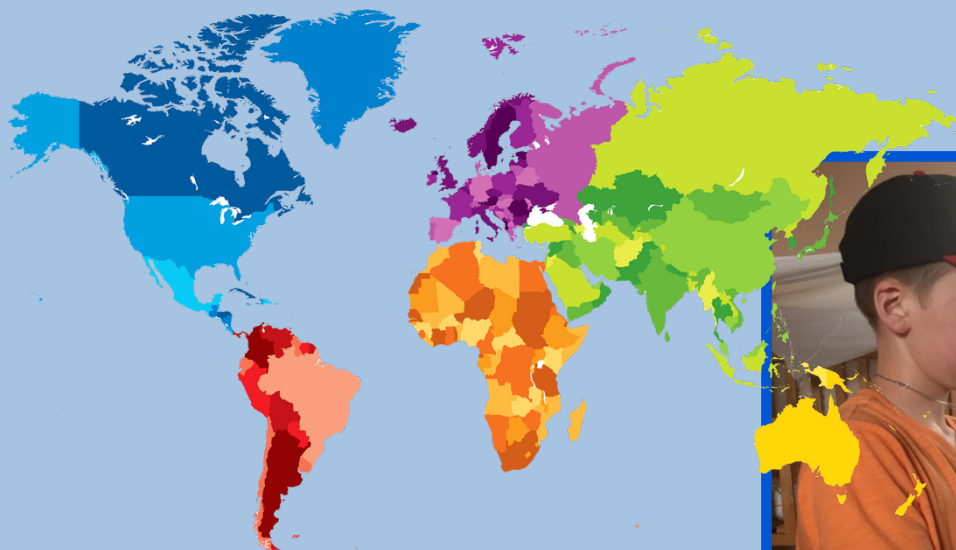




# Julie's Heart Cry

*Bringing Hope to Women Globally*

June 2021  
Newsletter



## Mission trip makes lasting impression

*By C.J., JHC donor*

I first went to Uganda in the spring of 2018 and again during Christmas break in 2019. Both trips were really enjoyable and made a big impact in my life. I look forward to going back in the future.

A mission trip makes you realize that “it is more blessed to give than to receive.” And for me, this realization led to a passion for generous giving because I experienced the joy it gave others. It made me happy to make others happy — whether giving toys to babies at a hospital, handing out shoes to kids in need or seeing my donated books stock a library for eager students. The look on the recipients’ faces was rewarding.

Going on a mission trip also broadened my perspective. Uganda was the first time I traveled to another continent, and it was full of new experiences — driving through mostly unmarked streets bursting with sellers and vehicles, seeing the porridge-like meal that kids in orphanages were served, walking into one-room aluminum homes, and witnessing children as young as 3 or 4 retrieve water for their family.

*(over)*



***"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God."***

**~ Ephesians 2:19**

My family and I stayed in one of Uganda's nicest hotels, but it was average by American standards. I came to understand the extraordinary comfort we enjoy in America in a way I wouldn't have by merely hearing or watching videos about impoverished places.

One of my favorite aspects of mission trips is the ability to build deep, vibrant relationships with people thousands of miles away. And the binding power of these connections comes from a love for God. Going on mission trips to other countries gives a person the chance to build relationships with other children of God. Of course, these are the most lasting of all bonds. Even though you may be in a foreign nation, around other brothers and sisters in Christ, you can experience Ephesians 2:19: "So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God."

I couldn't possibly list all the benefits of mission trips. And it *is* conceivable to go to a needy place and return home and act as if you had not witnessed extreme poverty and brokenness. But, if you are willing to open your heart and treat a mission trip as an opportunity to permanently alter your lifestyle and your views, you may be surprised at what God has to show you.

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***About the writer:*** C.J., 15, has found many ways to serve others and share the love of Christ. He was 12 when he went on his first mission trip, and it ignited a passion for helping the least of these. He participates in his church's youth ministry, Awana and volunteers with his church's children's ministry. This summer he will be serving with Child Evangelism Fellowship as a summer missionary, helping conduct Bible clubs for children in his area.

Julie's Heart Cry is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All donations are tax-deductible.