



PAAV-Gitombo Newsletter—February 2017

- Wanji's Report On Her Recent Trip to Gitombo B Village, Kenya
- The 3rd PAAV Banquet Dinner is Saturday April, 29, 5:30 PM
- From no books to two libraries

I left Denver on Tuesday morning, December 27, 2016, and arrived in Nairobi late the next night. Immediately, there was a problem: I had travelled with four bags, but could only collect two when I arrived. Two others were missing! I went on to Gitombo a couple days later without the bags. They didn't follow me there until a week later. Thankfully, I had the bag with the children's gifts!

Christmas on New Year's Eve at Gitombo B Community Event

The purpose of this event was to have the children who attend Sunday School in the afternoon make Christmas presentations. They did! It was a wonderful event that had all the community children participating in different activities like singing, dancing and very creative skits. The parents did the same—women only and no men!



Next, I presented gifts, which I had bought in Kenya, to different leaders. And then came the best moment, when we presented multicolored packages to the children. The story of the packages is worth relating.

I had told a friend back in the US that I wanted to buy pencil cases for the children. She said, “That is so expensive!” Then, she offered a solution: a mid-size Ziploc bag wrapped with multi-colored masking tape! What a genius! She prepared 114 of these and then, with other friends, we filled each one with pencils, crayons, eraser, sharpener, and coloring paper. We didn’t have quite enough packets, but the children were overjoyed anyway!



New Hope School: We were granted the official license to run the school up to Grade Four. This license is posted at the entrance of the school building. There are 53 children in three classrooms with three teachers. Margaret, who is the first teacher, heads the team and teaches 25 children in the nursery school. Teacher Florence is the new teacher. She teaches Grade 1. Teacher Belinda teaches Grade 2. We thank God for these three teachers!





Come Juu Boarding School Children: We thank God for the PAAV sponsors who support our 13 children in ComeJuu Primary Boarding School, and two other

girls in secondary schools. At at \$100 a month or \$1200 a year, the funds take care of the children's boarding, tuition, books, beddings etc. Two of these children in the group picture are not aware of it, but they do not have a sponsor. Please if you are in position to sponsor one of them let me know and I will connect you you with the child. The girl in the picture with Wanji is the one whose grandmother died (see the post at our PAAV website). She is now in secondary school and in her final year! Pray that she passes the national exam so she can continue with higher education! The thought of one of our PAAV students in a college or University is exciting!

From no books to two Libraries!

I have been collecting and shipping books to the New Hope Center, Gitombo. The first shipment of books arrived a couple weeks before I arrived. The shipment goes from Denver to the east coast, then across the Atlantic to Durban, South Africa, up the Indian Ocean to Mombasa, Kenya, and then by rail to Nairobi and finally by road to Gitombo! As I write I have been told that the other two shipments have arrived!

While at home I found a very good and handy carpenter who did the shelves as directed. The shelves were secured to the walls. We have two separate libraries: The main Community Library for both adults and older children is located on the first floor. Next to the library is a specialized collection meant for use by area clergy and other Christian leaders. This collection will help in a great way since not only are Bibles lacking, but for the most part commentaries are non-existent!



The younger children's library is on the first floor. The shelves were done differently to make books accessible to our little friends!

Another highlight of my trip was visiting with the Sunday School made of the community children that come to New Hope Center every Sunday afternoon. What a joyful

group they are! Before I told them about the library book, I put this question to them: "How many books do you have in your house?" I gave them choices, starting with ten and going down to one. No books! Sadly, the children who said they had 3-4 books said they were textbooks, not other books. I already knew that was the case, and that is why I am so passionate sending books to build a library for Gitombo B. At that meeting books were distributed to the children and each had the opportunity to enjoy a book for 20 minutes. The books were then collected to be put back in the library.



The New Hope School are already having library time! The children have been instructed in handling the books with care. The seating in the library remains a challenge; until we provide chairs and desks. Thanks to all who donated books, Bibles, Study Bibles, commentaries, and much more! We truly need more books for teenagers, younger adults and adults as well. These may include good autobiographies, books on marriage and family—books that can help bring up these emerging leaders of Gitombo! I will soon be sending another shipment.



Three young people from the community were temporarily hired to help sort and organize the books on the shelves alphabetically by author. My hope is that the same people will work on the other two shipments. Of the three, it is my hope that at least one of them could be offered a job to run the library with the responsibilities to keep the books clean and in good order for the sake of all and to develop

readership in the community. As you read on please join me in praying for someone to help pay a salary for this new library position. At this point books will not be taken out of the library; instead, readers will be encouraged to read in the library, which will be open in the afternoons three days a week, to start with. Ultimately, we would like to use a computerized library system. Anyone out there wanting to go help in develop the library?

New Hope School Children's Library/Activities Room: The very young children's library is located on the ground floor. This room will also function as the activities center. Lego and other activity materials will be left in this room and will be used according to teachers' schedules. The Lego I have since learned been will be placed in the library room on the second floor as the pieces posed a danger to the younger children.



Lunch: Another room has now been prepared and set aside as a dining room. The children will no longer sit on the floor when eating.



Safety: When the children are playing football (soccer), it is unsafe for them when the ball goes beyond the barbed-wire fence and they have to retrieve it. The teachers are encouraged to watch over the children and not allow the children to retrieve the ball themselves. However, making a safe fence remains a challenge!

Office and Storage: An office on the second floor with lockable door and cupboards will be done. This will allow for safe storage of things including supplies. By now you have an idea how New Hope Center looks like!

Gitombo B Seniors: Another, very interesting, afternoon meeting was with seniors in the community. These men and women were brought to the New Hope Center. How appreciative they were to see the school! The idea was, one to bring seniors to see the New Hope Center; two, to talk with them and make a recording of what they shared; three, to take their pictures; four, to honor them for who



they are, the foundation of the Village. Questions after this meeting were: How do we keep seniors engaged and make spiritual formation a reality in this group? How do we bring the Word and prayers to them? Who can we have follow up on them?

Gitombo Museum: Mr. Kamau one of the leaders is heading up this project by collecting artifacts from the older men and women. I am excited about that.

Site Development and Other Pending Ideas:

- Florescent lights were installed in the library and classrooms. Security lights were put outside and by the gate.
- More toilets are needed. There are only two toilets which cannot cope with the break time nature calls! This is yet to be done.
- Two sinks are needed for washing hands, but also to facilitate washing of dishes.
- The cowshed has already been built. We need to buy a milk cow!
- **Microfinancing:** Some women have requested to be provided with a loan or Seed to start businesses. PAAV is look into training in training them in how to start a business first!
- **Sewing Group Effort:** PE Uniforms project has been revived at the parent's meetings when it was unanimously accepted that the sewing group will continue to make PE uniforms for all the children at a price. PAAV will provide the fabric. Those who make the uniforms will make some profit.
- **Knitting group:** The group requested that they be provided with a knitting machine and yarn. They will pay the teacher.

Gitombo Water: The water is running well in spite of late payments. There is a two-line distribution of the water from the borehole storage tank providing water on the eastern side of Gitombo B Village. One pipeline is congested and hence some people never get water. Trenches have been dug for pipes crossing the road. I wanted to meet the water committee but that never happened. The plan is to have to have Kush , the PAAV coordinator be part of this committee to help generate regular updates.

Calling for nurses and teachers! How about an African Safari? Join me for our 2017 PAAV Mission Trip (dates TBD)!

I am planning a mission trip this year. In that regard I am inviting you to come to Gitombo, if you can. You will visit with the people and the children in Gitombo and help with the ongoing construction work at the New Hope Center or whatever you can do. Lots of ministry work is needed at the village and we can now do it because we have the New Hope Center.

I particularly desire to have nurses to come help do health screenings for the children and the community. I keep on praying and hoping to get a teacher who would like to spend some months at the New Hope School. After ministry in

Gitombo, the plan is to go on a Safari before coming back to the US. If this interests you, please get in touch with me ASAP!



Call for Monthly Donations: You have helped PAAV-Gitombo in great ways. Please do not grow weary in doing good. I am calling upon you to pray ... and to give on a monthly basis. If you, your family, or your business can donate \$25, \$30, \$40, \$50 or more per month, this will help with all the rising expenses in the school. *Every dollar counts!*

“Give, and it will be given unto you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap.”—Luke 6:38 (NIV)

For more pictures visit our PAAV website: www.paav.gitombo.com

Please send your tax-deductible donations to: PAAV International Ministries,
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PAAV International Ministries mission is to adopt and transform impoverished communities by empowering the people to break the cycle of poverty, to eradicate oppressive and traditional practices that hinder progress undergirded by values love, compassion, respect, justice and a sense of worth for all people.