



# The Joy of Serving Davis and Beth Omanyo, EAMT-Uganda

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## Please Pray

- Pray for Chris and his self-help group that they may remain focused.
- Pray for Chris to be able to raise funds for the two more Braille machines, a Braille repairing kit, and Braille paper.
- Pray for me as I visit my supporting churches in North America and am away from my family.
- Pray for our children as they continue with their new life in college.
- Understanding that there are lots of demands on all sides, we pray for the congregations that you do not get tired of giving. Your giving has blessed many that we work with, like Chris, whom you may not see.
- We continue praying for our brothers and sisters in Haiti.

**You can never tell what the Lord has in store for you and how you will make it in life.**

Chris, the teacher with the cane stick in the picture, reminds me of what the Lord is able to do. I began this journey not knowing that one day I was going to meet someone like Chris.

It all started in 2001 when I was working at the home office in Grand Rapids and living with the president of the deacons at Princeton CRC (Grand Rapids), the church that gave me a spiritual home. I met many of the church members and they made me feel at home. Thanks to Coffee Break and the committed ladies and gentlemen, I always looked forward to the Tuesday Coffee Break at Princeton CRC.

This story about Chris (whom I did not know) started with a conversation I had with my younger brother, Sammy, who is a special school teacher by profession. He asked if I could get him a Braille machine for his class, since he had students who were visually impaired and were not able to keep up with the other students without a machine—which would help them take notes as the teachers came and taught. Sammy asked me this just before I left for the USA for the final few months of my contract. I knew just who to approach for the Braille machine. The person to contact was the director of disabilities in the denomination, Jim Vander Laan. I visited Jim in his office, introduced myself, and explained to him the reason for my visit. When I mentioned to him the need for the Braille machine my brother had asked me about, Jim wasted no time but contacted Princeton CRC. Jim had no idea

that I attended the Princeton's church services every Sunday, or even that I was living with the president of deacons at the church. The deacons met and made a decision to purchase the Braille machine, which I then carried back to Africa and gave it to Sammy. My brother was overjoyed and simply gave thanks to God for his students' sake. They now had a great opportunity.

It turns out that Chris was one of the students at that time, and he worked hard and learned how to use the Braille machine. This gave him the ability to function as any other student in class. He took notes and made notes for the other visually-impaired students in the class. Through his hard work Chris made it to the university and trained to be a teacher. He has since been employed back in the same school as a teacher.

What else is Chris doing now?

Apart from teaching, Chris has organized other people in the community that are visually impaired. He leads a group of 24 people with visual impairment that are involved in development programs in the community. They keep bees, and have four beehives that have colonized and they are now harvesting the honey. Their dream is to harvest enough honey to meet the market demands in the nearby shopping centers. They carry out table banking activities. They meet every month and save their



money, because they want to start a savings and credit program. They hope to lend to each other and also to other people within the community. This will give them a source of income. They do most of their projects through contributions from members every month. The group is also involved with fish farming and tree planting.

“We are blind but we do not want to be beggars. We can make it in life even if we do not see. The Lord has given us hands to work with and legs to take us where we want, and so we are able to lead a normal life.”

CRWRC supports this group in some of their development projects. Chris is asking for more Braille paper for his school. He has been using the Braille paper that Princeton CRC bought in 2003. If you would like to give a donation for this group, you are welcome to do it through the CRWRC projects. It was good to connect with Chris and hear his story. He is transformed, and believes that with more support he can do a lot for the people of his community that are visually impaired.