

Immanuel Mission Trip – 2023

Seventeen team members left for Uganda on the 17th November and returned on the 5th December 2023. God certainly provided for this team – prior to departure and during our time in Uganda. His blessings through people on team and those who supported us before we left was amazing and made the work and projects possible!



In the first week, the team spent time working with Lutheran communities in areas north of Jinja (north-east Uganda). Due to the number of congregations, their locality and the not-so-good Ugandan roads we based ourselves in three main areas – Kamuli, Butagaya and Kyeya.

In Kamuli, we were able to bring in pastors, evangelists and congregation leaders to a training day where we focused on financial literacy, relationships and hygiene. We had eighty-two people attend; some leaving their villages at 4:00am to arrive for the 9:30am start!



In Butagaya, there is a Lutheran Primary School, congregation and the beginnings of another sewing business. We had sent funds ahead to help in the establishment of the new sewing room and to pay for some of the women to learn to sew.



While we were there, we were able to see what they had begun, speak with the women on the operation of the sewing room and provide a simple hygiene and health book for them to use to support their families.



We also made twenty blackboards for four Lutheran Schools and spent time to spend with the children.



In Kyeya, we had the opportunity to view two cottages that we had provided funds to build when we were not able to go due to COVID. These were done in partnership with Habitat for Humanity and were to house a widow who was caring for her nineteen grandchildren.



Some of the team spent time weeding the crop area of the land, while others played with the children, talked with the women and provided the evangelist, Daniel, with resources for their school, hoes and seeds for gardening and growing food, funds for food and clothing for those in need. We were also able to meet with the congregation chairperson from a few congregations, to hear what their needs are for future planning.





On our way back to Kampala, we stopped at two previous congregations we had worked in on previous trips – Mutai and Buluya. In Mutai, we were able to provide a bicycle for one of the evangelists to enable him to travel to his congregations and medical supplies for one of the women who oversees the care of those in the community.

In Buluya, we delivered a new sewing machine for the women who meet in Dorcas Cottage (a previous project), heard their report of how they are now able to support their families and their plans to establish a small piggery to help those women who are not able to sew. We were also able to buy some of the items they had been sewing.





As many in these Lutheran communities are very poor and the schools lack basic resources, we took items such as educational resources, sewing equipment, clothing, hygiene and birthing kits that had been generously donated from friends, family and congregations in Australia. While we were there, we were also able to purchase seeds and hoes for the evangelists to give to the most needy in their communities and bibles in their own language for them to use in their ministry.

In the second week, we spent time with Watoto activities – meeting some of the vulnerable women in the Neighbourhood program and being able to bless them with basic support items (flour, sugar, rice, oil, soap, beans), visiting the baby homes in two of Watoto’s villages,



bringing donated baby clothes, blankets and toys,



meeting up with sponsor children,



taking new team members to see some of Watoto’s infrastructure – chicken farm for eggs and an agricultural farm which grows some of the food used to feed the children in the Watoto villages.





We also spent time working on the refurbishment of three homes in one of Watoto's oldest village – Bhira. This entailed removing concrete, painting and replanting grass. We were also able to purchase extra wheelbarrows, shovels and gloves for the builders.



Much of what the team was able to achieve was due to the support – financial and donated items - from congregations and individuals, for which we are very thankful! While all team members pay their own individual costs, the team plans and runs various fundraising events for their identified projects, with all funds going directly to the identified projects. Many of you have supported these events and again, we say thank you! It has meant that so many of the stories we heard from people – though challenging and confronting – now means that they have hope and are able to work towards a better life for themselves and their children.

On behalf of the Immanuel team, I would like to thank you for your amazing generosity and support. If you would like any further information or may be interested in joining the next team in 2025, please contact me at stephenmayer@bigpond.com

Lyndal Mayer
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The IMMANUEL MISSION TEAM 2023 who left TO SERVE THE PEOPLE OF UGANDA