Alliance For Life International©

Report From Uganda



January 15, 2024

Dear Friends of the Alliance,

We hope you had a wonderful Christmas season and that you are rested and ready for the challenges ahead in the year of our Lord 2024. Doesn't it help to realize that our calendar reminds us of the Lordship of Christ?! Dark clouds abound but we feel equipped to meet them with the Lord Jesus on and at our side.

We made it back to the US in time for Thanksgiving. This American holiday is also celebrated by our neighbors to the North, albeit on a different date and with less emphasis. Nevertheless, the fervor with which we celebrate this holiday gives evidence that gratitude is a virtue that gives hope.

We left the bakery in good hands. Emily, our manager, and Lenard, the baker, are meeting all kinds of challenges, most of them addressed in our previous report. As we reprioritize pastries and cakes over bread, we found out that our store customers crave doughnuts! So, we equipped ourselves with a new stove powered by natural gas. Oh, what a delight to have a stable power source! Electric outages are less frequent but still unpredictable. Should we switch? We are counting the cost.

Our **vocational training center** opened in May 2023. We are offering courses in bakery and cookery in the form of apprenticeships. We have graduated three students so far and two more are in progress.

By the time the new year rang, we had held three events for the **Celebration of Life Ministry to Single Mothers.** We hosted the December meeting at **Celebration**

Bakery and Training Center. The purpose of the teaching was to equip young mothers with the knowledge needed to prepare nutritious meals for their children, even on a low budget. In Kibaale, thirty-eight percent of children suffer from malnutrition. Worldwide, 148 million children below age five, are severely malnourished; that represents almost one out of three children in that range. We blessed the mothers and the kids with children's clothing and sweets. In a few days, we will hold a teaching on knowing your fertility signs, an overview of the **Billings Ovulation Method (BOM).** Pastor Isaac and his congregation remain involved.

Emily continues to teach the BOM in churches and places of employment. After the initial training, she follows them 3-4 times to review their charting and reinforce four simple rules to postpone or achieve pregnancy naturally and effectively. There are 43 couples in process. There are three teachers-in-training. They are supervised by Bernadette from WOOMB International and Emily on the ground. Two of them are doing their practicum after having assimilated the complex theory.

Life Matters is still on the air, and since 2018, on Family Broadcasting Network. Besides discussing the BOM and reproductive issues, Emily taught home budgeting, encouraging a savings culture both in the elders and children (Emily has a degree in economics!), nutrition, and unity and development in the household.

We are sensitive to the needs of pregnant women in the area. Even though they rarely seek counseling, they welcome a gift of baby clothing, payment of ultrasound during the pregnancy, and a mother/baby kit, which is required for delivery at the hospital. We have our very own pregnant worker, Bernadette. She and her husband have two children ages 4 and 6. Bernadette said she never had so much attention, now that she is pregnant. That's what happens when you work in a **Pregnancy Resource Center/Bakery!**

As for the teaching of **Abstinence Education** in schools and churches, we have not given up even though our many efforts have frustrated us. Pastor Isaac has a similar passion for the youth. We want them to succeed in life by delaying sexual activity till marriage. It gives them the chance to complete their schooling, acquire a skill, and begin working, and then carefully choose their life-partner. Marriage is then appropriate but it should not be delayed unnecessarily. That is the success sequence.

We are preparing our submission to renew our five-year NGO recertification: a complex and somewhat costly process which includes the past five years' activity reports and yearly financial audits. We assemble the information at the end of every year, so it should not be too time-consuming at report time. It costs us approximately $300 /year to meet their requirements. We welcome your prayers and support.

And now, but not least, let's address the **St Raphael Hospital Project!** We are waiting for a major study to be completed before we proceed further. It's the **Environmental and Social Impact Assessment.** We will submit the recommendations to the board

and architect, submit our revised soil studies, revise Bill of Quantities in preparation for construction, achieve a supervisory contract with the architect, as well as a contract with a construction company for the pediatric building foundation. The contract with the previous company has lapsed after three years. We experienced a loss. The new Board for St Raphael did not assume that contract because they were concerned about legal issues arising down the line, and a lack of being in control of that agreement. Instead, the board intends to proceed little by little, phase by phase.

We met major donors in Florida. Dr Ferrante made two recommendations after looking at the designs. We submitted to Philip the architect for implementation. We are excited to have gained someone who has expertise with hospital designs! The other couple, the Liebert's, will make their decision in February. While in Florida, I visited the Pregnancy Resource Center managed by Dr. Karen Liebert. Can you imagine, we're in the same business! It is a full-fledge medical PRC located next to the local Planned Parenthood. There are prayer warriors all around. It is literally a spiritual battle for life.

The board has attended a Resource Mobilization Seminar. We are developing a plan for raising funds in Uganda and abroad. As a first step, board members decided to raise $2800 each to help defray the costs before construction begins: clear the construction site, put a temporary structure for the guards and latrine and hire two guards; equip and staff site office; deliver first shipment of bricks and sand, etc.

As a board member, we're choosing the bricks' shipment for $2800. Would you join us for a donation of $280, $140, $70, or other? These are exciting times. Please join us. Become a Founding Member! Your contribution to the preliminary construction challenge will count toward the level you choose as a founding member. It will get you on your way!

We can't thank you enough for your perseverance and continued support. We see the promised land with a precious children hospital on it. This will be your legacy, a legacy of love. It will come to pass with God's help as with anything we have done so far. We give Him all the praise and glory.

Always in His care,

Louise Allard/President



Mothers are choosing their baby clothing



Pastor Isaac is blessed with clothes for his family of 20! More than half are adopted!



Emily is teaching what she knows best, what is at the heart of God: love of life and family