

Out Uganda Trip By Sr. Juliet Nakalema

Items for the Mission

Among the items we carried in our suitcases were used uniforms from Blessed Trinity School. We distributed these to all children in BTC Nalweyo. One suitcase was filled with crayons and markers, another with art colors pencils and reading books for the library, pencils, erasers, sharpeners, glue sticks, stickers, and a volleyball net. Over 100 beautiful cross necklaces made by Theresa Anderson and family were given for secondary school girls

For the church and the bible camp, we took one suit case of rosaries and scapulars. We also brought bible pictures, bible coloring books, posters, name badges, Sacred Heart pictures, construction paper and different shapes of paper cut outs, and microphone equipment. We took a green African chasuable, two bible banners made by a parishioner and a 36" monstrance donated by one parishioner, from B.T., Ocala.

Other items on this mission trip included walkers and canes for the elderly sisters at the Sisters' mother house, Gogonya, T-shirts for children and other clothing for teenagers as well as medical supplies for the clinic in Hoima, Nalweyo and Kakindo. Three computers were sent; one is already in use by Fr. Joachim to send us reports for the mission.

Experiences with the Mission Bible Camp

Sr. Juliet thought it was a joke when she asked Fr. Joachim on the phone before we left on our trip for the bible camp. He asked that we "come prepared; we have the people for you." She thought that they were more prepared for us than we were for them. However, Fr. Pat made us prepare by telling us to be ready for what the Holy Spirit will lead us to do and to be flexible. We were not afraid because we entrusted our mission to the Holy Spirit to lead us and many people were praying for us.

The first group of children, over 1000, welcomed us at Busanga Primary School seven miles away from Nalweyo with drums, dances, clapping sounds! We asked them if they were coming to Nalweyo and the teacher said joyfully, "Yes, for the Bible camp." On arrival at BT Nalweyo hundreds of similar age boys and girls from Nalweyo Primary School and Blessed Trinity School Nalweyo with many adults were waiting with drums, dancing, clapping and musical sounds! We went to the church, prayed before the Blessed Sacrament and after that had a quick tour around some of the projects and the place.

Five major seminarians working with Fr. Joachim had organized the people in groups. They were: the sick, the adults, the youth, catechists, and the teachers. They asked us to go to our respective mission areas or groups. Our Bible camp started promptly with the youth under the shade tree and moved into the church as the numbers increased. The youth were very enthusiastic and very knowledgeable. We spent most of our time sharing different biblical themes relating to their aspirations and virtues like love, hope and charity. Since the numbers were over whelming, the spirit led us to teach with drums, dances, clapping and musical sounds. We suggested to end the day with Mass from 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm and our suggestion passed for all the days of the mission. The

students prepared hymns and readings for Mass that day and they all did a tremendous job, including the lower grades.

The second day was grades five to seven. The church was packed from one end to another. We asked the teachers to write name badges for all the children. The children shared their stories from the Bible and seemed very smart. Students were learning from one another for the first two hours in the morning. The teachers prepared them with themes and role plays with drums, dances, clapping and musical sounds! *There is Some Thing Today in the House of the Lord*, and many others. After lunch break we shared our part of Bible knowledge.

For afternoon intervals Sr. Juliet, Celeste, Janet, and Eva decided to put on a show of their Ocala Chorus singing *Amazing Grace* while Helen enjoyed watching the children form the back of the church. The children were very excited and happy at each and every statement we made. They learned a lot in a short time.

Day three was the most exciting. Grades 1-4 were packed into pews, sometimes two on one chair. They shared the most exciting stories including staging a play on Job and some songs they composed themselves from the stories. We had so many intervals of music. We shared our lesson plans and prepared for Mass. The children had their choir mistress conducting an approximate 2000 member children's choir! This was a very awesome experience.

We gave rosaries to all children and their teachers, religious pins and crosses to outstanding children. The last day was adult Bible, however, we decided to have adoration with them to pray for the parish council meeting which was going to be held at 2:00 p.m. There were over a hundred praying with music in intercession before the Blessed Sacrament. The Bible camp concluded with Benediction. There were over 4000 children and adults in our Bible camp program.

Sr. Juliet was introduced to a group of intercessors for the parish after the Benediction. She thanked them on behalf of the mission team and encouraged them to continue praying for us. They are lay persons especially committed to the ministry of prayer for the two Blessed Trinity sister parishes under the guidance of Fr. Joachim.