest, the humidity is low, so it is not uncomfortable.

DEVOTION: UNSHAKEABLE

OUR NEED FOR STUFF

Romans 3:35-37

Our world is a changing, uncertain place. Many people seek security in wealth, relationships, and power. These things, however, are not guaranteed from one day to the next. Watching the news provides enough proof that any of them can be taken away in a moment. No wonder there is such despair and fear.

For believers, thankfully, reality is not based in what we see. Nor is our foundation found in this world. We build our hope and trust on the Lord, and we believe the truth in His Word. Even in chaotic times, our certainty is found in God's loving relationship with us as His children. Today's passage tells us that nothing can tear us away from our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Therefore, in the midst of turmoil and trials, we have assurance that our lives are in the grip of the almighty God. We can rely not only on His love and presence, but also on His uninterrupted attention, faithfulness, and perfect care. When difficulty arises and circumstances seem overwhelming, we can respond with confidence and strength because of Jesus. Along with the psalmist, who also lived during times of war and stressful events, we can call the Lord "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust" (Ps. 91:2).

Consider where you find security. Is the foundation of your life built upon the solid rock of Jesus? Or is it planted in something as unstable as sand—like money or prestige? Placing hope and confidence in anything apart from the Lord will ultimately leave you feeling broken and defeated.

~ In Touch Ministry, 2011

STAYING HEALTHY



Since you will be going to Africa, it is important to remember that you must take some precautions in order to stay healthy.

It is never safe to wade or swim in unfamiliar waters. Parasites, which enter through the skin, live in some fresh water bodies. Many of the lakes and rivers in East Africa are also home to crocodiles, pythons and hippos. The only safe water you will have an opportunity to swim in is in the hotel pool at the game park.

Do not walk around outside with bare feet, even though you see many Africans, including the children, doing so. Boring fleas known as “jiggers”, and other parasites can enter the body through the skin of the feet. Shower shoes should only be worn for showering or inside your room.

Watch for ticks if you do ministry work outside. In the area where you will be working, ticks carry tick fever and East Coast fever, both are serious diseases. If you should find a tick on you find someone who knows how to remove it properly.

Never antagonize animals or insects. Even the big cats in the game park look docile, but all the animals you will encounter are wild and many are extremely dangerous. From insects to elephants, treat them all with respect.

It is best not to eat raw vegetables unless your host tells you that they are safe to eat. The food in the restaurants you will be taken to and food you will be served by your missionary hosts will be safe to eat. In general, if you can't peel it, boil it or soak it in disinfectant, don't eat it.

Do not put your hands in your mouth unless they are clean. Always keep your hand sanitizer with you, but do not use it in an obvious way that could offend our Ugandan friends.

STAYING HEALTHY

Do NOT drink the water, except in the team kitchen or other places that are specifically pointed out to you. This is not just a trite phrase, the water in most places is unhealthy, even the ice. The nationals drink it but even they are sick much of the time because of it. Do not swallow water while showering and use only safe drinking water for brushing your teeth. It is safest when off the ranch to drink soda, tea or coffee.

Some stomach upset is to be expected. Even the slight changes that result when you go to other parts of your own country can result in intestinal disturbances. If you experience diarrhea, drink several pints of water a day and take Pepto Bismol or Acidophilus. If diarrhea persists or is accompanied with pain let your missionary host know. The clinic has the proper medications for intestinal parasites and bacteria.

The best way to deal with malaria if you get it is to be prepared. This means having the right medication and a thermometer on hand and being mentally prepared. All visitors should be taking malaria prophylaxis before they arrive. Although you can still contract malaria while taking antimalarial medication, they will greatly decrease the severity. The mosquitos that carry malaria are so tiny that they are often not seen and they do not produce “mosquito bites” like we are used to in the States. If you feel sick, similar to intestinal flu, with chills, fever, headache, fatigue, nausea or any combination of the above, tell your missionary host or hostess or go immediately to the ACM clinic to be tested. If the test is positive, take the medication as directed and drink 2 liters of water a day. In most cases, if treated promptly, malaria is more of a nuisance than anything else.

HIV/AIDS is a prevalent reality in Uganda. However, HIV/AIDS is completely preventable if one abstains from sex and exposure to human blood or other bodily fluids. Keep cuts and scratches, especially on your hands, covered. Do not offer first aid to any national. HIV/AIDS is not a threat to anyone who is not sexually active with nationals and does not have contact with another person’s bodily fluids.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Living in Uganda is no more dangerous than living in America. In some ways it's a lot safer. It all depends on where you are and the precautions you take. We will help you make wise choices.

Kampala is probably safer than some major cities in the States. However, there is always the outside possibility that something could happen, and volunteers should accept that possibility. Traffic is heavy and pickpockets do operate there. Stay alert, as you should in any large city. Travel in groups and do not go into areas not specified by your hosts.

When going through towns at slower speeds, keep your windows closed and doors locked. Keep your valuables (phones, backpack, passport) away from windows where someone could reach inside the vehicle to take them.

Just like anywhere, there are areas of Uganda that are safer than others. We are careful not to go into or even near those areas that are unsafe, for your safety and our own.

While on the ranch, we recommend you place your passport, money and any other valuable items in a locked safe at a mission house or at Maggie's house. Although such theft is rare, it is better to keep these items safe. Ekitangaala Ranch, where you will be living throughout most of your visit in Uganda, is the safest place you will be during your mission trip. It's like being "out in the country" where your neighbors are your friends.



DEVOTION: OUR PROTECTOR

Psalm 121: 1-3a

In Psalm 121, David describes the safety he finds in the Lord. Let's look closely at several verses to better understand our security.

"I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; from where shall my help come? My help comes from the LORD" (vv. 1-2). When this was written, robbers dwelled in the mountains, waiting for innocent travelers to become their unsuspecting victims. Needless to say, journeying through these hilly roads must have caused anxiety. David's work as a shepherd took him into dangerous areas, where not only thieves but also wild animals posed a threat.



Our lives can be like mountainous territory. Do you look into the future and wonder what dangers lurk? The Lord is our helper; He is the only one able to protect us. Friends and relatives can offer limited assistance, but God knows everything and has all the power necessary to rescue us.

"He will not allow your foot to slip" (v. 3a). God has provided everything we need in order to avoid sin. The Holy Spirit directs and empowers us; the Word lights our path so we do not slip. Yet at times, we choose to sin. Almighty God could stop us from disobeying, but He doesn't interfere with our free will. Instead, He upholds us, enabling us to walk in His way.

These opening verses focus on the Lord's ability to protect us in treacherous times. Whether trouble originates with others, external circumstances, or our own sin, we can find ourselves in danger and afraid. Thankfully, we have a loving God who leads us to safety. What frightens you most about this trip?

~ In Touch Ministry, 2011

PERSONAL THOUGHTS

WHAT FRIGHTENS YOU MOST ABOUT THIS TRIP?

DEPARTURE & ARRIVAL

You will need to arrive at the airport at least 3 hours prior to departure of your flight. Keep an eye on your luggage at all times! You should be able to sit with your team members. We advise trying to sleep on the plane so that you feel better when you arrive in Africa.

You may have a layover in Europe on your flight to or return from Uganda. If it is long, you may have an opportunity to take a city tour or get something to eat. Just keep in mind that this can be expensive. Keep your luggage, passport, and boarding passes with you at all times. You will need to confirm your next flight prior to leaving the airport and return about three hours prior to its departure. Some airlines have added a quick stop in Kigali, Rwanda on the way to Uganda, but it is so short you will not even leave the runway. This is a good time to ahead and apply your insect repellent; you will need to have it on before you exit the plane in Uganda.

In Uganda, you will land in Entebbe, 25 miles south of the capital city of Kampala. Your first stop at the airport will be at immigration, where you will show your passport, immunization record, and ‘possibly’ an entry declaration form, which will be completed on the plane prior to landing. If your luggage didn’t arrive, make a claim immediately (before leaving the baggage claim area). As you’re leaving the airport, the claims officer might stop you to ask what’s in your bags or ask you to open your bags. Usually a simple answer, such as “my clothing and personal items are in my bags,” is enough to breeze through customs. In all encounters, make sure you are friendly and accommodating!

When you leave the airport, you will meet your driver and ACM representative outside the airport. There will be a line of drivers holding signs. Your driver will be watching for you and should have a sign that says “ACM” and your name. In most cases, your flight will arrive in Uganda late at night, so you will spend the night at a hotel near the airport. This is usually a good time to call home to let them know you arrived safely. Internet and cell reception on the ranch, but you may have one chance to call from there. After a good breakfast, we will begin our three-hour drive to Ekitangaala Ranch!

It may seem like you are encountering more difficulty and temptation than usual as you prepare for this mission trip. Don't be surprised if these temptations increase as you enter the country. That does not mean it is not the will of God for you to go. Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted (Matthew 4:1). But it does mean you need to be spiritually prepared.

IN THE EVENT OF LOST LUGGAGE

Upon arrival at the airport in Uganda, you may be missing some luggage. You must file a claim at the lost baggage desk across from the baggage carousel. **Do not leave the luggage area or go outside (you will not be allowed back in).** At the office, let them know you are traveling up country to Ekitangaala Ranch in the Nakasongola District. Tell them you will not be around to collect your baggage when it comes. **You must insist they deliver the baggage to the ranch.**

Note - For simplicity, you can copy or cut the following directions out of this manual and staple to the report.

DIRECTIONS TO THE RANCH:

Go north on the Kampala / Gulu Highway. Pass through Luweero. 22 kilometers north of Luweero you will reach the Kakooge Market. As you pass through the market, at the top of the hill, there is an MTN Relay tower on the right side. Just pass the tower there is a road to the right. There are sign boards there for Ekitangaala Ranch and Cornerstone Leadership Academy (CLA). Turn right on that road and continue for 11 kilometers. You will pass through Ntuti Village. Just beyond the village there is a church on the right and a road turning off to the left. There are signboards on the corner for the ranch and schools. Turn left onto that road. Continue about 2 km. There will be a gate for African Children's Mission and African Hospitality Institute. Go through the gate on the right. This is the area where the bag will be left with an employee or the team member.

Below are telephone numbers of two ACM employees who can assist with directions or questions when the bag is being delivered. Please call when the baggage leaves Kampala and again when the bags are in Luwerro. Network is poor where we live, but there will be someone there to collect the baggage.

GEOFFREY NSAMBA

a.+256-756-404-007

b.+256-788-226-644

FRED RURANGWA

a.+256-078-215-2703

b.+256-075-065-7169

IN THE EVENT OF LOST PASSPORT...

An ounce of prevention is worth 100 pounds of cure. Store your passport in a secure place. *Theft will be most likely* while traveling between the airport and the ranch. Thieves may even reach through a window of a moving vehicle to grab a backpack or valuables. If your passport is lost or stolen, report this immediately to your team leader and ACM staff. The following outlines the necessary steps in this situation:

1. Report the Loss or Theft to the local Police

- Ask the police to make a formal report. Be sure to get a paper copy of this report for the embassy.

2. Contact the U.S. Embassy in Kampala

- **Make an appointment** with the U.S. Embassy in Kampala. You can go there in person, call +256 414-306-001, or email KampalaACS@state.gov. The U.S. Embassy in Kampala is located at 2577 Ggaba Road, Kampala.
- The embassy will guide you through the process.

3. Prepare the Necessary Documents for your Appointment at the Embassy

- **Proof of U.S. Citizenship** (e.g. copy of birth certificate or copy of passport).
- **Police report**
- **Passport-sized photos:** Taken and printed in Kampala.
- **Completed application form** for lost passport.
- **Driver's license**, if you have one.

4. Pay the Fees required at the embassy (USD is best but credit card may be accepted).

5. Apply for an Emergency Passport

6. Wait for Processing- be polite, but stress the urgency of the situation so it is done **QUICKLY**. This may take a couple days or more.

7. Stay in Touch with the Embassy

Additional Tips:

- **Keep copies of your passport and other documents** in email / digital form and on paper.
- **Be cautious of fraud.** Only work with the U.S. embassy directly.

DEVOTION: SPIRITUAL ATTACKS

Read Ephesians 6:10-18 noting things you need to do or commitments you need to make in preparation for this trip. Write what God shows you in your journal. Memorize this passage.

Read Deuteronomy 23:14. Write in your journal things that you need God to cleanse from your life so you can be used on this trip.

Memorize 1 John 1:9. Take time to confess thoughts, attitudes, relationships and deeds that you have committed.

~ In Touch Ministry, 2011

PERSONAL THOUGHTS

WHAT SPIRITUAL ATTACKS HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED IN PREPARING FOR THIS TRIP?

PACKING

Since someone will be doing your laundry every day, you won't need a lot of clothes. Please label your clothing, especially underwear and socks, to help those doing your laundry identify your items easily. Many volunteers buy clothes at a thrift store just for the trip and leave them in Africa, making room in their luggage for souvenirs.

Each mission team member will bring the following:

1 personal suitcase

1 ministry suitcase - this suitcase is filled with items that you've collected for ACM or items that ACM has given you to bring to Uganda.

1 carry-on (pack a few days' worth of clothes in case luggage gets lost)

PACKING LIST

Bible	E-Visa (+copy)
This handbook	Airline tickets (+copy)
Donor address list	Invitation Letter (+copy)
Passport (+copy)	Travel Insurance
Immunization record (+copy)	Documentation (+copy)

Clothing & Accessories

4 Short sleeved shirts	1 Lightweight rain jacket
2 Long sleeve shirts	Swimsuit (for Game Park)
3 Pairs of shorts	Work gloves/shoes
3 <i>knee length+</i> dresses/skirts	Hat (wide-brimmed is ideal)
5 Pairs of underwear & socks	Sweatband, scarf, or bandana
2 Lightweight pajamas	Cheap sunglasses
2 Pairs of long pants	Cheap watch
Shower shoes	
2 Pairs of comfortable shoes (one must be closed toed)	
Additional small backpack to use while serving	
Optional sports coat/blazer for men if you plan to preach	

Heath Related Items

Malaria Pills	Sleep aid (as needed for jetlag)
Rx medicine as needed	Antibacterial Spray/Gel
Pepto-Bismol tablets	Sunscreen
Hydrocortisone cream	
Insect repellent (ideally 24%-30% DEET)	
Small first aid kit (bandaids, antibacterial ointment, etc)	

PACKING

Convenience Items

Chargers (USA to EU adapter) Snacks
Battery-operated fan Neck pillow/ear plugs for plane
Binoculars Refillable water bottle
Camera
Flashlight or headlamp & batteries
Spending money for souvenir shopping & layovers (2010+ bills or newer - 50's & 100's only. Perfect condition.)

Items You Should NOT Take...

Expensive (looking) clothing or jewelry
Camouflage items/clothing
Firearms, ammunition or explosives
Tobacco products/ drugs/alcohol
Short skirts/dresses
Spaghetti strap or low-cut tank top shirts
Hair dryer/curling iron/straightener, etc
Gifts for nationals (*except your sponsored child*)

Ministry Suitcase (suggested items to collect)



Clothing



Children's books



Bandages & gloves



Hats



Crayons & colored pencils



Sports balls & pumps



Bibles



Feminine products



Reading glasses

ACM MISSION TRIP DOS

- Pray for your mission trip and for the Lord to use you to bring Him glory.
- Contact your team leader, rather than ACM directly, with questions related to your mission trip. They will be your main contact point as you plan and prepare for your trip.
- Bring an attitude of service and a smile for all you meet. The people of Uganda appreciate your openness!
- Walk in pairs. There is greater safety in numbers.
- Keep your personal belongings on you at all times.
- When riding in a vehicle, keep your cellphone concealed and your personal belongings out of reach of those walking by on the streets.
- Keep your cellphone in your pocket or bag, aside from the occasional picture, even while not actively serving in Uganda. We want this to be a time of growth and reflection between you, your team members, and the Lord, and a cell phone can be a major hinderance.
- Stay hydrated. You will be provided with plenty of clean, filtered water to stay hydrated.
- Feel free to bargain when souvenir shopping. Typically aim for 50%-75% of the original price. It is accepted and expected. You will have an opportunity to shop in a large souvenir market in Kampala. Souvenirs are much more expensive and have fixed prices in game park shops.
- Share your experience and pictures of your trip with our staff. There is a QR code on page 61 of this handbook that will take you to a brief survey and option to upload pictures to share with ACM.

ACM MISSION TRIP DON'TS

- Enjoy the children and students, but try not to let yourself develop a favorite. Even if you do, try not to let it show! It creates tension and rivalry among the children and makes it harder on them when you leave.
- Don't discuss politics with anyone or be critical of any cultural, governmental or physical conditions within the country, even if asked.
- If you are a female, don't cross your legs except at the ankle. This can be offensive in rural parts of Uganda.
- Don't use foul language. *"Let no unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building up the one in need and bringing grace to those who listen."* Eph 4:29
- Don't consume alcohol. *"Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak."* 1 Cor 8:9
- Don't give your address, email address, or social contacts to nationals. Instead, you may give them ACM's email address, acm@africanchildrensmision.org, or mailing address, PO Box 26470 Birmingham, AL 35244. Our US administrator will be happy to forward mail to you.
- Don't give gifts of any kind, even candy, directly to the children, students, street children, workers, or staff. Clothes you don't need and wish to leave when you return home should be left with the ACM field office to be distributed.
- Don't make any promises to your new African friends. Even "maybe" can be misunderstood as a promise. Due to language and cultural barriers, what you say may not be understood as you intend it.
- Don't agree to buy anything in the states and send or take it to a Ugandan citizen
- Don't give money to street children. They may use it to buy cigarettes and petroleum products, which they inhale, damaging their lungs and brain.
- Don't ride a motorcycle (boda-boda). Bicycles are acceptable for use, upon availability.

DEVOTION: DAY 1

Isaiah 41:10 Zephaniah 3:17 Psalm 34:19



The world is too much with you my child. Your mind leaps from problem to problem to problem, tangling your thoughts in anxious knots. When you think like that, you leave Me out of your world-view and your mind becomes darkened. Though I yearn to help, I will not violate your freedom. I stand silently in the background of your mind, waiting for you to remember that I am with you.

When you turn from your problems to My Presence, your load is immediately lighter. Circumstances may not have changed, but we carry your burdens together. Your compulsion to “fix” everything gives way to deep, satisfying connection with Me. Together we can handle whatever this day brings.

DEVOTION: DAY 2

OBSTACLES TO OBEDIENCE

2 Kings 5:11-17



Obedience is a powerful action that can unleash God's glory in ways beyond our imagination. Yet obeying is often difficult because our desires are being put to the test. Sometimes we're afraid to do what He says, for fear of losing what is important to us. But choosing not to obey may actually cost us the very thing we desire most.

Three obstacles initially kept Naaman from following God's instructions--and almost kept him from a miraculous healing.

Pride. As a high-ranking official, Naaman feared losing his dignity, were he to obey. Conversely, his servants had the wisdom to see how pride was robbing him of life. How often do we balk at doing what God says, from fear of looking foolish?

Self-centered expectations. Naaman was furious when his very specific expectations weren't met. We, too, often get angry at the Lord when He doesn't comply with our demands. But if we really want His perfect will, we absolutely must "let Him" do things His way.

Unbelief. Because Naaman's faith only extended to his vision of how he would be healed, he initially didn't see how obeying would cure his leprosy. It took the faith of his servants to help him see the truth: that obedience was key to unlocking God's answer to his greatest need.

The call to obey often uncovers strongholds from which the Lord wants to free us. When we choose to respond in faith, He reveals Himself in a new way to us that strengthens our trust in Him--because ultimately, our greatest need is to know Him better.

PERSONAL THOUGHTS

DEVOTION: DAY 3

THE BELIEVER'S PURPOSE

Galatians 5:13



God has a purpose for your life. If that weren't true, He'd have taken you home to heaven at the moment of salvation. Do you ever wonder why He left you here? The Lord intends to influence others through you. Our purpose is to be a vessel through which Christ overflows to others--touching those who hurt and desperately need a Savior. Once we are saved, Scripture teaches, our involvement is threefold.

First, we love others. Jesus clearly stated that this was one of the two greatest commandments (Matt. 22:38-39). Second, we share the good news of salvation (Acts 1:8). Some travel across the world to spread the gospel, while others teach neighbors across the street. The Holy Spirit will direct us to the right people if we are willing to obey. Third, we serve in a variety of ways, like helping those in need, sharing our resources, and lifting others in prayer. Jesus is our perfect example of all three. His entire life was marked by caring for people--both those who loved Him and those who did not. In fact, the Bible teaches that He humbled Himself and became like us, willing to give up His life for our redemption. There is no greater love; there is no greater act of service.

Scripture clearly defines the believer's purpose. Aligning ourselves with God's intentions for His children--loving others, witnessing, and serving--bring us great satisfaction. In fact, we're still on earth not merely to hear more teaching but to act on it and share with others what we learn.

~In Touch Ministries July 2012

PERSONAL THOUGHTS

DEVOTION: DAY 4

CHRISTIAN TEAMWORK



One of the most valuable aspects of your experience as part of a mission team will be your learning how to work as a team. The following principles will help to make your teamwork a dynamic success & bring much glory to God!

Leadership: Someone has been appointed as your team leader. You may feel more qualified but all team members must make a sincere effort to support, respect & follow instructions given by their team's leader. Pray for your team leader every day. He will be confronted by many decisions (some you may not even be aware of) and he needs your support and prayers.

Servanthood: Projects work well when everyone goes with the attitude of serving. We must look out for the things of others (Philippians 2:3-4). Leaders are to be servants as they seek the best for the team. Team members are to be servants as they encourage, support & affirm each other. Everyone should go with the attitude, "How can I help everyone else do his or her best for our Father?" (Colossians 3:23-24)

Teamwork: A mission team is not supposed to be 5 or 10 individuals doing his or her own thing. It is supposed to be a loving, united team who combine their efforts to achieve a goal or goals. Even if you are involved in different projects, your team should still be working to support and encourage each other.

These things are essential to teamwork on the mission field: Keep short accounts (James 5:16, 19-20; Ephesians 4:26), work problems out one-on-one (Matthew 18:15), build team unity (John 17:22), pray (Matthew 18:19-20).

If team members are to experience a spiritual unity of effort, they must pray. This means small group prayer, individual prayer and united team prayer must be a part of everyday of your trip. Many problems can be solved much quicker, mission projects can be more successful, and God can be glorified through prayerful teamwork.

PERSONAL THOUGHTS

DEVOTION: DAY 5

COMPELLED TO SERVE

“Your people shall be volunteers in the day of Your power.” Psalm 110:3



One mark of revival, during which God comes to His people in power, is that God’s people are compelled to offer their lives for His service. Many churches lack people who are willing to get involved in carrying out God’s redemptive work. The mission fields are crying out for Christians to go and share the gospel with those who’ve never heard it. What we need is not more pleas for volunteers, but an outpouring of the power of God.

When God comes among His people in power, there is never a shortage of volunteers or resources for His work! When Christians today are asked what aspects of the Christian life are most important to them, missions is not usually ranked as a priority. This is because we have lost track of why God called us in the first place.

We were not saved from our sin simply so that we would qualify for heaven. God delivered us so we would have a relationship with Him through which He could carry out His mission to redeem a lost world. Only the power of God can free us from our natural self-centeredness and reorient us toward the mission of God. There is no need to pray that God would come in power. That is the only way He ever comes. We need hearts that are so responsive to Him that He will choose to demonstrate His power through us. Is your heart so filled with love for God that you are watching for the first opportunity to say with Isaiah, “Here am I. Send me!”?

PERSONAL THOUGHTS

DEVOTION: DAY 6

CARING FOR THE ORPHAN

Matthew 25:34-45



In The Hole in Our Gospel, Richard Stearns asks the reader to imagine waking up to a terrible tragedy in which one hundred jetliners have crashed. 26,500 lives have been lost and an untold number of families devastated. What if this really happened? Absolute chaos would

erupt, media coverage would explode, air travel would come to a screeching halt, and the FBI, CIA, and local and international law enforcement would be called to action. Whatever it took to determine how this happened and to prevent it from ever happening again would be of utmost priority.

Then, imagine the very same thing happened the very next day. One hundred more planes crashed, and 26,500 more people died. It is hard to even imagine. But imagine it...**BECAUSE IT DOES HAPPEN.** Maybe a hundred planes aren't crashing, but more than 26,500 children died today and will again tomorrow, and the next day, and the next due to preventable causes of poverty. Yet, there is no media frenzy, no investigation, and no cancelled plans.

But, **what if** one of the 26,500 children dying today were one of your friend's children...or, one of your own? You would do whatever it took to save them. "Our compassion for others seems to be directly correlated to whether people are close to us socially, emotionally, culturally, ethnically, economically, and geographically. But why do we distinguish the value of one human life from another? ... our problem is that the plight of suffering children in a far-off land simply hasn't gotten personal for us." (The Hole in Our Gospel)

The prayer of the founder for World Vision was this: "Let my heart be broken by the things that break the heart of God." Why? Because it is impossible for man to love as God loves and care as He does. We have so many distractions. We can be (unintentionally) indifferent to the suffering all around us.

But, **what if** we treated the least of these, the ones without a voice, just one of the 26,500 children who will die today, **LIKE GOD WOULD?** **What if** we actually realized that these children **ARE** our brothers and sisters in Christ...they are our family. What if it gets personal for us? **What if** we have a heart like His?
~ Jodie Frye (Altar 84) 2012

PERSONAL THOUGHTS

DEVOTION: DAY 7

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT Galatians 5:16



The Creator has a specific plan for each person's life, and He has arranged our talents, abilities, and circumstances to fit with these individualized goals (Eph. 2:10). When we connect with our God-given purpose, we feel deep satisfaction and great joy. However, it's important to understand that we can't achieve

the Lord's goals on our own; only by His strength and direction are we able to succeed.

In John 16:33, Jesus warned us that trouble is an integral part of life in this world. But easily forgetting how weak we are, we tend to take on challenges in our own strength and resourcefulness. Human nature wants to tackle life by itself and in its own power--and then take credit. So when temptations, trials, criticism, gossip, and persecution assail, many of us have the tendency to go into high gear and try all the harder.

For a while, life may actually seem good this way. But in the long run, self-reliance creates a mess. And it also interferes with the fulfillment of God's purposes. The truth is, we sometimes have to experience failure in life in order to realize our complete dependence upon God. He lovingly breaks our pride by showing us that we cannot live fully without following the Spirit's guidance.

Have you surrendered to the Holy Spirit's control? Acknowledge your weakness and recognize His power, omniscience, and wisdom. The Lord does not call you to live the Christian life, which is a human impossibility. Rather, He wants you to yield control and let Him live His life through you.

~In Touch Ministries 2012

PERSONAL THOUGHTS

DEVOTION: DAY 8

WE ARE THE STRANGE ONES



When we go to another culture, WE are the strange ones. WE are the ones with unusual perspectives and funny accents. We are the guests in another person's world. We must respect others by not criticizing, laughing at or making disparaging remarks about their lifestyles, living conditions, governmental officials or cultural traditions. Even when we are around non-English speaking people, they still may understand much of what we say by noticing our facial expressions, body language and mood. Remember to take every thought captive (2 Corinthians 10:5) and to keep tight reign on our tongue (James 1:26).

You will notice many differences between the African culture and your own. You might be tempted to become frustrated, discouraged, frightened or even angry. Prayerfully resist this temptation! Pray for God to prepare your heart to accept and enjoy the cultural differences. Consider the example of Jesus Christ in Philippians 2:5-11. He left His culture, His home and all that was familiar to Him in order to serve us. We must do the same.

PERSONAL THOUGHTS

IN WHAT WAYS HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO LOOK PAST YOUR CULTURAL DIFFERENCES IN UGANDA AND SEE THINGS THAT UNITE US?

DEVOTION: DAY 9

A TRUE SERVANT John 13:1-15



Do you equate success with wealth, acclaim, and power? If we measured by these standards, then Jesus, who was rejected by His community and didn't even have a house of His own, was a failure. But, of course, we know that's not the case. So God must use something other than these worldly goals to define success. In fact, Scripture is clear that Jesus Christ is our example—we should strive to be like Him.

So, what exactly was our Savior's mission? In today's passage, we see the answer through His actions: He came to serve. The disciples, wanting recognition and reward, were arguing about who'd be the greatest in heaven. In contrast, Jesus took off His outer garment and performed the task of the lowliest servant: He washed the dirty feet of His followers. The next day, Almighty God was crucified by His own creation. In allowing this, He offered salvation to all—even those that nailed Him to a cross.

Jesus deserved glory but chose sacrifice and pain. And He asks that we follow His example of service. With the exception of Judas, His disciples obeyed. In fact, they all faced great difficulty and most died brutal deaths because of their faith. But they willingly walked the path of humility because of what Jesus had taught them: "The last shall be first, and the first last" (Matt. 20:16).

How do you spend your resources and time? And which topics dominate your thoughts and conversation? These are a few indicators of the driving goals in your life. You may long for worldly recognition, but God has a higher calling for His children. Ask Him to foster a servant's attitude in your heart.

Share with your group someone that you witnessed displaying the characteristics of a true servant on this trip. How do you answer the above questions?

~ In Touch Ministries 2012

PERSONAL THOUGHTS

DEVOTION: DAY 10

2 Thessalonians 3:16; 1 John 4:18



I want to be central in your entire being. When you focus is firmly on Me, My peace displaces fears and worries. They will encircle you, seeking entrance, so you must stay alert.

Let trust and thankfulness stand guard, turning back fear before it can gain a foothold. There is no fear in My love, which shines on you continually.

Sit quietly in My Love-Light while I bless you with radiant Peace. Turn your whole being to trusting and loving Me.

~Jesus Calling Devotional

PERSONAL THOUGHTS

DEVOTION: DAY 11

GOD IS ALWAYS WITH YOU

Hebrews 13:5-6



Craig Stowe served on a naval ship during World War II. As his vessel prepared for an attack, the commanding officer lined up the men. As usual, a volunteer was needed to ride out the battle in the crow's nest and send pertinent

information to the captain. No one stepped forward. Then, Stowe heard the Lord speak to his heart: I'll be with you up there, as I am down here. The young man volunteered, and he endured without a single scratch. In fact, he reported that no harm even came near him.

Years later, Mr. Stowe told this story to his Sunday school class of teenage boys. The truth in that adventure broke through the emotional chaos of one young man's difficult home life to deliver a life-changing message: God is always with you no matter where you are.

I was that young man. As I matured in my faith and studied Scripture, God confirmed what Mr. Stowe had taught me. I saw that Jesus stressed His abiding presence to His disciples. He knew how quickly a sense of rejection would settle in after the crucifixion. Moreover, potentially discouraging hardship awaited them as they carried the gospel to the rest of the world. So the Lord promised a Helper who would remain with Christians forever—the Holy Spirit.

Every day of a believer's life is lived in the presence of Christ through His Holy Spirit. He comforts during hardship, encourages amidst difficulty, and strengthens when we are weak. The benefits of a relationship with God are not postponed until heaven; we walk with Him now and always.

~ In Touch Ministries 2011

PERSONAL THOUGHTS

DEVOTION: DAY 12

TOGETHERNESS IN THE BODY

1 Corinthians 1:10-17



Craig Stowe served on a naval ship during World War II. As his vessel prepared for an attack, the commanding officer lined up the men. As usual, a volunteer was needed to ride out the battle in the crow's nest and send pertinent information to the captain. No one stepped forward. Then,

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~ In Touch Ministries 2011

DEVOTION: DAY 13

STEADFAST



How have you been changed this week?
What has God taught you this week?

Perhaps you came on this trip with some heavy baggage in your life. Maybe it was a disagreement with one of your parents, an ungodly relationship that had you in its grip, a habit that you shouldn't have, a way in which you have been deceiving yourself or others. Maybe you didn't even realize it was going on, but God revealed the truth to you. God's light has a way of revealing truth.

Read I Peter 5:10, "And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast."

Close your personal devotion time in prayer by asking God to guide you in how to deal with what you are facing and to help you draw on his strength in following his guidance. Thank him for his light and what it reveals.

~North American Mission Board

PERSONAL THOUGHTS

DEVOTION: DAY 14

EVANGELISM: EVERY BELIEVER'S CALLING

Acts 1:6-8



One Sunday, a man approached me between services to share his story. He'd been addicted to drugs and was leading a hopeless life when he heard a Scripture verse in a sermon. He said that one passage led him to place his trust in Jesus. The man was saved, and God transformed his life.

Every believer has a story. Oftentimes, the more we surrender to God, the greater our ability to see His hand in our life. And the more we watch Him work, the stronger our desire to share with others all that He has done.

The same was true of the early disciples. A small crowd gathered around Jesus before His ascension. They heard His command to spread the gospel around the globe, making disciples and baptizing people from all nations. Surely this seemed like an overwhelming task for a handful of followers, but they obeyed. Their personal experiences with Christ undoubtedly motivated them to share the good news, and they also must have gained confidence from Jesus' promise of His presence and power.

We, too, should be taking Christ's command seriously. One of our highest callings as believers is to tell others about Him. As was true for the early Christians, our own experience with the Savior is the most exciting and convincing story to tell.

Are you passionately telling others about Christ? Loving God involves not just having a personal relationship with Jesus but also sharing Him with others. The world around you needs the power of Christ. Let the Holy Spirit guide and enable you to share effectively with those around you.

~In Touch Ministries 2011

PERSONAL THOUGHTS

DEVOTION: ADJUSTING

Matthew 7:1-5 Romans 2:1-2 Colossians 3:13-15

Your mission trip experience may be the most influential event that has ever taken place in your life. As you return home, you desire to communicate this to others in a meaningful way. Perhaps you even feel a deep spiritual commitment to inform and challenge others to change and get involved. Sometimes, however, you sense only superficial interest from others. There can be a great temptation to find fault and to criticize those who lack understanding. On your return, you may face other people's apathy, indifference, and lack of commitment.

Read Matthew 7:1-5. In these verses, Jesus uses word pictures to help us understand certain principles concerning the correct attitude believers should have when tempted to have a critical heart attitude. Take time to think carefully. Are you willing to be judged by the same standard by which you judge others? Why or why not?

Read Romans 2:1-2. What does God's Word say is true of those who are critical of others? How is God's judgment different from how we usually judge others?

Colossians 3:13-15 gives us more insight into the proper heart attitude we should have toward others. In the KJV, the first word is "forbearing." In the NIV, the word "bear" is used. These words refer to a sense of carrying or supporting one another in the area of spiritual need.

If you recognize that you have a critical attitude toward another person or life situation, agree with God by confessing that attitude as sin. Thank God for His loving-kindness and forgiveness. Praise God for His understanding of the special situations and events in your life. Thank Him that He always loves to listen to you. Ask God to work in your life so the five commands in Colossians 3:13-15 will continue to mature in your life.

~Volunteers for Christ Re-Entry Devotional

NOW WHAT?

After you return to the U.S., would you prayerfully consider partnering with ACM in one or more of the following ways?

BECOME A CHILD SPONSOR

For about \$1.25 a day - you can truly transform a child's life. When a child is sponsored through ACM, they will receive a hot meal each school day, all school fees and materials, access to 24/7 medical care, dental care, a social worker assigned specifically to them, discipleship in the Gospel of Christ, and much more. Visit www.africanchildrensmision.org/child-mentorship to learn more today.

DONATE TO OUR GENERAL MINISTRY

Donations are always needed and appreciated and can be given through our website or by mailing a check to ACM. A gift of any amount can make an eternal impact.

SERVE STATESIDE

You can tangibly serve through our US office. Email our administrator at acm@africanchildrensmision.org to find out ways you can help.

ADVOCATE AND/OR FUNDRAISE FOR ACM

You can be an advocate for the community members ACM serves. By telling others about ACM, we can get *more* prayers, *more* sponsors, *more* donations, and have *more* of an impact in East Africa.

HELP US IMPROVE!

Additionally, we would love for you to share your favorite pictures/videos and any feedback you may have through this QR code.



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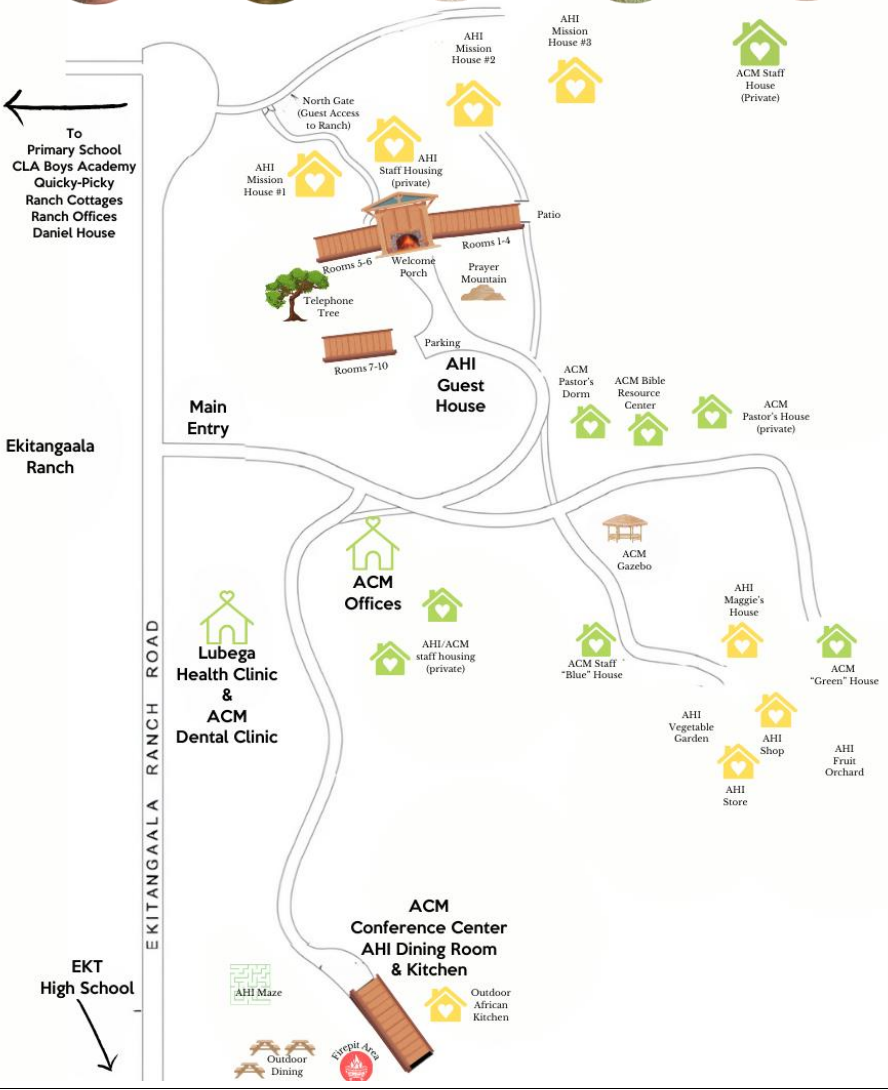
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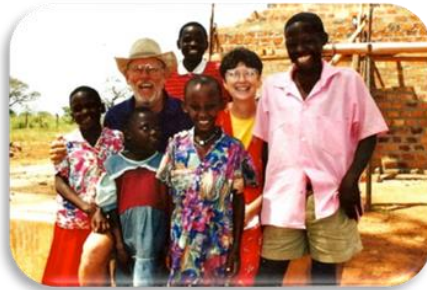
THE ACM STORY

In 1989 God gave Wayne Daniel the vision of a Christian home for street children when he visited Meru, Kenya on a short-term mission trip. He returned with his wife, Mary, in 1991 and they established a mission for orphaned, abused, abandoned, homeless and destitute children. The work evolved in 1994 from an orphanage, to family homes where the children live with family members or foster parents. In these family homes, they could enjoy a traditional family environment while being cared for with financial assistance from the mission. African Children's Mission was formed in 1996 as a support base in the US to facilitate fundraising for the mission's work. ACM supports hundreds of children and continues to grow each year.

Among the ministries of African Children's Mission in Uganda are child sponsorship, a feeding ministry, a 24/7 Lubega Memorial Medical Clinic, Christian Character Development classes, and water ministry. In 2004, a Pastor & Church Leader Training Center for instruction in theology and church leadership to pastors and Christian leaders was established. Hundreds of students have graduated the two-year training program.

Through the Child Sponsorship Program, sponsors provide monthly support for individual children, developing meaningful relationships through the exchange of letters, cards and photographs. The financial assistance that is provided for the care of these children provides food, clothing, medical care, school fees, education supplies, and opportunities for discipleship in the Gospel of Christ.

As a faith ministry funded by churches, foundations, small groups and individuals, African Children's Mission relies upon God to supply all needs through the prayers and financial gifts of ministry partners working together to accomplish God's purposes.



Learn more at www.africanchildrensmision.org