

# ***Mission: Uganda Report 2018***

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As every year, we had indeed another wonderful trip to Uganda full of surprising blessings. I've attached the engineering report after the letter for those of you who would like a deeper look. It's highly recommended reading, even if you are not an engineer.

I taught from the pulpit in three services. The first was particularly daunting, as I was asked to teach the regional pastors. How would I know what a Ugandan Pastor faces in his daily life? But God's Word is faithful, so I taught what God's Word says about being a pastor. The second sermon was on gratefulness, a subject that affects us all, wherever we are in the world. Two young people accepted Christ at the service. The third teaching was at New Covenant in Nyanzi, my adoptive church.



The Ugandan Church also ministered to us, spending particular time with our team in sharing the things God had done for them in their lives.

We completed 7 projects in five locations and prepared work for five more projects in the coming year.

Three blessings:

On the second Monday, we were to head off to Zinga Island. Diana, our host, told us to be at the docks at 9:00. Everyone groaned, because it is a three-hour drive and that meant packing and getting up way early. We swung by Kampala on our way in to pick up some supplies and hurried off to the dock. We arrived and ... no Diana! She had decided to move the launch to 14:00. Well, no one was very happy about that, until we learned that shortly after we left Kampala, in that same area where we were, riots had broken out, with gunfire and teargas. Customers were locked in the shops for hours! But not us, we'd left early!

Earlier in the week, we'd purchased a 1000 L tank to build a sand filter in. Since the team in Mityana wouldn't likely have enough money, we decided to buy it in Kampala. Imagine my surprise a couple of hours later when our team reported that they had successfully purchased the tank after we had already purchased one in Kampala (and you can't return them!). What was I going to do with a second tank?

That very evening, the leader of a local orphanage who had spoken to Mahmud, my son in law, earlier in the day, approached me. Was there anything we could do for them? Their water source was a mud hole (like most places we've visited in Uganda). Well, we couldn't solve their problem this year, but I promised to send a team to look at their compound for next year. But what we could do, seeing as how we had a 1000 L tank, is to put gutters on their largest building to collect rainwater and improve their supply, at least in the rainy season. God knew why we bought the second tank!

On Zinga Island, we had built a solar thermal system to kill Cryptosporidium, which we knew from a commercial lab test, that they had. Cryptosporidium has similar symptoms to malaria. But to prove you'd killed it, you'd need a lab test, and commercial lab tests are expensive. Unfortunately, cryptosporidium (and its indicator organism Clostridium Perfringens) is cultured at 45°C under anaerobic conditions – tough to find. But... our thermal system also produces warm water, so, a beer keg-sized water vessel, insulation, a mayonnaise jar and a candle, and you have a perfect little field incubator. And it worked!

One last blessing. On our next to last day on Zinga Island, I got kidney stones. Miles and miles away from any hospital. But Zinga happened to have a visiting Spanish physician, Estela, who proscribed me pain meds to make it back to Germany.

A special thanks to all who supported us. As you can see, prayers were indeed answered on this trip.

Blessings,

Michael