



Julie's Heart Cry

Bringing Hope to Women Globally

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Newsletter



Mission trip provides different perspective on how people live

By Mia, age 10

I went on a mission trip to Uganda a couple of years ago with McLean Bible Church in Virginia. I had just finished reading the book, "Kisses from Katie," about an 18-year-old girl from Nashville who moved to Uganda to become the adoptive mother of 13 girls. I was so impressed after reading Katie's story that I really wanted to go see Uganda and its people for myself. This would be my second mission trip at the age of 8 years old.

Happy children

I had an amazing time and found the country much like I expected after reading Katie's book. We went to visit several different orphanages, all of them filled to capacity with children. It stuck out to me how happy the children were. They smiled a lot and were very friendly. We played together on the playground, they taught us songs and we blew up balloons to play with. At one of the orphanages, some girls thought my name was Meow!

We visited a school/children's home one Sunday and had church service with them. The service was a little different from my church at home. The music was much louder, and everyone danced! Even though the church was plain with a dirt floor – much different than what we're used to in the U.S. – it was impressive to see these young children know so much about God and sing out beautiful praises to Him.

Making a new friend

Another time, we were handing out shoe boxes filled with toys and other goodies. One of the ladies with me on the trip actually got to hand out the box her son had put together! I also became very good friends with another girl on the trip named Sarah. She had been adopted from Uganda when she was very young. I had thought there would only be adults on the trip, so I was thankful to have another kid with me.

This trip was a great experience, and I would strongly encourage other kids to go on a mission trip if they have the chance. Seeing things like the slums in Katwe gave me a different perspective on how other people live. One thing to remember, though, is to bring your bug spray! And pack closed-toe shoe because you will be doing a lot of walking on dirt roads and paths.



I think twice now before I take a drink of water

By Kyra, age 12

A few years ago, I traveled to Uganda on a mission trip, and it was wonderful. I have lived in America my whole life, so it was awesome to see other people's lives and cultures. One of my favorite parts was watching Christian volunteers in orphanages and seeing how much they are living out the Gospel. They gave up pretty much everything for Jesus.

They are responsible for feeding, clothing and looking after SO many kids! But all the workers appeared to have happy hearts and were exactly where they wanted to be. I'm not sure how long some of the kids had been at these orphanages, although one had a large group of Sudanese girl refugees. We played a slap jack game and tag with the orphans, and they seemed happy and excited to meet new people. I'm sure most days for them are very similar, so having us there was probably a welcome change of pace.

One thing I thought was pretty crazy was how far people had to walk to get water – some have to walk several miles each way, every day, so their family will have water to drink. When we visited the slums, it appeared that the people shared their food with others; their water came out of a pipe and looked dirty.

Another thing I noticed was how bumpy their roads are and how crowded they were with motorcycles (boda-bodas).

There were so many people I interacted with who were just satisfied with what they have. They did not want more, and they praised Jesus for being alive. I found that really impactful.

This trip changed me because now I think twice before I drink water. I don't have to walk to get it and it comes out of our tap purified. One of the things that surprised me was I expected everyone I met to be sad because they lived in poverty, but instead they seemed happy.

I would tell other kids they should definitely go on a mission trip because it was fun to go to another continent and meet other people and see how they lived. Parents should want their kids to get to experience new things.

I think a missionary experience as a kid is amazing. It makes me look at my life in a whole new way and made me realize my life is not about me. It is about others. James 1:27 says "Look after orphans and widows in their distress." God tells us to do as He commands.



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