



*"You only lose energy when life becomes dull in your mind. Your mind gets bored and therefore tired of doing nothing. Get interested in something! Get absolutely enthralled in something! Get out of yourself! Be somebody! Do something. The more you lose yourself in something bigger than yourself, the more energy you will have."*

*Norman Vincent Peale  
1898-1993, Pastor, Speaker and Author*

Happy New Year everyone! I thought you would like this quote from Dr. Norman Vincent Peale. It seems to sum up what we have all experienced in our work with the Mbirizi Advanced Primary and Day Care School in Uganda, Africa.



### **Christmas Trip**

As you all know by now, our trip started on a sad note with the news that one of our orphans, Kasozi Moses, had died the night before. We were honored to attend the funeral and luckily Michele and I had our African robes so were dressed appropriately for the occasion.

Highlights? Church on Sunday, in spite of the sad news; giving 1,000 children their Christmas gift bags; serving lunch to the children; watching their excitement when the poppers went off; and serving the Christmas cake.



We had several medical incidents that drove home the importance of the clinic and a doctor on staff:

1. One of the orphan boys had fallen out of the top tier of the triple decker bunk and hurt his neck (had it x-rayed and it was ok but it was worrisome);
2. One child fell off his bike and ended up with a five inch cut across his ear that Lydia, with "nurse" Claire's help, stitched up. She is quite an amazing nurse.
3. Another boy came to school with a hurt ankle which we bandaged and checked for broken bones. It seemed ok.

And, we saw Ibrahim who, except for one small white patch the size of a quarter on his arm, was totally cured from his burns. Amazing recovery!

We also learned that the kitchen needs two more large metal cooking pots because the school is serving more children. The pots are \$250 each if anyone wants to make a donation for them. Just go to <http://www.sylviaschildren.org/Donations/donation.html> and donate through our site ... it is secure.

And, speaking of donations, Claire Sully (and she is going to be mad at me for this but ... she needs recognition because her gift is one from the heart) has purchased playground equipment for the children and had it dedicated to the memory of Kasozi Moses. Thank you, Claire.

The children put on two performances around World AIDS Day (December 1) and they were amazing. One was a performance about how orphans are treated if they cannot go to school and the other was a call in radio show about AIDS and how it is caught and how it can be prevented. One of the participants on the show was one of our former travelers, Joe Corpina. They remember you, Joe!

Of course, did the perquisite trip to the Equator. Very interesting experience hearing Jingle Bells in Ugandan while eating Pita Chips and Guacamole!

We also went to the market in Masaka and GREAT market in Kampala. Michele and I bought beautiful bells for Christmas (I think they are small cow bells) in Masaka and you can ask her what she bought in Kampala!

### **Medical Trip**

Currently there are six of us going. Leaving from Newark on Thursday, March 11 and returning to Newark on Saturday, March 20. Total cost is \$2,750 and we could use a Nurse Practitioner, a Pediatrician and a Dermatologist. Does that description fit you? Please join us and help us improve the health of these children.

### **Summer Trip**

And, we have to start planning for summer! Where is the year going? The dates are June 17 to June 29 and the following are already committed to going:

1. Doug Brown
2. Michele Costa
3. Antony Costa
4. Ruby Stanfield
5. Briana Stanfield
6. Sylvia Allen

Other tentatives include Bill Barr, Ryan Dolan ... who am I missing? This trip will be limited to 10 participants.

The cost is \$3,500 (all inclusive except for bar bills and souvenirs!) and will include a trip to the Mweya Lodge ... some of us have been before but the experience is always fresh and wonderful. Plus, you really need time to "decompress". Please let me know as soon as you decide to go. I will make the hotel reservations during the medical trip and the balance the minute we return in March.

### **Miscellaneous**

I am in the middle of writing thank you notes to all of you who so generously gave for the Christmas donation and made such a wonderful event possible for the children; you will get an individual one but this is a general thanks to all!

Heads up: Vicky Tuccillo's husband, Jeffrey, is running in the 2010 New York City Marathon for Sylvia's Children. As soon as my leg is healed and I can start driving he and I will meet and layout a plan. We will need sponsors! Start thinking of family, friends, business associates, wealthy clients ... we need them all! And, Jeff, we are planning a spectacular finish line reception. Stay tuned!

Always so much to share and so little time. Thank you all for your love and interest in these beautiful children.



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**SYLVIA'S CHILDREN**

