



Debbie & Jack Gaudin

TRAIN LEADERS
DISCIPLE THE NATIONS
REACH THE LOST
SET CAPTIVES FREE
LOVE ON PEOPLE,
ONE PERSON AT A TIME,
ONE DAY AT A TIME.

FREEDOM THROUGH FAITH MINISTRIES

ANOTHER MARATHON TRIP – EASTERN UGANDA AND KENYA! (by Debbie)

Our team this time were Jack and Debbie, along with Davey Ferguson (Jack's dear friend from Canon City) and Lauren Johnson (Davey's 21 year old step daughter and one of Debbie's favorite former 3rd and 4th grade student from years back!)

We flew through four airports: Denver, JFK (late departure in NY), Dubai and Entebbe, Uganda. Needless to say, seeing Dubai from the airplane was awesome although it was a bit hazy. So glad an airport employee escorted a group of us to get through the airport and find our next flight. We were delighted that our pilot held the plane as 20 relieved people boarded! As we approached the airport in Entebbe, Uganda



Long Flights!

at 2 pm I was thrilled to look out my window and see that we had flown over the Nile River (lots of rapids), Kampala (the capital, and busiest and most congested town), and the massive Lake Victoria (second largest fresh water lake in the world)!



Debbie and Peter Ogik

We arrived with two suitcases for Peter Ogik, Chairperson Board of Directors SNUPA (Source of the Nile Union of Persons with Albinism). One suitcase had 35 10 oz. bottles of SPF50 sunscreen (hard to get in Africa) and the other one had 100 hats, along with scarves, sunglasses and decorative sequin wrist wraps. The wrist wraps were for the Albino children to remind them that they are very special to God and that "*they are fearfully and wonderfully made!*" Thank you to three wonderful ladies (Gail Wilkinson, my beloved Mom; Kimra Schuler, my dear friend; BJ Ivey, my special nursing friend) and for other numerous women for your contributions and for making this happen! Peter was delighted to receive all these items and will enjoy distributing them and blessing many others.



Debbie and Lauren Loving on the Children

Eastern Uganda and Western Kenya--Eleven day trip with nine graduation-- 340 celebratory graduates and their families and friends--Many handshakes and hugs along with lots of smiles—Meals with tilapia and chips—Cups of Ugandan coffee and tea—Lots of driving with many speed bumps and swerves to miss potholes, some heavy rain with a little hail, lots of sunshine and too much heat for Debbie—but lots of hugs and blown kisses to those adorable children--truly an incredible adventure and a great time with our team, our wonderful Ugandan leader John Wandera, and our many delightful brothers and sisters!

The pace was difficult to travel for 36 hours and then take off running the next morning. Thank you for your prayers for safety and strength. At the end of our travels we finally got a day of rest. With two graduations per day for four days and then one graduation per day for two more days, plus all the travel time, it was not easy but we joyfully managed to graduate 340 men and women! You might think that each graduation would be just like the one before, but that is certainly not the case!



Commissioning 52 Pastors!

One graduation was quite lengthy on Sunday, with their extravagant praise and worship, several dancing performances by young people, the ordination of 52 pastors, the graduation of 120 students (with some younger, excited students carrying their friends on their arms or in a chair to the platform) and finally a wedding! Then they fed us along with all the many people who graduated and family members. Jack was even interviewed there by a local TV station in Mbale.

At three different graduations we received two lively chickens and then a live/cute goat! These are incredible gifts from very appreciative pastors/churches whose graduates are making such a huge impact on Uganda and western Kenya!



Receiving a Goat from the Graduates!

In Nauyo (Pastor James and Mary Musasizi's church), we received some extravagant gifts: a live turkey along with a huge banana stalk! Then the pastor and his wife, along with our team of three men and two women cut the celebration cake with all of our hands on the knife together. That was a lovely thing to do and made the graduation so personal!

Pastor James said to Debbie, "You have been a mommy to me. The team prayed for a wife for me in 2014 and I just got married in December 2017!" One of Pastor James' young, tall, and handsome graduates told Lauren, "Don't go back to America!" We all laughed at this and later got his picture. We drove through some Texas-like downpours of rain and hail as we left Brumala, Kenya. Thankfully we weren't swept away in any of the rushing waters on our red dirt roads. It is the rainy season now and the foliage was pleasant to look at in all the rich shades of green.

Pastor Benjamin said, "I used to pray to know more about God and learn more. Then God answered my prayers and sent me Joshua Nations! I really appreciate Joshua Nations and for the sacrifices to reach the nations for the people God has chosen."

Davey Ferguson, our friend from Canon City, not only was able to teach several times at the many graduations, but he also went on the radio with an hour interview that reached out to all of eastern Uganda! Lauren Johnson, age 21 (one of my former 3rd and 4th grade students), and I did our best to celebrate with the graduates with hugs or handshakes along with kind words for their wonderful accomplishments. I can't stress enough how kind, fun, gentle, appreciative, beautiful and humble people these Ugandans are! We truly enjoy being with them and encouraging them in the Lord.



Jack and Apostle John Wandera

Mission trips require a lot of flexibility! In Busiu, we arrived three hours late and graduated 25 pastors in a very hot church. Pastor Peter said, "We appreciate God for the word. It has blessed us." Pastor Stephen testified, "Thank you God, through your training we discovered and learned very many things and have made some changes in our ministries. We are very grateful we have not remained the same. If there is any chance we can be trained more, we will help to train others as Jesus trained us. May God bless you."

Pastor Benson said, "We thank God for this training and we are excited to be what we are today. We had differences but this training helped us to handle our differences. Lack of learning was a problem. We are no longer enemies; we are brothers in the Lord! We had challenges with our churches but we did our best to be here. Through Joshua Nations we can help reach to the pastors in our area. Joshua Nations is what we want and we will establish training centers."

Pastor Peter of this church said, "Many denominations are represented here. It took God and people for many of these here to continue and accomplish what we have. We were 112 students but today 24 graduates completed the program. I thank God I now have ministers in my church, and one of them is an ex-muslim and she is standing on a firm foundation. Dr. Russ planted a seed that is unshakable and unmovable and will stand forever."

We concluded our trip with a day of rest in Jinja, Uganda, the city where the source of the Nile is and where Lake Victoria feeds into the Nile. We rode a short boat ride and enjoyed the mini tour of that area. The Nile is the longest river in the world. It also flows northward all the way to the Mediterranean Sea and takes three months for this entire journey.

We sincerely thank you all who prayed for strength, safety, travel mercies, etc. Thank you for supporting us and sending us to the Nations to disciple them and do the Great Commission! Jack continues to "release the oppressed and set captives free" everywhere he goes!

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Graduates at Pastor Benjamin's Church



One of Nine Graduations!

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