

Home Again in Uganda

We arrived home again on Dec.2 to a very busy schedule. We married off Brenda, our African daughter, and we prepared for Christmas with the boys who live in our boys' home. Our dachshund had a difficult time while we were away. She was very sick and was not expected to live when we left for America. However she survived although she is now totally blind and she has lost her sense of smell. She doesn't seem to realize that she is handicapped as she is still



busy with her guarding duties and other chores. This photo shows her tearing our bookcase apart to get at her ball which is under the bookcase. Her blindness and her loss of smell don't stop her from pursuing her favorite occupation which is retrieving her ball.

Last week we buried my wife's cat. He appears to be the victim of a snake bite. We have had him for seven years and we figured his end would come this way. He liked to kill any snake which came into our compound, and most snakes in Uganda are highly venomous. We figured that as he got older he would get slower and one day lose his battle with a snake.

A happier event last week was the marriage of Brenda to a fellow Christian -Brian Kizito. African weddings are more complicated than American weddings. For example, there is a traditional wedding called a kwanjula on a separate day from the church wedding so it takes two long days to get married. I was privileged to escort my daughter into the church (her Christian wedding) at the beginning of a seven hour wedding ceremony and reception.





The above photo shows two important men in Brenda's life. The shorter one is Abbey the director of our boys' home. Abbey loves children and he did all he could to help the children who lived in a terrible orphanage which tortured children. Brenda, along with her brother Charles, the tall one on the right, and the other siblings were abandoned at a very early age by their mother and family at this orphanage. A year, after we arrived in Uganda, we became the parents of Brenda and Charles.



These photos are from our Boy's home Christmas party. We ate a lot of food and volunteers washed dishes. We read from the Bible about the birth of Jesus and we discussed why it was so

important. We also rejoiced by being able to use our new shelter which has replaced the one previously destroyed by a storm. We look forward to using the shelter for our Bible study on New Year's Day.



Singing under our new shelter.



Pictured above is Pavan Ron, our ITI leader. We need to pray for Pavan and his family. The India government has caused extreme hardship because they made the most important currency notes invalid and they failed to provide enough new currency. India is almost totally a cash country so the people have almost no money and they are suffering. Pavan can't get the money we put in his account so he can't pay his bills. Needless to say this has slowed the expansion of ITI, but it has not stopped.

All but 14 of the children at the orphanage were invited to spend the holidays with various families. So when I went out Christmas morning to teach, I expected some discouraged little ones. We went over the Christmas story again and at the end, they each received a small bag of necessities, an apple, an orange and some candies. They were heard exclaiming that –the others- 'missed'. They were feeling sorry for the ones who were gone. They understood also why we ate birthday cake!

This year has been another one where we have seen God continue to expand our ministries. Next month's newsletter will include a detailed report about the various ministries we are involved in. We want to thank you for your support in keeping us in Uganda. It is your prayers and financial support that keep us going. Please write and let us know how you are doing. We enjoy hearing from you.

Praying for all God's best for you, Bob and MaryLee

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