



Volunteer Summer 2007 Weekly Update Highlights

From VS Uganda – July 5, 2007

Mulembe! (Hello)

Since our last email update, a lot has happened. We've become acclimated and it's beginning to truly feel like home here. It's a true testament to how comfortable we feel, since we are able to walk from one area to another, guided only by moonlight. We've even become friends with 2 of the local goats, affectionately dubbing them Norman and Bambi. We've also been using them as a makeshift, all-natural garbage disposal. The outdoor bucket showers have become quite a commodity after a hot, long day of work.

As we mentioned in the last email, we have been working on the FDNC vocational school's stage. We started by building a circular stone exterior and filling it in with red dirt, called marem. We hope to finish the stage tomorrow and will celebrate with a weekend trip to Murchison Falls.

Today, we visited the location of our next project, building a community "piggery," where we were greeted with song and dance by many of the villagers.

Outside of building the stage, we have also had opportunities to volunteer in the FDNC health clinic, kitchen and classrooms. We were even invited to watch and participate in a debate on "Does Science do More Harm than Good?" with the FDNC students. In our free time, some of us have made it to watch community soccer games, while others learned how to harvest sugarcane and enjoy it as an afternoon snack and chocolate substitute.

Shabbat was relaxing, with Deb B., Deb C. and Jason leading Friday night services in the rain, and Jesse and Jonah delivering a D'var Torah (summary of the weekly Torah portion) on Saturday. For those who wanted to eat fish, we were treated to a Tilapia -fish dinner (our daily meals are vegetarian). Some people even ate the heads! We also completed part of our core curriculum, pertaining to our global obligations.

Finally, to finish up the weekend, we celebrated Stephen's 25th birthday by hiking through banana fields up Mt. Wenale. At the peak of our trek, we reached a waterfall, over 1,000 ft. above where we started. We had a spectacular view of all of Mbale. After the hike, we went to Mbale proper for a late lunch, as an extension of the celebration.

Everyone is doing well. We miss you and send our love.

Alinde (bye),

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