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B4P Hands Laid the Foundation

“Registration begins tomorrow!”

Thirty pairs of hands, black and white, young and old, some large and calloused others smooth and manicured, waved in a victory dance in the center of our circle in Kasese, Uganda. Every wrist wore a bright yellow bracelet that read, “Bridge for Peace International School” with the symbol of the cross of Jesus Christ. We responded with joy to God’s Word proclaimed in B4P Holy Convocation, Uganda. I inserted our name in the scripture and repeated, “The hands of Bridge for Peace have laid the foundation!” We bent down in unison and pounded the cement classroom floor, the foundation of the building we built

together. “...and their hands will also complete it.” (Zechariah 4:9)

The golden exterior of the magnificent two-story B4P International School seemed to glow with pride as finishing touches were applied. Landscapers planted moss roses, vinca, and ornamental shade trees around the perimeter. Men climbed the stairs with buckets of paint, touching up the walls. The B4P Team took over one classroom where we prayed for three days amid ABC charts and colorful pennants strung across the room displaying multiplication tables. The thud of a hoe breaking up hard earth and

the sweep of a broom against cement reassured us that yes, after 3 years of planning, fund raising, and constructing the school would be complete and ready for the community launch at the end of the week.

The women of B4P strongly suggested we pray through the school. I confirmed their proposal, as I had envisioned us blessing each desk, each chair where students and teachers would sit. Women moved prayerfully through the school thanking God for continuing to pour out His blessings.

B4P Program Coordinator Sylvester

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Mapose joined Ed and me on Kasese Guide Radio Talk Show. Sylvester explained the B4P Int'l School would accept boarding students and day students. He announced, "Registration begins tomorrow!" The next day, mothers appeared to register their children in what is called the "Flagship School" of the area.

Again, we met in our cheerful classrooms for two days of training all B4P staff members. Sylvester taught Lukanzo speakers, I taught those who understood American English. Head teacher and all other teachers, bursar, social worker, cooks, and security staff all studied B4P Foundation for Healing. This course teaches what Jesus Christ did for us. The B4P International School began in response to God and it will abound as we keep Jesus in the center. Indeed, God called all nations to join hands for the project from the very beginning.

In 2016, Sally Worner B4P leader in Australia, received an invitation to speak locally, but declined since her mission departure date was near. After refusing, she heard God say, "Why don't you ask Me?" Discerning that God wanted her at the meeting,

Sally accepted. As she spoke, she noted a woman taking copious notes. Later, the young mother told Sally that she and her husband had been moved by God to dedicate money to build a school in the developing world. They wanted to partner with a grassroots organization. She sensed B4P was a fit. Sally said, "They want to meet you and Ed when you come to Australia."

We had talked of the necessity of a school for our B4P children for several reasons. We had observed social stigma attached to children who were orphaned and we did not want our children exposed to that attitude in their school. In addition, we had often been told, "Government school classes can exceed 100 children." All B4P Uganda team members, though of modest means, sacrifice for their children's private education. Thirdly, corporal punishment is practiced in the system and we refuse to participate in that philosophy. Finally, we know success comes by following God's plan. We are obliged to teach our children God's loving ways. The B4P Team concluded that private education for our children was essential. We had discussed the need and we had the land to build on, but the young Australian couple's generous donation galvanized us to action.

Julie Giunta secured donated services of an architect from India. Topographical maps were supplied and architectural drawings for the school were completed. God called all nations to get the job done!

During this mission, we agreed on the fabric for our B4P school uniform, visited the bank manager to discuss accounts, and noted that book funds are required both for the curriculum and the school library.

Our God is ambitious for the care of His people. There is still much to be done. B4P received this scripture during convocation, a guide for the future. (I have again added our name of B4P.)

"But now be strong, B4P administrative leaders,' declares the LORD. 'Be strong, spiritual leaders. Be strong, all you people of B4P land,' declares the LORD, 'and work. For I am with you,' declares the LORD Almighty... 'And my Spirit remains among you. Do not fear.'" (Haggai 2:4-5) With the Lord's reassurance, B4P strides forward to do God's will and glorify His Name.

—Annette

Would you like to donate funds to equip our school library? Call 631-730-3982.



“Our prayer is that they will perform well in school and eat the sweet fruit of their labors in the future.”

A Mango for a Melody

Fourteen Bridge for Peace children marched across the soft ground that spoke of the downpour on the previous day. Elastic bands held colorful cardboard hats on their heads, a pink butterfly, a yellow flower, a red heart. Girls wore a sash that said, *Welcome Visitors*. They paraded into the grassy center, surrounded by event tents, one trimmed in B4P colors of sky blue and sunshine yellow. They lined up shoulder to shoulder before the five hundred gathered for the B4P International School Launch, a function to celebrate and raise funds.

With our school as the backdrop, Pauline recited a poem and our children dramatized it.

*A woman of Africa has never been free,
Always busy on domestic work,
A bundle of firewood on the head,
A hoe on the shoulders from the garden,
A baby on the back,
That is a woman of Africa.
Dear parents, educate a girl to educate the whole world.*

The poem received a strong supportive reaction. Attendees stepped forward from beneath tents to press money into the children's hands as is typical in Uganda fundraisers. If one appreciates the presentation, they

give an offering to the performers who give their time for the cause. Both political and religious leaders present agreed with the plea to educate women.

The District Chairman also responded, affirming the need for schools in the area, applauding the completion of the B4P International School. “We are beginning to solve one of the biggest problems we have in this district. One of the biggest problems we have is child upbringing. And I think a project of this nature and working together, we will ensure that such a challenge will be dealt with. I must thank you, I must thank you. I am saying this on behalf of 800,000 people who are in residence in this district.

We have many schools that are in need. So I will raise my voice to ask people like Bridge for Peace to come to our rescue. I have no way I can appreciate you for a project of this nature. May I pray that the Almighty God who has kept you moving will give you more than 100 years of life. Thank you very much”.

Seven year old Faith surprised us as she took the microphone and led the others with her sweet, clear voice. She sang, “Welcome visitors...” As she began another chorus the chil-

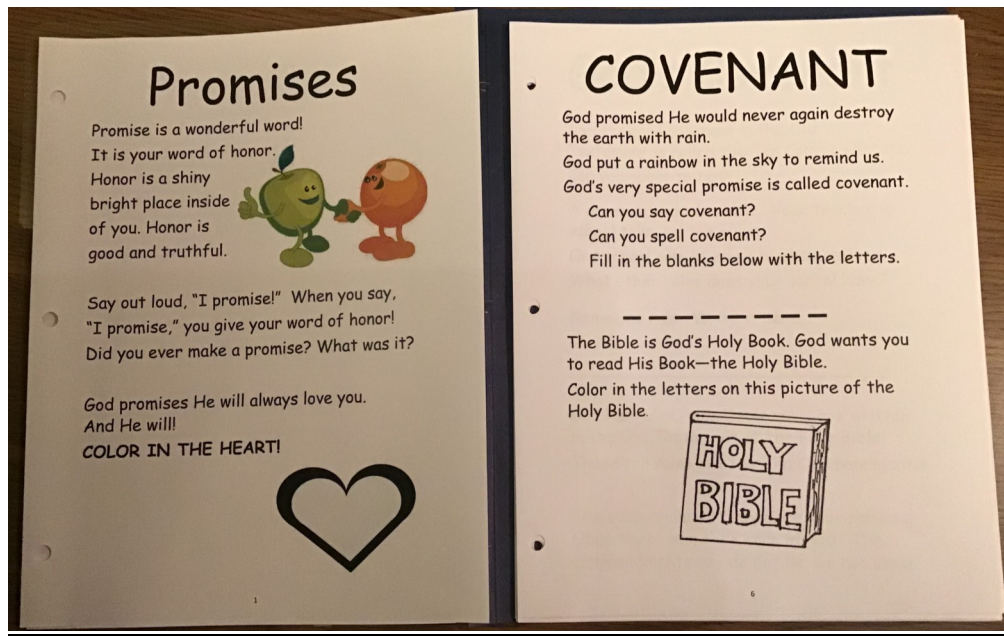
dren approached the central platform singing, “We ask you to come, accompany us.” The Undersecretary to the Speaker of the House of Parliament was willingly led to the center. Ed and I were also led by the hand to the middle of the celebration. Everyone hugged and praised our wonderful children as a bag from the market appeared.

With a dramatic flair the emcee opened it. He displayed the local mangoes that were purchased at thirty cents apiece. He addressed us. “These children have done very well! Now, can you buy them a mango? I think an offering of 10,000 Uganda shillings would be about right!” (Ten thousand Uganda shillings is equal to \$2.78 American money. A day laborer might make a maximum of \$2 a day.)

We pulled wallets from our pockets and purses. Adults circulated with baskets trimmed in bright ribbons and colorful paper money mounded up.

The mangoes were carted off to B4P Children's Village where the children who unknowingly contributed to their own education would enjoy the juicy treat. Our prayer is that they will perform well in school and eat the sweet fruit of their labors in the future.

—Annette



B4P Brings Life

Bishop Francis quoted John 10:10. "Jesus said, '...I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.'" This is what B4P has done here in Kasese. They have come here that we may have life. That these children may have life," he indicated the forty children seated on a woven mat beside our event tent. "B4P has brought life to us here! Every Christian should be able to say the same."

A B4P team today returned from Asia, where they brought life. One of my favorite reports from the team was a short video clip of a small girl with big brown eyes and dark braided hair reading "B4P Foundation for Healing for Children." In her little girl voice she read aloud, "God put a rainbow in the sky to remind us of God's very special promise He called Comament."

I heard Louise, B4P missionary, help with pronunciation. "Cov-en-ant. A special word!" The child repeated "Co-ven-ant." Louise encouraged, "Very good." Because Louise carried our B4P FfH book, the child can read and learn and grow in Jesus. She is receiving full life.

Today, a woman demonstrated to me that she could lift her legs, like a high-stepper. "I couldn't do that at

all. The doctor was amazed." B4P team prayed for her and she received new life in her legs because of Jesus.

Yesterday we received a message about a dear little boy we have prayed for since before he was born. He had many serious health issues at birth. Doctors were uncertain if he would survive. They said if he lived he would not be able to function at all, or at best, he would function at a very low level.

His parents continued to speak life over him. They praised Jesus and continually prayed to God. The boy has done so well, that he has not needed to follow up with a neurologist for 4.5 years! The neurologist asked the couple to bring in their son "for my own learning."

Mom reports, "The grand finale with the neurologist was..."

Me: "Are you surprised he's doing so well?"

Doctor: "Yes. Given what happened when he was so young he shouldn't be like this. Something protected him."

Me: "That'd be the Lord."

May it always be said of us all, that wherever we go we bring life through Jesus Christ. Life to the full!

—Annette



February

15-22 Rome Prayer Walk

March

1 Rome Mission Report 3p.m.
St Francis Cabrini, Coram

7-15 Mission Guyana

22 St.Sylvesters Religious Ed.
Int'l Luncheon, Medford

Lord is it I? Live Drama presented:

28 Church on the Sound, Stony Brk 7pm

29 St Francis Cabrini, Coram 3pm

April

7 Samantha's Li'l Bit of Heaven 7pm
25 Lighthouse Mission Ladies Tea

Facebook Pages

Bridge for Peace
Bridge for Peace: Uganda
Children's Villages
Bridge for Peace, RaphaEl Medical
Missions

Event Details

www.bridgeforpeace.org/

TV Times

All **Nassau and Suffolk Counties:**

Sunday 3 a.m. Channel 10

Monday 7 a.m. Channel 115

Tuesday 12 a.m. Channel 20

Manhattan MNN 3p.m:

Alternating Mondays starting Oct 28

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