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“JOY OF SERVING”

DAVIS OMANYO

P.O. Box 4473, Kampala, Uganda
domanyo@crwrc.org

Yes! I now understand the account of the invalid man in John 5:1-15. He moved himself close to the pool for healing, but no one there would take the time or make the effort to dip him in the pool so that he could get well. When Jesus asked him, “Do you want to get well?” all he said was, “There is no one to help me get into the pool.”

Then, when he got up and walked, carrying his mat, these same people who would not help him condemned him for carrying his mat on the Sabbath. Every time I read this chapter, three questions always strike me. Did the people in this village care about anybody? Didn't they even recognize that this man had been an invalid for 38 years—and now he had been healed? What kind of a society was this?

In January 2009, a couple that we have known for many years visited us here. They have faithfully supported our work in Uganda and the work of CRWRC in the region. We traveled with them to visit some of the communities where we work. We set off in the morning and spent a good time on the road. Little did we know that we would visit a community that would answer my questions about the invalid in John 5: 1-5—a community where we would see how difficult it can be to see what is right next to you. I now realize that I, too, have been blind to my surroundings at times. If you are not seeing clearly what is around you, you are to some extent blind.



In one of the communities we visited, we met a young boy, about 11 years old, living in an old, four-bedroom house that his grandparents had built. All his family members had died from AIDS. Only the boy, his aunt, and

his grandmother had been spared from HIV. His neighbors do not visit him because they fear the death that befell this family. The boy has found another young orphan boy to keep him company. In fact, when we visited him, he had several other boys playing with him in his compound.

The condition in which this boy lives left a lot of questions in our minds. Does anyone in his community care about him? Why doesn't someone from the community help him to

make ends meet? This reminds me of the invalid man at the pool. During all of the years that he lived by the pool, hoping to get well, nobody helped him. It is through such experiences, that one realizes that serving means walking with the needy and helping the community open their eyes to see what is around them.

Praise be to God that Uganda Joint Clinical Research staff referred this boy to a CRWRC partner church that is beginning to facilitate HIV and AIDS work his community. Pray with us that we will be able to establish a poultry business for this boy. All that is required is U.S. \$200 to bring a lasting meaningful life to this boy.

Our visit to this boy also made a difference in the community. Some community members asked why people from North America visited this poor boy orphaned by HIV and AIDS. Our visit demonstrated the love of God by “seeking justice, showing mercy and walking humbly with God.” And, that is what makes serving God a joyful endeavor.

When you drive into an African village, you see beautiful scenery: mountains, acacia trees, plains, plateaus, and wild animals. These beautiful scenes are good to see, but don't forget to make a point of seeing the children, those like this boy, in southwestern Uganda.

May the Lord continue providing for each one of you! We thank you for your continued support of our ministry. We know that you are doing so despite the difficult economic decisions Christians have to make due to the depressed economy.

May the Lord speak to you as you make tough choices in order to support such a child, without even seeing him. Though you may not see him, we do. And, we see those like him in our daily ministry in this part of the world.

May God open more our hearts and minds, that more will see the suffering of such young people. May He also open our inner being to serve Him each day. Please pray that He strengthen us as we work in environments where we endure the pain of seeing government officials stealing money that is meant to support children who may not even have one meal a day.

When we work with such children and families, we can help them learn to produce food for themselves and live a normal life. In this, the Lord is glorified!

Thank you for your support and prayers. We also pray for you during these difficult financial times.

God bless you all,

~ Davis, Beth, Joan, Marion, Julian, and Helen Omanyo

CANADA: 3475 MAINWAY, PO BOX 5070, STN LCD 1, BURLINGTON, ON L7R 3Y8

USA: 2850 KALAMAZOO AVE., SE, GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49560-0600

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