

Eagles Wings to Uganda & Kenya

Nov/Dec 2008



From hats and scarves in the UK, to sun cream and flip flops in Africa, the winter months provided a warm and sunny welcome for the Eagles Wings team into Entebbe. Armed with gifts, donations and healthcare products provided by Eagles Wings supporters in the UK, we were ready and eager to begin our journey on the rough roads to the remote and unvisited places of Uganda and Kenya.

Ibanda, Uganda

Perhaps the most remote place we visited was a town in western Uganda called Ibanda. We spent 3 days teaching healthcare and life skills for around 750 people and village leaders, many of whom had walked long distances to be present. Again the interactive health DVDs from our partners at Thare Machi were a great success as an impromptu cinema was created using a sheet and some sticks. With their interactive lessons, the DVDs enabled everyone present to learn about healthy eating, basic hygiene, HIV/Aids and the prevention of different illnesses. Eagles Wings presented a portable DVD player to the main community leader, along with a set of educational DVDs, ensuring that thousands of people can now benefit from these valuable teachings. Bruce and Sharon Oliver also did question and answer sessions covering a wide variety of topics. We endeavor with these sessions, not to westernise their culture, but to appropriately address issues where there is ignorance simply caused by lack of education.

Eagles Wings provided all the food for everyone there over the 3 days, consisting of a balanced diet of their staple food, matooke, meat and fruit.

It was in Ibanda that we gave away sweat shirts donated by the Watford Scout group, footballs for young kids and simple reading glasses to many men and women whose vision was deteriorating. These glasses were kindly donated by a lady from Hemel Hempstead, and given out by her 18 year old daughter on the trip. It is amazing how something so simple and inexpensive that we often take for granted, can change a person's life.

Katwe Slum, Kampala, Uganda

We were particularly excited to visit Katwe and see the progress of the primary school and clinic Eagles Wings have already helped to set up. We had a great time at the school, where they spent 25 minutes singing 'we welcome you visitor' songs that they had been practicing for our arrival! In return, our United States team member and myself taught them the only english nursery rhyme we both knew with actions. They thought it was great, I doubt Simon Cowell will be signing us up in a hurry! It was evident on our visit that many more individual child sponsorships are needed to help these young kids. I was able to see the direct result of someone's giving when I met 2 young girls in the school. They were only there because of the generosity of sponsors back in the UK, willing to commit £15 a month. As I have been personally responsible for child sponsorship recently, it was quite a moving experience for me.

It was great to see a new, clean and tidy clinic stocked up with equipment and medicines, right at the centre of a dirty slum. We met Mary the nurse who reported that the clinic was making good progress, and we were able to give them a portable blood pressure unit donated by Omron Healthcare UK. Omron made 10 such units available to Eagles Wings as they are perfect for these places being portable, reliable, easy to use and invaluable for small clinics seeing many patients each day. We were also able to give units to the clinic in Nakuru, one for the ambulance that we previously sent there, and several to Kericho District Hospital in Kenya, who have been overwhelmed in the recent crisis with so few resources.





A former seamstress from the UK, kindly gave sewing materials, buttons, zips and fabrics, to help the tailoring school set up in Gulu. This initiative is going really well, giving widows and girls the ability to learn a valuable skill, thus enabling them to provide food for their families.

The Sue Ryder charity shop in Watford, kindly donated a wedding dress for Nebbi in western Uganda. Here, the ladies have absolutely nothing and this wedding dress will be taken in and let out many times over, bringing great joy to each new bride as her time comes to be married. It was such a delight to hand this over, knowing how many dreams we were helping to come true.

Nakuru, Kenya

500 youth from different tribes and towns gathered in Nakuru for a 3 day peace and reconciliation conference. The opening ceremony was deeply moving as youth reenacted scenes from the recent clashes that had such traumatic effect on this wonderful nation. Clearly many of these young people are still very traumatised and it was our privilege to be involved in the reconciliation process to instigate plans for a trauma counseling centre, and to facilitate question and answer sessions which allowed these young people to speak openly about things that were eating away at them on the inside. I believe this enabled many to begin dealing with the hurt and trauma they had suffered through these tribal conflicts.



Elburgon, Kenya

We were delighted to visit our Girl's Home in Elburgon. The girls welcomed us with beaming faces and a song presentation, proud to show us their very clean and tidy home. Our hearts ached when we saw that each child's belongings didn't even fill a plastic carrier bag, and even a basic item such as a pillow is noticeably missing from each bed. The staff showed us around, and even introduced us to the cow called 'Christmas' who is being saved for a special dinner on Christmas day! We bought chickens, ground nuts and lolly pops for the girls to eat, as they only eat meat once a month. As they enjoyed their sweets they practiced their english and showed us cards they had received from friends in the UK. It was wonderful to see them healthy, happy and so grateful. The crops they have been growing on the 5 acres of land bought by Eagles Wings, are nearly ready to be harvested. The girls will be involved in this process, all helping create the self-sufficiency ethos we are trying to encourage.

We presented a set of Thare Machi educational DVDs which they loved watching. All of these things are helping to prepare them for a brighter future.



What a successful trip! Great progress is being made in every project thanks to those who support the work of Eagles Wings. Please don't stop giving, you are making such a difference. We particularly need more child sponsorships. Just £15 -£20 a month can completely change a child's life, providing food, clean water, clothes and education. As Christmas gets closer, maybe you could think about giving a different kind of gift this year.

Thank you to all of Eagles Wings supporters, who make trips like these life changing.

If you would like to give to Eagles Wings or sponsor a child, please either visit our website at www.eagleswingsuk.org where you can pay online by card, or write a cheque made payable to Eagles Wings and send to: Eagles Wings 6 Woodland Drive, Watford, Herts WD17 3BX. If you would like to pay directly into Eagles Wings bank account, the bank details are: HSBC Bank, Account number: 81566431, Sort Code: 40-43-28 Address: 67 The Parade, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, B72 1PU.

