



## **NURSE'S NEWS FROM GLENNA—JUNE 2008**



**Hard at work.**

Our God is so good & so faithful!!! We are all thanking and & praising Him for what He has done in Uganda this month. The expansion of Nampunge Health Center is well on it's way to completion, following 3 weeks of hard work by the Western Canadian work group. Our days were filled with all kinds of events- the good, the bad & the ugly. Rainy weather made the roads pretty bad. We had 4 flat tires in 3 weeks.



**Lots of rain and mud.**

God proved Himself faithful, over & over. The day the group arrived, we had a little scare coming from the airport. Someone called my phone saying something about Walter, Canadian passport, money etc. We soon realized that Karla & Vince had lost the folder with all their passports, money etc. so we quickly returned to the airport. A policeman found my number in their folder, & was calling us. It seems the guy who collects baggage carts in the parking lot found the folder & turned it over to police. That in itself is a miracle, as people would usually just take the cash & ditch everything else. Miraculously, all cash & documents were still there! After completing paperwork at the police station verifying the return of everything, we made our way to Kampala, praising the Lord!! The little reward we gave to the guy who had turned in the folder & also to police, was far less costly than losing the whole thing. So there were a few tense moments, but God is good, & confirmed His protection for the group.



**Daniel & Natalie Engagement.**

We had a really good safari to Murchison Falls National Park, & even celebrated the engagement of Daniel & Natalie at the top of the falls, on the Nile River. Never a dull moment!! Walter, (16 months) our youngest work camper ever, really enjoyed Auntie Glenna's driving, yelling "Owie" every time we hit a bump, & there were many.



**Elephant—really???**

Another day, a camera was stolen from our van, & once again, we had to visit the police. The person who stole it was actually a patient. He had been admitted the night before, after being beaten almost to death by a mob. He was caught stealing from someone's house. If the police commander had not rescued him he would have been killed. When we met in the morning in the Health Center, we had prayer for him & I talked to him about asking for forgiveness & how the Lord would help him.

As we were preparing to leave that afternoon, the driver noticed a door open on the van, when it shouldn't have been. We soon discovered the camera was missing and the case was on the seat, but no camera. The staff immediately suspected that it was this boy, as he had disappeared from his hospital bed. So we loaded into our vehicles, anxious to get home before dark, & drove to the next village where the boy apparently lived. We reported to police, who knew of this boy's record (he was 13 & a known thief). They went looking for him at his house & seized all his belongings. We remained in the van, praying that they would find the camera & things would be resolved peacefully. Soon, one of my staff came back & said they had found the boy. They asked what the camera looked like, so I took a similar camera to show, & went with them. The police had the boy-down on the ground & had already caned him-hit him with a cane 3 times. He was saying he didn't have it. A huge mob had gathered & everyone was shouting & yelling at him. It was so awful. I said to him "We don't want to beat you or hurt you, just return the camera if you have it, please." Then the police dragged him off behind another building. I thought they were going to beat him again, but were taking him away so I





**Tree planting & plaque with MP, work group, & community members.**



**Cake cutting with HC staff, MP & community leaders.**



**Lucas—now 3 years old.**



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wouldn't see. But it seems when he saw me, he decided to confess that he had taken it, & moments later the police commander came around the corner of the building with the camera. I had honestly thought we would never see it again. I was still very concerned that they would beat him more. So I said to the police commander- "please don't allow him to be beaten any more. He stole yesterday, & was beaten, & it obviously did no good, as he has stolen again today. But please, we don't want him to be beaten. We are Christians & believe in extending love & forgiveness & mercy to people, as Christ did. I am not trying to tell you how to do your job, but please don't beat him anymore-he needs help. Please be merciful to him." So the commander said they could counsel him. He will likely be put in prison. At that point, I felt there was nothing more we could do, so we went on our way. It was so sad & so scary, but we were just thanking God for the miracle of the camera being returned. We know that a camera can be replaced, but not all the memories from the last 2 weeks. Please continue to remember this boy in your prayers.

The next morning, at Kirongero Health Center, a man came running, carrying a little child, limp in his arms. I knew immediately, that the situation was critical. As I examined the child, I found that he was already dead, & resuscitation was ineffective. He was only 2 years. He had been having fever & convulsions at home. It was pretty traumatic for everyone. We were all crying. I found a clean, new baby blanket & wrapped him up. The uncle came & carried him home, in his arms, on the back of a bicycle someone was pedaling. It is difficult to feel so helpless, & to trust God even when we don't understand.

On the last day at Nampunge, yet another child died, a tiny 5 day old twin – 3 ½ lbs. Once again, resuscitation efforts failed. It was almost hopeless from the beginning-especially with no oxygen or NICU. One never gets used to the death of children. We comforted & prayed for the family. The tiny girl twin was doing ok. So, it was a real taste of Ugandan life for the work group.

**TIME TO CELEBRATE!!**

In spite of the many challenges, we celebrated with the Nampunge community!! The addition of a new wing to their Health center was great cause for rejoicing. Many times, patients have had to be treated outside under the trees, as the beds were all full.

The dedication & celebration service was a huge success, in spite of heavy rain. There were speeches, thank-you's, traditional dancing, children & adult choirs singing, tree planting, presentation of a plaque- recognizing the workers & donors, & an encouraging message from the Member of Parliament for the District. This was followed by cake cutting, & a traditional Ugandan meal for the (approximate) 400 guests.

We are so thankful to the work group, Karla, Vince, Walter, Daniel Hayduk, Natalie Kober, Linda & Penny McDougall & Marla Breitreitz, for their dedication, commitment, financial support & hard work. We also say a special thank you to all of you, who contributed financial support & prayer for this project. Special recognition goes to the Church of God in Western Canada, & MCL Power. God will surely bless you for your generosity.

***Please pray for:***

- speedy completion of the work at Nampunge
- recruitment of qualified staff
- financial needs for monthly Health center expenses

***Praise God for:***

- dedicated partners in this ministry
- safe travel all over Uganda & Kenya this month
- good health & safety for the work group

