

# THE CLARION

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 1, APRIL 2008



## JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME



# First Time Visitor to Africa

Claire McPhee

We have finally arrived in Uganda. I can hardly believe that I am actually here, looking out of the plane window at African grass, African trees, and African houses. Here we are at last. Armed with malaria pills, visa, gifts, sun hats and instructions: use mosquito nets, drink bottled water, eat only cooked food, and so on and on.

The guesthouse where we stay is just fine. It's on a hill overlooking the city. We eat on a lovely terrace surrounded by flowering trees and shrubs. The menu is a little peculiar but manageable. The temperature is perfect and the sun shines through a hazy sky.

The huge sprawling city of Kampala stretches out below us. At first it's overwhelming. Streets are lined with tiny open stores, their wares spilling out onto the sidewalk. Crowds of people are walking around everywhere. The streets themselves are jammed with fume belching vehicles and those dangerous motorcycle taxis called boda-bodas.



Grandfather Israel's Kitchen



Shops



The Million Dollar View of Kampala

We can even hear the call of the mosque. Everything is a little strange.

In the next few days we drive out of the city to visit the homes of some of our CanHave children. In each case we are welcomed by the grandparent/caregiver and invited into their small 2 room brick home. We sit in the front room, on decrepit stuffed armchairs that line the cement walls. The floor is cement. The walls are decorated with a few family photographs and religious pictures. We bring small gifts that are quickly stowed in the second room of the house which we note is completely bare of furniture. We think that they must sleep in this room on woven mats that are rolled up in the daytime. We get our obligatory tour of their piece of land, viewing the banana trees, the place where any animals are kept at night and maybe the heart-breaking area where the family dead are buried.





But I am thinking: Where do they cook for 10 kids? What about water? Plumbing? Electricity? How does this one grandparent care for 10 - 20 kids? Gradually realization dawns. At each home we notice that water is a precious commodity. Without the collection of water off the roof into a cistern, it has to be carried in large yellow jerry cans very often by small boys. Cooking is done on charcoal burners outside or in a 'cookhouse' because electricity is not available or so expensive it's out of the question. Children when not in school are expected to help out.

After our visit, the host gives us a parting gift, of a basket of fruits, a large jack fruit, a rooster. It is moving to see the dignity of these people and the anxiety they have to give their grandchildren an education.

We were also privileged to meet some absolutely exceptional people, Ugandans who know well the plight of parentless children and who are doing all they can to help them. Uganda is called the 'Pearl of Africa'. I would call these people the true pearls of Uganda.



Jjajja & Children



Joseph & Jjajja



Peter Kimera



Fr. Emmanuel Namugera

People, such as Catherine. She is an orphan and was supported by CanHave through her school years. Now she is a young charming sweet young lady. She organized many of the children's dances in the trade school opening and would like to become a sponsor of an orphan herself.

Peter is a retired farmer/teacher. He has become an invaluable overseer of the construction of the trade school and development of the site; spending countless hours there.

Father Emmanuel is an active Catholic priest. He takes children who have been abandoned at the local hospital into his home. He realized that CanHave was trying to do on a larger scale what he himself was doing and joined the board.

There are many more such people whom we meet. It leaves me humbled, grateful for our material blessings in Canada, but also recognizing the amazing people of Uganda who do so much with so little.



# The Grand Opening: A Day of Thanksgiving and Festivity

Gwynneth Evans

Saturday February 2, 2008, was a beautiful warm, sunny day in Uganda. From early morning, the van, matatus (the local taxis) and cars streamed down the Entebbe Road to the town of Kisubi. Then guests were guided by a large sign, **'CanHave Trade School Opening'** and a smiling face to turn right, down a steep bumpy hill to the new site. Music and excitement filled the air.

Fr. Emmanuel Namugera, a member of the Ugandan Board, acted as Master of Ceremonies for the full programme: prayers of thanksgiving, the Ugandan and Buganda national anthems sung by the children's choir, speeches and entertainment, before a feast for everyone. We even had a cake, decorated with red and white icing, with the two national flags. Each child got a 'queen cake' for dessert! Both the Ugandans and the Canadians present were grateful for all the work and the donations that made possible the celebration of CanHave Trade School.

The other members of the Ugandan Board who acted as hosts were: Rev. Latima Kasusse, (chairman), Brother Vincent Kirangwa (treasurer), Elizabeth Kaziro (secretary), Moses Mutesasira, Peter Kimera (building project manager), and Francis Lukyamuzi. Joseph Kabali, Coordinator of the Children, assisted in many ways.



Father Emmanuel welcomed everyone warmly and opened the ceremony with prayer. Guests included the donor of the land in Kisubi, Brother Vincent; the Minister of State for Children and Youth Affairs, the Hon. James Kinobi; two of the grandparents of the CanHave children: Grandmother (Jjajja) Nabulime and Grandfather Israel; members of the Canadian Board: Rev. Dr. Floyd McPhee and his wife, Claire, Jan Sheridan, Caroline Nakayenga, Gwynneth Evans; and Mrs. Chetna Srivastava, wife of the Indian High Commissioner to Uganda; elected members of the local councils, principals of nearby schools and the principal of St. Aloysius, where some of the CanHave children are pupils. Canadians Nancy Bailey and Ann, David and Rob McLean, along with longtime friends of Canada, the Rev. Canon Erasmus Bitarabeho and his family and members of the Sisters of Good Samaritan were present. And most importantly, almost every one of the 40 CanHave children attended the ceremony and took their parts in making it a memorable, indeed, an unforgettable day.

Both the chairmen of the CanHave boards, the Rev. Dr. Floyd McPhee and the Rev. Latima Kasusse spoke briefly of the CanHave building project. The representative of the Local Council also, thanked the organizing committee and noted the importance of the project to the youth of the area.

Among the entertainers were traditional dancers and drummers; a children's dance group who volunteered from a nearby school; St Aloysius School choir; and our own children, trained to sing and perform by Catherine Namazzi. Their songs are printed in this bulletin.





It was joyful to hear them greet us so warmly. Several of the original group of young people, now called the Pioneers, whom CanHave has supported for more than a dozen years, spoke to the guests to tell them what the support for their education and care has meant to them. Their testimonies were moving, as the speech from Catherine attests.

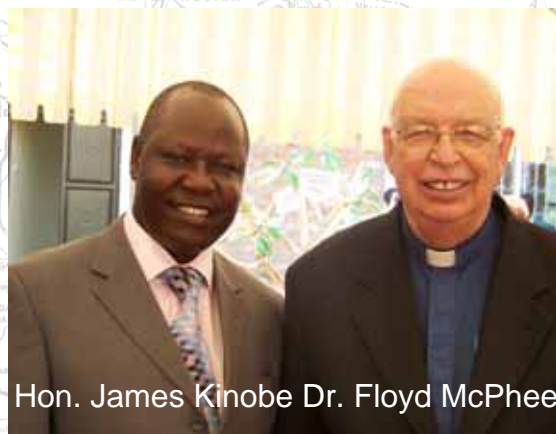
The Minister of State for Children and Youth Affairs, the Hon. James Kinobe, commended all for recognizing the need for skilled workers and the importance of providing training in many trades. He noted that 70% of the Ugandan population is 30 or less. While Uganda has improved its rates of attendance in primary school through Universal Primary Education and a progressive plan to make secondary school free, the Government of Uganda appreciates all the assistance it can get, especially in technical and vocational training. The Minister of State recognized the potential of the seven-acre site and the relevance of reaching out to the local community and all levels of government in partnership. He offered to assist CanHave staff and board members in learning first hand of some of the model sustainable schemes being promoted by the government.



Joining all the speakers, the Minister of State thanked all the CanHave children for their courage and their efforts and reminded all that Christ is the Cornerstone of this programme. Jesus' love for children is the example to follow.

The principal of St. Aloysius also spoke and requested that as CanHave grows it send at least 50% of the pupils to his school and also consider representation on the Board by the educational sector, working with the children.

During the ceremony, Caroline Nakayenga approached the mango tree and introduced each major donor, by hanging a mango in the tree and naming each person. She expects that more mangos will be added.



Hon. James Kinobe Dr. Floyd McPhee

The audience toured the classrooms, workshops and grounds and were treated to a wonderful feast, prepared and served by a group of teenagers from a training school nearby. The afternoon finished in grand style with the CanHave soccer team, headed by Moses, winning the match against a neighbouring team.

For everyone, from the youngest CanHave child (and all the neighbourhood children) to the oldest grandparent, the Grand Opening was a memorable celebration and new beginning. The next week, Ugandan children began the first term of 2008, in classrooms all over the country.





## Van Driver Jan Sheridan



Did the rutty snow-packed roads get you down this winter? They were nothing compared to the challenges of the roads in Uganda!!! Aside from the newly paved road from the airport in Entebbe to the capital, Kampala (for "the Queen" and other heads of state) even the paved roads required vigilance. Bore rattling series of speed bumps and gaping potholes were frequent hazards. Most of the roads consisted of soft, rusty-red soil churned up by heavy rains and constant traffic. This was especially nerve-racking on the tortuous roads in the mountains.

Our wonderful driver, Joseph Kabali, was ready for every challenge. Grete Hale once said that she would trust him with her life. And we did – all nine of the Study Tour group and occasionally others. The van is designed for eleven, but when six students sit jammed at a desk designed for three, and all forms of transport are usually overcrowded, I wonder.

Driving in Kampala is something else. It is situated on seven hills so the roads wind up and down and about, using roundabouts instead of traffic lights at intersections. Blending in and out of these roundabouts in a traffic jam of mini-van taxis while intrepid motorcycles (boda bodas) are weaving in and out is not for the faint of heart.

The CanHave Children's Centre van was a very special gift from a generous donor who also provides yearly maintenance. As surrogate father for our fifty CanHave students, Joseph travels long distances to keep in touch with their schools and their families as well as making frequent trips to the Trade School. Fortunately, he is a superb driver and a remarkable, caring person. CanHave is truly blessed.

## A Large Spring Bouquet for the Members of Parkwood Presbyterian Church, Ottawa Gwynneth Evans

We all know that the winter of 2008 has been long and severe in Ottawa. The snow has piled up in record measures. As we go to press at Easter, the winds are still chill, although the sun is bright. What better gift than a large bouquet of spring flowers for the members of Parkwood for their very generous gift of \$5,710.00 for CanHave from the Mission and Outreach Fund.

As many know, individual members of this congregation have been supporters of CanHave Children's Centre, since it began in 1994. This year, John Huber was asked to make a minuteman appeal and to describe the mission and work of CanHave during a Sunday service in February.

The result of this intervention was a large cheque which will be very useful in completing the CanHave Trade School. Some classrooms still have to be equipped and learning materials for the staff and students must be purchased. As readers have learned from this issue of The Clarion, the Trade School was opened on February 3, in the presence of a number of Canadians from the Ottawa area. It was built at the request of the CanHave children who had left secondary school without the training and experience to get employment. They felt bereft because they continued to be orphans and often had responsibility for their younger siblings but they had no marketable skills. Several individuals, including the late Dorothy Nekrassoff, believed it was right to provide funds for the building of a trade school. CanHave has been most fortunate in receiving donations for the school and the gift of Parkwood members is a timely and most gracious gesture.





## Testimony

### Catherine Namazzi

The CanHave donors started with five (5) students (pioneers) and I am happy today to announce to you that I am one of them by the names of Namazzi, Catherine.

CanHave started helping me since 1996, here I went ahead and completed my 'O' level, later I joined YMCA institute, where I pursued a Certificate in Computer Maintenance & Repair, and a Diploma in Computer Science and Business Studies.

During my vacation and holidays of every semester, I used to learn computer typesetting, i.e. type writing and office practice. At first, I was using a type writer, then a computer afterwards and now am happy to inform you that my typing speed is 100 words per minute.

At the moment I am not working but attending Industrial Training classes, i.e. am jobless. When I get a job I promise not to let down the CanHave young ones since I am a pioneer who can lead the rest and be a good example. I promise to sponsor one child from primary one to senior four.

GOD BLESS YOUR HANDS.

Always sincerely,

Namazzi, Catherine  
CANHAVE PIONEER

### SONG ONE (1)

CanHave you are more than a helper to me x 3  
You are a caretaker.

You are some times a Father (papa)  
You are some times a Mother (mama)  
You are some times an Uncle  
You are some times a Grandmother

You are more than a helper to me



### SONG TWO (2)

#### LORD WE THANK YOU

Lord we thank you for CanHave  
Lord we thank you,  
Lord we thank you for CanHave  
We really thank you,  
Lord we thank you for CanHave  
Thank you, thank you,  
For the great work they have done

Dear CanHave members we extend our sincere thanks for such a great work you have done for us, we had no hope but you became our hope.

Dear CanHave members this is our prayer for you  
May the Lord fulfill in you what is written in Luke 6:38 Give and shall be given to you, Good measure pressed down, shaken together and running over.





### SONG THREE (3)

#### OUR DEAR VISITORS

Our dear visitors you are welcome today  
On this great occasion, we thank God who has  
brought you here  
On this great occasion today.

Our dear visitors you are most welcome,  
We are happy to see you today  
Sit down and feel at home.  
Our dear visitors, it is our pleasure to have you  
here  
On such a great occasion, take care.

CanHave members we are saying hello to,  
We wish you a better stay together,  
While you enjoy what we say, perceiving what we  
gonna say  
While enjoy part of music quality and what we say.

Rob, Joseph & Catherine



### Impressions

Rob McLean

I didn't really know what to expect from the CanHave tour of Uganda projects, I was lucky enough to be a part of. I had wanted to return to Uganda ever since falling in love with the country on a visit to family in March 2005. Upon hearing news of my parents' (Ann and David McLean) plans for a visit with CanHave, I decided I would pull as many strings as I could in order to return to the greenest continent.

On form, after a long, but smooth, flight from Montreal, I arrived at Entebbe International Airport. This was where I began to realize the warmth of the entire CanHave community. We were greeted at the airport by several energized and animated members of the group: Gwynneth Evans the resourceful facilitator of the journey, the multi-talented Joseph Kabali who would proficiently act as a driver for the trip, the humble yet confident Catherine Namazzi who was one of the original CanHave beneficiaries, the ever-happy Reverend Latima Kasusse, and, of course, Caroline, who I would soon learn, was the true cornerstone of the group and as such, but perhaps unbeknownst to herself, of many peoples' lives.

Indeed, it was the people of CanHave who left the biggest impression on me. As I travelled across the country I was amazed to witness the dedication, excitement, but most importantly, the true camaraderie of the members who in many cases were meeting for the first time. I am not a newcomer to grassroots development efforts or to the NGO community, but I was still taken aback to see the deep commitment and sacrifice of so many bright individuals in this group. I consider myself quite lucky to be a witness to the successes of this group and what has been accomplished to date in Uganda.

The Nobel Prize winning economist, Joseph Stiglitz, once said that the organization which mishandles resources is wasteful; however the organization which mishandles human resources is plain negligent. With these words in mind, I am quite confident CanHave is set for much more success.



## Joint Board Planning Meeting

Kampala, Uganda

February 8, 2008

Gwynneth Evans

Our trip to Uganda gave the Ottawa four members of the CanHave Board the opportunity to spend valuable time with the Ugandan members of the Board, in order to plan the next six months and two years. We met at the Namirembe Guesthouse in Kampala on a wet, stormy day when the electricity flickered many times in the morning and the murram (the natural clay) of the streets got redder and slicker.

The day had been planned with a facilitator, so that everyone could work in a small group to analyze the immediate needs, to suggest solutions and then come together in plenary to consider the priorities of the next two years. As this was the first time that the two boards had met together, the meeting also reviewed the basic tenets of CanHave Children's Centre, registered both in Canada and Uganda: the vision, mission, structure of the boards and their relationships. While there are few substantive changes, these new statements will be publicized and accessible on the website as soon as the full Canadian has approved them.

What is evident from the Opening and the meeting is that CanHave Children's Centre has developed responsibly and progressively, since its small beginnings in 1994. The foundations in Uganda and Canada are strong and will become stronger. Much of the credit for good management and strong communications between the two parties goes to Caroline Nakayenga, the treasurer and co-founder of CanHave. Also all the board members and supporters of CanHave have given voluntarily and freely of their talents, time and resources.



The story of the maturing and success of the children speaks volumes about the faith and good work of many individuals and groups, in Uganda and in Canada. Just look at the photos!

Increasingly, the decisions for the future of the trade school will lie in the hands of the Ugandan board. It is recognized that the time has come for some paid staff to manage the trade school and its development. And the relationships with the Government of Uganda, the local community and the partners must be planned and accounted for in the country. Plans to ensure a sustainable programme are being developed.

Joseph Kabali and the Ugandan board members are involved in the children's programme, using partners for the selection of new children and discussing the best schools and living arrangements for them, as well as carrying out the important component of coming to know each child and to counsel them.

The Canadian Board has a great desire to increase the number of orphans who will benefit from support. This year, we will, with your financial contributions, assist 50 children with their education, basic needs and care. Each year we plan to increase the numbers by 10 until we reach 100. In the last few years, a number of donors have taken on a full year's responsibility for one child: \$360.00 annually.

This past year, CanHave has had its most successful financial year. We thank all those who have contributed. And the fiscal year 2008 has started well, as stories elsewhere in the newsletter illustrate. The board is also engaged in finding foundations, committed to the same causes, to support the work of the trade school and the children's programme. Funding proposals are being developed.

Our gatherings in Uganda celebrated the past, and filled the present with joy, fellowship and special time together. Most importantly, the occasion strengthened the resolve of each and every member of the CanHave family to build a sustainable Ugandan programme, based on the values of openness and inclusion, accountability, development, caring and the current understanding and best practices associated with working with HIV/AIDS orphans.

The symbol of our work at the Canhave Trade School is the mango tree. We look forward to continued growth and regular healthy harvests.



## Announcements

**PLEASE circle the following dates in your 2008 Calendar (perhaps circle or highlight circle)**

**Annual General Meeting: Friday, May 23 at 7:30 p.m. at Parkwood Presbyterian Church.** The address is **10 Chesterton Drive** at the corner of **Meadowlands and Chesterton.**

We will certainly have much to share with you from our trip to Uganda and we invite you all cordially to attend and come to know the Board members.

### \* **CanHave Annual Fundraising Dinner**

Christ Church Cathedral Hall, 420 Sparks Street, Ottawa

Saturday, October 25, 2008 from 6:30 p.m.

You will enjoy good food and refreshments

Rousing Entertainment

A DVD of the Uganda Trip

Silent Auction and Raffles

Opportunities for Conversation and Networking

As supporters, we ask you seriously to consider making a contribution to the evening through an item or items for the silent auction or through the creation of a gift that will be raffled. All the funds go directly to the education and support of the 50 Ugandan CanHave children or to the CanHave Trade School. You may choose which program you wish to assist.



Children from the neighbourhood



### **Pictures worth \$1,255.86 for Ottawa-based Charity**

The famous adage goes that a picture is worth a 1,000 words. But for CanHave, a Canadian registered charitable NGO, Gavin Murphy's pictures are worth \$1,255.86. This is the sum raised from the Ottawa photographer's *Instant Portraits* exhibition and donated to the Ottawa-based charity that supports AIDS orphans in Uganda.

The donation was officially made at CanHave's March 11 board meeting at Parkwood Presbyterian Church. On hand to accept the cheque were Catherine Murphy, CanHave's newest board member, Treasurer Caroline Nakayenga and President Rev. Floyd McPhee.

The money raised from *Instant Portraits* will help buy wood to build desks at a recently opened vocational training school which was constructed through the hard work and dedication of CanHave and its many supporters.

*Instant Portraits* featured larger than life colour and black and white photographs of women shot with a traditional 35 mm camera mostly in England. All photographs were printed full frame and there was no cropping or retouching to them. The exhibition took place at Francesco's Coffee Company in the Glebe during January.

This exhibition was made possible through the generous sponsorship of ScotiaMcLeod, Proulx Brothers Inc., Wildboar CTI Systems and SAAB Salon Spa.

For further details on CanHave go to [www.canhave.ncf.ca](http://www.canhave.ncf.ca)



## A note from the CanHave Family – Uganda

Betty Kaziro

The year 2008 marked the beginning with a warm welcome of our Canadian friends who visited Uganda to witness the significant achievement during the period of existence for CanHave Children's Centre in Uganda.

The Ugandan Board was extremely happy to welcome their counterparts from Canada and it was quite exciting to have them in Uganda. The Canadian team was led by Rev. Dr. Floyd McPhee. Our concern as the CanHave Board in Uganda was to give the best hospitality to our guests and with the help of Gwynneth Evans (Canadian/Ugandan), as we call her, everything went as planned. Special thanks for her organizational skills at the cost of no little sacrifice. I hope everyone enjoyed the atmosphere in Uganda.

The CanHave children were so happy to see the Canadian team. They enjoyed each and every minute they spent with them. They composed nice touching songs, danced until they could not dance anymore. They enjoyed the luncheon and many children were heard saying that it was a wonderful party in their lives, and they had never attended one like this one. Having been able to see people who care about their future was a dream come true. It was a colourful occasion and it was graced with a bright sun.

The community people were extremely happy with the trade school and it is such a big achievement in the area. Since the construction of the buildings started, the people in the community have never stopped coming to see how it grows day by day. It was exciting for them to witness the official opening, which was a dream to many of them.

For the grandmothers and grandfathers who welcomed our Canadian friends into their homes, it is beyond words. They were privileged and one said that now she can rest in peace knowing that her grandchildren have the caring, loving Canadians.

I extend my hearty congratulations to all and look forward to stronger performance, results and higher productivity in the years ahead as we deliver CanHave programs.



Back view of the Trade School





### **Editor's note** Catherine Nabulime

Uganda is the most beautiful place I have ever been. From the people to the poetry of the sounds in the city centre, I truly haven't found a place that is nearer and dearer to my heart. My statement may be considered biased, being the country of my parentage, but I think that it lends strength to words. The majority of my life has been spent in Canada, and yet I have nurtured a love for a place that has never been a home in the most material of senses. I have come to know myself as a Canadian, but I still have such a connection with my history. My family here is small, but it expands exponentially as I cross the ocean and land that separates me from my land of origin. The people see me as a foreigner, because my words are accompanied with the convention of the Western world.

The members of CanHave got the chance to go to Uganda and see firsthand their efforts after years of dedication to the cause. The children got to put a face to the education that they so rightfully deserved. The two worlds existed on one plane for an instant in time and everyone who took part in the experience came out with a new country present throughout the trip itself in various forms and magnitudes. The magic comes from the stories of overcoming the uncertainty.

### **Contact Information**

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[www.ncf.ca/canhave](http://www.ncf.ca/canhave)

➤ [cn@magma.ca](mailto:cn@magma.ca) for submissions  
to the next newsletter.

### **Program Approach**

#### ***Phased Program Approach***

Within our current mandate, during this phase, we are planning to increase the number of children we are directly supporting, and building a technical school.

#### ***Sponsoring a child***

CanHave rejoices to announce that at the moment we have eighteen special child sponsors who are making a difference in the lives of eighteen special and unique God creatures! Our gratitude and prayers go to them and their families!

You can follow their steps and become a sponsor of a child or more, or perhaps you have been blessed with the possibility of sponsoring a group, a family, a school or organization. The means to do it is less than you imagine. Request information from us about what is required to take part in this project.

#### ***Other Support Groups***

At the same time, we are actively seeking the involvement of other groups such as ourselves, with the idea that they might set up a similar self-sufficient organization to sponsor other Ugandan children orphaned by AIDS.

#### ***Membership Information***

An annual contribution of **\$25.00 CAN** is required for individual membership. The current annual cost of the Sponsorship Child program is **\$360.00 CAN (\$30.00 CAN per month)**. ❖

You may use the website at: <http://canhave.ncf.ca>. Through CanadaHelps, you donate online and receive a receipt immediately. Tax receipts are sent for all donations of \$5.00 or more.

All donations are welcome. They assist Ugandan orphans. We encourage you to think of CanHave in your plans of all the ceremonies related to families and children: birthdays, marriages, graduations, anniversaries, Christmas, funerals.

AFRICA

ENGLISH STATUTE MILES  
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