

# *Align Ministries*

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Dear Friends and Supporters,

We cannot tell you how exciting we are to be sending you this letter of update on what is going on in Bombo, Uganda. Because of you and your generosity, God is working in amazing ways. We want to keep you informed as to where and what your contributions and prayers are doing in Uganda.

Here is a direct quote from one of the emails Millie Ojera (pastor's wife) on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007, "Everyone here in Bombo expresses great gratitude for the help being forwarded to them. What we've been buying is medication, school fees, food items, and particular needs e.g. sunscreen and an umbrella for Deborah (albino girl) clothes, mosquito nets etc. The glow on these people's faces is so wonderful. Please give special thank you to all the sponsors. Poverty and malnutrition are definitely worse with the HIV epidemic. In fact, for many families struggling to care for sick family members who can no longer work, AIDS is the cause of poverty. AIDS seems to thrive and wallow in poverty ridden countries. The sponsor's support is making a huge difference in many lives. So many that were so sick and near death and that could not do anything to help take care of themselves or their children are now feeling so much better. They are active, productive and helping to provide for themselves and their families. Align Ministries is helping us especially materially and financially meet the needs of HIV/AIDS clients in our community. Through your contributions, many are not only receiving these necessities, but finding Christ through your love, and getting hope and life restored to them. Thanks, thanks, thanks, we love you. Millie".

Here is a quote taken from a recent email from Bombo Pentecostal Church Pastor Alex Ojera, "Our church is in the middle of a Moslem dominated town and Jesus expects us to do something about it. The Moslem question is not one that the church can ignore. Yasin, who is one of the young people in our church, who is now being sponsored through Align Ministries, about 6 years ago was introduced to the gospel. Nothing happened for about 5 months after hearing the message. Then Yasin had a strong urge that led him to an evangelical church in Bombo where he gave his life to Christ.

Yasin kept this a secret for fear of wrath and rejection from his father and entire family and the Moslem community. Word got out and he was rejected and even his life was threatened by his own family members as well as the Moslem community. He then of course had no financial support for school fees, food or anything else. He has been

sleeping on the floor of the church and plays the keyboard for us. Is God good or what? Because of Align Ministries and all of their supporters, Yasin is back in school and his needs are being met. God is accomplishing much as we remain faithful to Him. I love John Maxwell's statement, "A people without vision perish." You have helped us with our vision at Bombo Pentecostal Church.

### **LITERACY**

There are many so many testimonies from people that have taken our literacy class. One lady who had an account at the bank usually used the assistance of a friend to deposit or withdraw money. She needed assistance from a friend or someone at the bank to complete their forms. Instead of using ink on the thumb to sign, she was able to write her signature. Her friends and people working at the bank were amazed and inquired where they learned to write in such a short time, she proudly replied, 'at church'. There are so many success stories of people who could not read or write and now able to do so.

### **EDUCATION**

The young people face gross challenges at home. Poverty hits hard, especially when it comes to looking for school fees to send them back to school. School requirements are hard to come by. Parents are broke and most worried at the time of going back to school. The kids are also very worried, wondering where and if finances will come through. Thanks to our supporters from Align Ministries we were able to send the children back to school with good quality books, pens, pencils, rulers and some math sets. Many parents that were skeptical and negative about their children spending time at church changed their attitude when they saw these materials being given to their children-Praise God! The skeptical parents who would not come to church are now attending and giving their lives to the Lord.

### **CLOTHING**

A distribution of clothing is being done. About 400 pieces of clothing to start with are being dispatched (distributed). About 20 children will benefit from the first distribution, each taking some outfits. Our visitation team will go with more clothing to the maternity wing of the Military Hospital. The sizes of clothing handed out ranged from new born up to 15 years of age. The children came with tattered and torn clothing and left with new outfits, smiling and looking so cute. We are so very blessed, thank you.

### **HELPING THE PEOPLE TO BECOME SELF-SUSTAINING**

We are taking a little bit of each of the beneficiaries support and starting a savings for them. This will accumulate to a point where the beneficiary can start something of their own to sustain themselves. We can then use the sponsor's donation on another needy person or family. This is the direction we will gradually take with each client as soon as they are strong enough healthwise. Our goal is to make each person self sustaining and not allowing them to become dependent on outside assistance. Thank you so much for your prayers and support, Pastor Alex Ojera."

We were privileged to see all this at work on our trip to Bombo, Uganda on April 26 to May 3, 2007. The transformation in people's quality of life was a miracle! These were not the same people we left just 7 months ago, in October 2006, they were different!

There were two people in particular that we would like to share their story with you. One is Millie Nampima who 7 months ago was very sick. You could tell talking with her and trying to get her to share her story was even difficult, this took too much effort. Because of the HIV/AIDS virus she was not able to take care of her children or herself. Before becoming sick she was proud of the fact that she could provide for her children (11 of her 16 children have died from HIV/AIDS) she is now working in her garden to provide food for her family as well as sell some for a profit. She also sells wares and baskets she had made in the market place.

Because of you all she is now thriving! When we pulled up in the driveway of the church she was in her field working her garden. She saw us and she started jumping and waving her hands in the air. Picking up the hoe and throwing it over shoulder to show us how strong she now is. Then handing us one of her sweet potatoes, so proud that she was feeling well enough to work and help provide for her family. Her and her remaining children are being fed, receiving needed medication. They are also receiving school fees and supplies, thank you.

Then there is Millie Nabachwa. Seven months ago should was covered with a skin disease/fungus that oozed continually from her body. She too has HIV/AIDS and was malnourished and sick. She would fall asleep on the chair in front of her in church because she was so weak from illness. She never smiled and all you saw was agony, pain and despair in her eyes. Again, because of your support this last trip she is now a different woman. Smiling, productive, enterprising and praising God for the miracle that has taken place in her life and her family. She was once a Muslim but is now a strong believer in Jesus Christ and an active church member and member in the community. She now is working in her garden, making baskets (to sell), makes charcoal cooking containers (to sell); attending the literacy classes at church and is one of the person's able to sign her own name. Her children are doing well and they are all praising God and the church for their new lives.

They attribute it all to Jesus and the Pastor and his wife at Bombo Pentecostal Church.

### **WATER PURIFIERS**

We were also able to install the Water Purifier right outside Bombo Church. Actually they did the installation with the help of many of the excited villagers. They are so proud that they have clean water in Bombo, not even Kampala has that, so thank you supporters. Even the "city" water is not safe to drink without boiling or being treated. This is a boost that will have significant health benefits. Almost everyone we spoke to knew they were suppose to boil their water before they drank it; however almost all of the people could not afford to buy the fire wood or charcoal to boil all of their drinking water. So they didn't and many got sick with diarrhea. With all of the other issues they

face, having clean drinking water should not be one of them. This is so easy and inexpensive to accomplish.

These water purifiers are a very simple water chlorinator, which introduces chlorine in their drinking water very much like we have here in the United States. The water purifier can treat enough drinking water for an entire village for just pennies a person, once the purifiers are installed. There is now a group of men at Bombo Pentecostal Church ready to install another system.

### **MOSQUITO NETS (Insecticide Treated Mosquito Nets)**

Malaria strikes everyone! Unbelievable, everyone we spoke to has had malaria and expects it to return at least twice a year. Malaria is the number one killer in this part of Uganda. Keep in mind these people are in many cases malnourished, have poor health care, if any, do not have clean drinking water and many are infected with HIV/AIDS. Now throw any other illness along with malaria and you can see why they die of diseases that should not kill them.

Align Ministries provided fifty (50) insecticide treated Mosquito nets that last for a minimum of five-years. These nets are the best mosquito nets available. Tests by the Center for Disease Control, US AID and World Health Organization have determined that these nets can drastically reduce the incidence of Malaria.

We told Pastor Alex and Millie to distribute them as they felt God lead them. The people are going to be so thrilled with what a difference these nets are going to make in their lives and families lives. Even just having one net in their small home will discourage the presence of mosquito's and therefore reduces the threat of Malaria. Our goal is to provide at least one treated mosquito net in every home in Bombo.

### **NEXT STEPS – Return to Bombo Uganda in September 2007**

We are planning a return trip to Bombo September 10<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007. We are anticipating a great trip; we “hope and pray” to be able to expand the “Bombo Model” to other congregations in Bombo and extending to other villages. Please pray we find the person(s) of peace in these other areas as God has sent Pastor Alex and Millie to us in Bombo. We are also excited about partnering with Peninsula Community Church with Pastor Jim Welch in Palos Verdes Peninsula, California. We have met several times and they are as excited as we are in partnering with them to expand our outreach to Uganda. They will be sending a team from their church this September and they are trusting God to do immeasurably more than they or we could ever ask or imagine. Ephesians 3:20.

As we plan our next trip to Bombo and beyond we are open to God's leading; as we anticipate projects, we know God may have bigger and better plans we just can't see yet. So please hold us up in prayer. One of the projects is to plan with Pastor Alex and Millie to conduct train-the-trainer courses for men on Spiritual Integrity and for women on Spiritual Empowerment. This should prove to be a learning experience for all of us, a great opportunity to share and learn each others culture.

We will be installing the second water purifier. We would also like to dig a well. We have gotten the cost down considerably through a group called Well Springs. They dig percussion wells by hand and they are very successful saving anywhere from \$15,000.00 or more from mechanically drilled wells. The plans have already been forwarded to Pastor Alex Ojera in Bombo. He is assembling a team to weld and assemble the component parts and then dig the well. We need funding for this before we go in September to purchase the materials to make the well components before we get there.

Please pray for and consider giving to present and future projects:

Hand Dug Well	\$ 2,000.00
Professionally drilled water well (complete)	\$10,000.00 to \$15,000.00
Water Purifier (Complete w/security fence or tower)	\$ 2,500.00
Treated Mosquito Nets (150 x \$9 per net delivered)	\$ 1,350.00
Support of a family or individual	\$ 30.00 per month
Future building projects: school, clinic	\$30,000.00

Please really hold us in your prayers as Satan is definitely alive and active. Ever since we launched Align Ministries we have been facing struggles and in our personal and family life. It has become a joke with our children. They ask us all the time if we should maybe reconsider what we are doing with Align. It has become very apparent that Satan wants to discourage and distract us from doing God's work. However, we are more than conquerors in Christ Jesus, Amen!

The size of our God determines the size of our goals.

***I run straight to the goal with purpose in every step.***

***1 Corinthians 9:26***

Thank you for your partnership with Align Ministries.

God Bless

Don & Elaine Herr

**Pictures from our trip to Uganda in April – May, 2007**



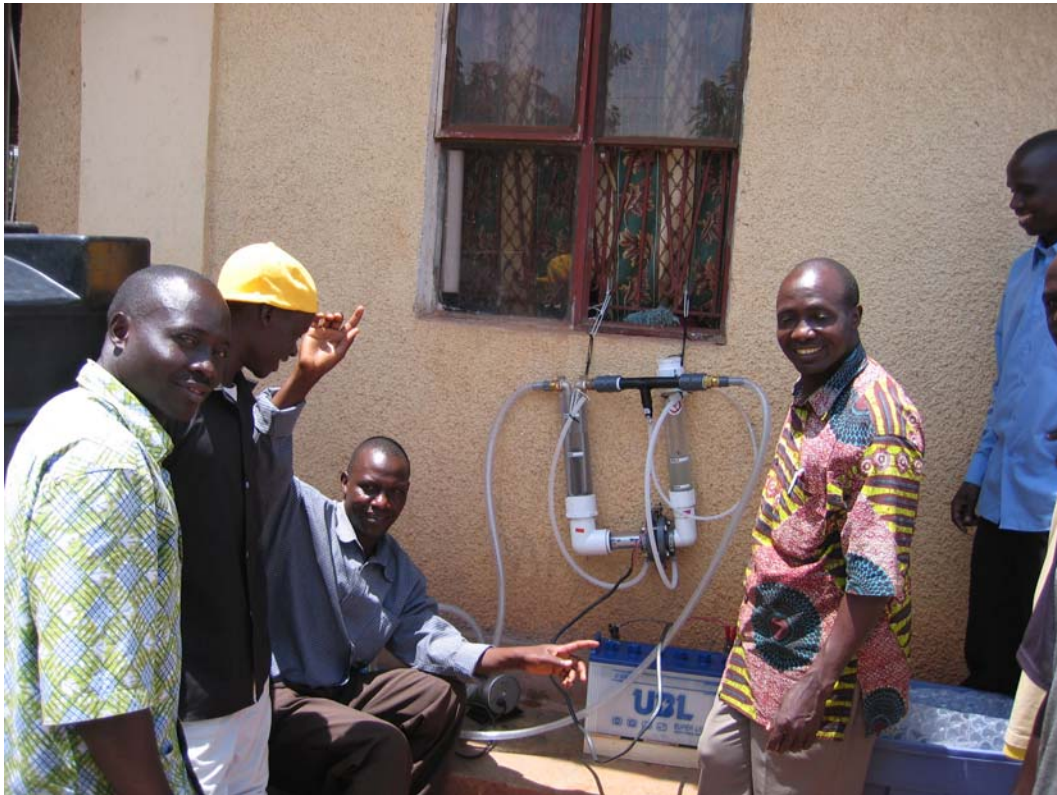
Elaine with women from Bombo Church. Jennifer is next to Elaine on her right.



Mille receiving a Treated Mosquito Net in her home. We did not see her smile 7-months ago.



Literacy class being taught at Bombo Pentecostal Church



Water Purifier Installed at Bombo Pentecostal Church  
Clean Drinking Water in Bombo Uganda