

2 0 1 2 P A R T I I

LOKO *village*

VILLAGERS FINALLY AGREE ON A LETTER AND GET ONE MORE YEAR!

✧ Rebuilding ✧

Plywood, 2" nails, tin roofing sheets, 3" nails, 4" nails, roofing nails, hammers, pick axes, hoes, bricks, string, pole diggers, rakes, oil paint, parifin, wood sealant, brushes, rollers, buckets, saws.. supplies we have to buy for construction.

NILE PLY DONATES 80% OF WOOD

After a few meetings with Nile Ply they agree to donating wood and ceiling tiles to the rebuilding of the village. When the load is picked up we find they are donating most of what we need. A miracle in itself, as the wood would have been too expensive for us to pay for.

Several trips to the

brick place, the roofings place, the paint store.... makes one appreciate Home Depot.





pictures of the week



As I sit here and write this is day 20. Tomorrow is three weeks since the fire broke out and burned everything. So many have put

time and money into rebuilding. Donors from HFC, local missionaries, and NGO's. This has been a big community effort, spanning the world.



It has been totally amazing to see how God is working through us... through the Indian owned Nile Ply. Even more amazing is how through

this "Jesus" we keep on talking about. Praise God!!

When everything seems to be going wrong, or when things are frustrating..



watching our actions, some of the villagers are going to church for the very first time. The past few Sunday's Calvary Chapel

we need to remind ourselves that we are doing this for Jesus, for His glory... not ours.

has had over 20 people from Loko come to church to learn about





As the final days approach, at least I am hopeful that they are closer, there is less and less to help with. Construction is still taking place, but when the men show up to help, we want them to help rather than us. With all the walls going up, we did find that we could help paint. So I enlisted the help of the youth group, which consists of Kenna, Trevor; Ethan and Seth Davis, Janae and Josh Peterson, and Shalom. Although there are some others in the youth group they didn't show up very often. Ever try to get teenagers to paint? For a person like me who likes things a certain way, or without mess.... this was a challenge in

patience. However, the youth rose to the occasion and painted all the exterior walls without complaining. It was great to see them all serve together!

1st row L-R: Jen clearing a small section to make it look more like a garden, and less like a trash pit. Day 1 of painting- Seth and Kenna. Trevor, Shalom, Seth and Kenna waiting for pariffin.

2nd row: right next to the new houses, some kids start to burn trash. Seth, Kenna and Shalom. Trevor and a cute puppy, with kids from the village.

Declan and Trevor painting, with a cheering section. Cows making themselves at home in our newly built frames..



A summary of the last days

This last week of construction was the hardest as far as being spent at the end of the day. Not because the manual labor was difficult, mild compared to the week before. As the time grew closer to having the units finished people were already voicing their discontent with how many units they would receive, who they would be placed next to, and whether or not it was rent-free.

Saturday turned into a day of listening to everybody voice their displeasure. One list was drawn up to show which person belonged where. Each person signed their name that this list was accurate. Things started getting rather heated even after this “final” list was made. So much so that I called Jess to come back over as Jon seemed VERY outnumbered and was getting more and more surrounded by disgruntled villagers. After Jess came and the conversations weren’t getting us anywhere, we decided to call it a day, and to reconvene on Monday.

Monday comes. The Local Chairman (LC1) and the youth chairman are called down to meet with the villagers to try to figure out what the “real” truth was. We again realized that this was going to be an all day affair, and quite frankly we wanted to be finished with this project, so we gave them a blank sheet with the new structures drawn in. We tell them they have one hour to discuss amongst themselves who the proper people are that should be moving in, how many units they should receive, who the landlords were, etc.

Less than an hour later a group of them meet us at Calvary Chapel with a complete list. We all sit and verify the list, and the placement of who goes where. At this time we also have them fill out a basic information sheet that will help us be able to place the heads of household, who do not have a job, in the proper job training. Finally around 3:00pm the list is finally finalized and we head over to the site to get doors up. (We had decided that in order to keep people out of the units until the proper people were placed, it was better to keep the doors off.)

As we are attempting to get some of the doors up, at least the doors of the ones who had been living under the tarp, one of the landlords comes over. Now, mind you, he didn’t bother coming over to the meeting but sent his tenant in his stead. He decides that the unit we, actually the unit his tenant picked, was not the one he wanted. He insisted he wanted one on the other side of the building. Really? Two days of meetings, a second finalized list and now he is coming??! Luckily the unit he wants is where Wilson is, and Wilson agrees to switch.

Wilson. This man showed up everyday and worked ALL day. It didn’t matter what the task was, it didn’t matter if it was work for his unit. He was there early in the morning and helped pack up the tools at the end of the day. Wilson. During the last few days, Wilson was the reason. He was the reason I didn’t go absolutely insane. He was the reason I didn’t throw my hands up at yet another meeting. He was the reason for finishing the project. One person. Sure there were around 120 others there... but Wilson made it all worth it. He didn’t complain. He didn’t argue about what he deserved. He joyfully worked day after day. He was grateful for what he did receive, not complaining over what he thought he should.

In the last few days, I had to keep on telling myself that this was not about me, not about HFC, not about Calvary.. this was about loving my neighbor. About loving God. Even if there was no one that was happy, this project was about living what I believe. It doesn't say to love God with all my heart, soul and mind, and love my neighbors as long as they are grateful and not complaining. This was about doing it for the glory of Jesus, for doing it because that is what Jesus asks of me.

Was everyone happy in the end? Probably not. Did everyone get somewhere to stay? Yes. Was it better than what they had? Yes. Did we replace all they lost? No. Did we glorify Jesus? I hope so.

Calvary Chapel is right around the corner from the site. During the last few weeks, Sunday service has seen some of the victims from the village come to church for the very first time. Not only are the victims coming, but others that were not affected by the fire, those who saw the work we were doing have come to church for the very first time.

Over the past few weeks some of those victims have accepted Christ. This past Sunday a man who watched us work came to church. He accepted Christ. He was muslim.

As I write that, I want to cry. Praise God. Sometimes when you work on a project, you never get to see an outcome. Sometimes when you plant a seed you never get to see the fruit. God has blessed each of us in that we are getting to see some of the fruit from this effort. You are getting to see the fruit of your praying, of your donations, of us all trying to glorify Jesus.

So thank you from the bottom of our hearts for letting us participate in the effort. Without your continued support we wouldn't have been here to help these people.

PICTURES ON THE NEXT PAGE:

First row, L-R: The youth group getting ready to paint instead of doing "movie" afternoon. Jon in the middle of the crowd, trying to figure out who should be in which house and how many units they are suppose to have. Jess, Johnny, the vice-chairman in the middle of the ever growing crowd trying to sort whom goes where.

Second row, L-R: Kenna, Shalom, Trevor, Janae, John and Bob painting during youth paint. Kelli, Johnny and I sitting in yet another meeting of the heads of household, trying to figure out who goes where and how many units they should have. Declan painting a section we saved for him, because he really wanted to use the roller.

Third row, L-R: Declan, the previous paint day, using a paint brush. Kenna and Trevor painting down the narrow walkway. Trevor, Josh and Seth painting. (below), Sam Grace, the youth chairman who was not only instrumental in figuring out correct placement, but also one of the few we felt was being honest.

Fourth row, L-R: Wilson standing outside his new rent free unit. He was on the site everyday working wherever he could. So happy that he has a new place. Patrick in front of his new place. The villagers gathering to watch the "Jesus" Film in Luganda. Unfortunately we had technical difficulties and we weren't able to show the movie in it's entirety. We will have to see if we can get it to work.. soon.



Wilson
carpenter/not
employed
11 children



?



not sure



?



?



Tony
found out later he wa
not a victim, but very
dishonest..



?



Mirabu
no job
7 children



?

Sam Grace
Youth chairman
self-employed
4 children



Nalongo
Landlord



Kirunda's wife
not employed
9 children



Richard
boda driver
1 child



Patrick
shop owner/landlord



Aisha
not employed
2 children



?



Odoi
Shop owner
2 children



Scovia
shop owner



?



* UNFORTUNATELY THESE PICTURES WERE TAKEN AT THE END OF WEEK ONE, AND SINCE THEN WITH EACH NEW “REAL” LIST, WE HAVE FOUND OUT THAT SOME OF THESE PEOPLE WERE NOT THE HEAD’S OF HOUSEHOLD. THEY WERE, FOR THE MOST PART, AFFECTED BY THE FIRE.... SO THEY WERE VICTIMS, JUST NOT HEAD’S OF HOUSEHOLDS. THEREFORE, WE HAVE NOT OBTAINED THEIR NAMES AS OF YET. AT THIS POINT WE ARE STILL WORKING ON HAVING ALL THE HEAD’S FILL OUT A QUESTIONNAIRE TO BETTER HELP US FIND JOB TRAINING FOR THEM.