



Hands Across Nations Newsletter

26, Sept 2017

Greetings from Keith in Uganda and Carolyn in Washington State! My apologies for not having sent a newsletter in quite some time. Today I'm sending you several articles that were written for our Chewelah Independent so you can catch up on our Hands Across Nations (HAN) doings!

First of all, for those who have not heard.....our Annual Benefit Dinner/Auction is coming up on October 7th at the Chewelah Civic Center! The theme for this year is: "Under the Mango Tree, Dreams Become Reality". That refers to the many reading classes being held in Uganda which are often held under the huge mango trees which are common to the area.

Our dynamic and hardworking team has been busily getting all the parts of the benefit organized so it will be a smooth operation with hopefully 180 guests attending. The tickets are selling fast so if you are intending to come, please don't wait to buy tickets at the door. Last year we sold out and hopefully this year we will again!

On the right is our Benefit Poster with all the information you will need to come!



DINNER & AUCTION

*All funds raised to benefit
Hands Across Nations
work in Uganda, Africa*

2017
Saturday, October 7
Chewelah Civic Center
302 East Webster, Chewelah

TICKETS AT:
Akers Drug, Chewelah

Front Porch Farm
Hwy 395, Arden

Michelle Lancaster,
Colville 675-5649



Tickets \$15
Children \$10

DOORS OPEN: 4:30 pm
DINNER: 5pm - 6pm

Call 509-979-7448
to reserve table for 8



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Sept 17, 2017

Pennies for the Poor raises funds for Hands Across Nations

There's an old saying "Take care of the pennies and the dollars will take care of themselves". Ten-year old Makayla Duke, of Chewelah has been collecting pennies for a full year to give them to the needy. She calls her effort "Pennies for the Poor". Last year she collected pennies for several months and gave over \$250 to Hands Across Nations to use for the poor in Uganda. Makayla's heart for the poor has not grown cold since then and she has continued her efforts quietly unbeknownst to Keith and Carolyn Jones who have been working with the indigent in Uganda. Their mission focus is training teachers for the "Learning to Read to Read the Bible" program, and providing the learning materials for hundreds of classes of learners.



On September 10th at Abundant Life Fellowship, Makayla presented Carolyn with a certified check for \$461.00! Makayla's pennies became many dollars! That amount of dollars will cover the complete costs for at least 4 reading classes of 25 inmates in a prison. That includes their primer books, small Bibles, pens, pencils, erasers, and notebooks plus the blackboard and chalk! In 4 to 6 months, Makayla's penny offering to God will produce at least 100 imprisoned men and women who have learned how to read and write in their native language and to do simple math.

Another team of local people with hearts for the illiterate poor in Uganda, are planning a special Benefit Dinner and Auction "Under the Mango Tree Dreams Become Reality, October 7th at the Chewelah Civic Center, doors open at 4:30 pm. Tickets are available at Akers Drug Store, in Chewelah, The Front Porch Farm in Arden, and from Michelle Lancaster in Colville at 675-5649.

It is always a lively and interesting night as the food and activities are new every year. Come join the excitement and hear how Hands Across Nations' work has changed the lives of thousands of illiterate people of the Lango Tribe in N. Uganda. Many "Hands" from this small area in NE Washington have reached around the globe to fulfill their long awaited dream of being able to read.

Anyone wishing to contribute to Makayla's "Pennies for the Poor Fund" may contact Mary Knapp at 935-0319. Nickels, dimes and quarters will also be gratefully accepted!



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Hands Across Nations Benefit Coming to Chewelah Civic Center, October 7th!

“Under the Mango Tree Dreams Become Reality” Hands Across Nations’ Annual (HAN) Benefit Dinner, is coming up October 7th, 5-8 pm at the Chewelah Civic Center with doors opening at 4:30 pm. Tickets are still available at Akers Drug and Front Porch Farm but are going fast!

Abundant Life Fellowship women put together fantastic theme baskets for the silent auction



Gorgeous themed baskets, handmade items, hay, beauty bark from Vaagen Bros. Lumber, gravel from Lane Mountain, and parts of the HAN ministry will be auctioned off! You’ll see in living color what the funds from this past year have accomplished in Uganda.

HAN’s Used Book Sale, on Sept 16th was a prelude to the Annual HAN Benefit and ended up blessing many more people than expected. Local people donated hundreds of great books and dozens of people came, carrying away armloads of treasures! Others came for the great chili lunch and still others for the African crafts. Ten boxes of books will “fly” to Erute prison in Uganda to stock the shelves of a new library HAN will be furnishing. St. Joseph’s Hospital Long Term Care Center received boxes of good books suitable to their residents, and the rest of the books will be available at the Chewelah Library Book Sale this coming weekend!

Books can transport us into different worlds, using only words! Think of this saying we use to express a profound idea:

“If you give a hungry man a fish, you feed him for a day, but if you teach him how to fish, you feed him for a lifetime”.

The origin of this saying is not clear, but we often use this to say – It is better to teach someone to do something that can help them for a lifetime than to give them something that won’t last but a short time.



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That is the philosophy behind teaching the people of the Lango Tribe to read and write in their own native language. You will be blessed by the astounding results and the stories of the people who have learned to read and write through the HAN literacy program.

I'll leave you with the words of two Ugandan Proverbs that may put a smile on your face:

"Smartness knows no weather" – Meaning: Not "intelligence", but "dressing up fancy", is good ANYTIME!

And one of my favorites: "This road does not encourage sleeping!" - Meaning there are a lot of pot holes in this road!

August 19, 2017

God is always working around us, even in Uganda!

One recent night in Lira Uganda will stand out in our memory as one where we experienced God's perfect timing and placement of people.

Our Hands Across Nations home/office compound is guarded each night by an armed guard to keep us safe from thieves. We have our favorite regular guard, Jimmy, who we know well and trust. Each night he patrols around our house and compound every hour with our recently acquired German Shepherd mix puppy, "Kica" which means "Mercy" in the Lango Language. On Jimmy's off day, we have a different guard, often not the same one



each time, so we don't get to know them well. One of them, Odongo Patrick, was a rather dislikeable guy. Being a dog trainer himself, he frequently corrected our method of training and was somewhat arrogant. Kica didn't like to be around him and cowered when he called her.

One night Keith was called away about 10pm to take our lead teacher trainer, Peter, and an embalmer, out to the home of one of our first teachers, Alfred, who had just died suddenly that morning. They wanted him preserved well so that he didn't have to be buried right away as he was a well-respected and loved school teacher for 40 years and literacy teacher for Hands across Nations, and time was needed to prepare for his burial.



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As Keith and Peter left, Patrick asked why they were going out so late. I mentioned that Alfred had passed away and needed preserving, but his death was more of a celebration of his life as we knew that he was in Heaven, because he was a believer in Jesus Christ. Hearing that short statement, Patrick said he'd been wanting to talk to us about that but didn't know how to start the conversation. He said he's not been happy with how he is living and behaving and would like to understand how he can know Jesus. For the next 2 hours we talked and prayed, with Patrick pouring out his regrets to God about his life, and asking for forgiveness. Afterward he asked Jesus to come be the Lord of his life, helping him to change. It was obvious, that he was at peace with himself and felt the change in his spirit. Strangely, Kica, no longer was afraid of him and came over to be patted and stroked. From that minute, she was his friend.

The next request from Patrick was for a Bible in his native language. Fortunately we have been translating and printing important scriptures and books of the Bible in our home office which I could give to him. That night while he wasn't patrolling on foot, he was reading the Word of God as a man who has found food after a long period of starvation. He said that he was to be transferred to a district to the far north and had been delayed. His belief was that it was for the purpose of finding Jesus that he had not yet gone. Patrick returned just one more night and said his wife also wanted to know God, and was reading the books we gave him. He left the next day for the north, promising to come back to visit when he was in the Lira area.

The miracle of a life, suddenly changed, without our expecting or planning it shows us that God is always involved in the everyday things of life. In the book of John 6:44, in the Bible, Jesus said "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him." He is drawing people to Him through His love, and we can't deny it. We never know when it will happen but we want to be ready, keeping our own hearts and minds set rightly on the things of God, so sometimes we can be a part of it. It's an awe inspiring life!

Sharing the love of Christ in practical ways,

Keith and Carolyn Jones

To contact us you can email us at:

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or call Carolyn at 509-979-7448