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B4P advances toward the goal

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Honoring "Ma Joanie"

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Last Supper comes to life



Run, B4P, Run!

"...let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us..." Hebrews 12:1

Dried corn stalks rustled as we brushed by on our downhill trek. The narrow dirt trail accommodated one foot at a time. Ed and I followed Sylvester, leader of B4P Uganda, who snapped off the ends of thistles and burrs while calling to us, "These can catch you..."

The dirt and dust of the dry season overshadowed the Rwenzori Mountains. The temperature climbed as the morning wore on. It would reach 92 degrees. The proposed site of the B4P International Primary School lay somewhere ahead and the B4P team

came equipped to break ground. "There is the village." Ed pointed to three red rooftops, home to our thirty-two children. Sylvester unrolled the site plan, Ed consulted with the B4P leaders, and they

Ed raised the huge hoe and swung the mattock. He broke ground and we broke into cheers praising God.

determined the plot. The team wielded sharp *pongos*, the local name for machetes. The hacking sounds sliced through the morn-

ing stillness. Driving pointy corn-stalk stakes into the soil, they marked the area for ground-breaking. Ed raised the huge hoe and swung the mattock. He broke ground and we broke into cheers praising God.

The municipality representative present promised to send the heavy grader soon to cut the new Margarita Road. The official stamp marked our request *Urgent Priority*. Expanded fencing will secure B4P property and building supplies for the B4P International Primary School. The

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private school will provide education for our children, community students, and serve as a boarding school for those not in the local area.

I thought about our oldest children—Joel, Faith, Mariam, and Sira—putting on uniforms and walking together to class. We had visited them at the B4P Children's Village the day before.

Boys and girls trotted out of our Mercy Home with cups full of "posha," cooked porridge made from our ground farm corn. "Papa come have porridge," they called to Ed. We had already heard about the B4P children's reputation for generosity. **A local clergyman said, "I like it very much that whenever I visit the home the children offer me food. It is a very good sign. When I go to my village, if you ask a child for food they hide it behind their back. But at the B4PCV there is generosity and sharing. They are a real family."**

They pray together as a family every morning and evening. We arrived one day during prayers. They sat on the kitchen floor as is their custom. They looked up, their eyes dancing, free of care

and full of joy. I remembered how weak many of them had been when they had come to us. When we first began B4PCV we received regular reports in NY of our children entering the hospital for treatment. At times, they had been rushed by motorcycle taxi to the facility. I remembered visiting some of our children in the dark space of the ward to pray for them and noting many older children crowded in adjoining beds for treatment of diseases, some of them infectious.

In Uganda, a caretaker has to stay with the admitted child to feed, wash, and administer medicines. This necessity raised another concern as we wondered *Do we have enough caregivers in the village helping the remaining children?* Plus, so much serious illness brought a heavy financial burden. Now **Peter, a nurse trained by B4P, is full time at the Village. We have a sick bay where children with infections can be cared for. We have a locked cabinet full of excellent supplies, anticipating the needs of our children. Their healthy skin tones, strong little bodies, and quick smiles tell the story of thriving children.**

On our last day we visited each

home, noting needs, and finished up in the front yard comparing notes. Nikko raced across the grass chasing a ball. I have never seen a child run so fast! Mariam pursued him carrying his sandals and calling, "Nikko, Nikko!" He tumbled, making full body impact with the ground. With one voice the alarmed adults cried, "Ohhh!" Nikko pushed himself up and bounded across the grass, totally focused on his prize. A real B4P boy. In my heart I cheered, "Run Nikko, run."

B4P runs swift and sure, ignoring bumps in the road and the occasional tumble. We have a clear goal.

"...let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us..." Hebrews 12:1. **B4P runs steady and strong. This is why Nikko is alive today. Without BFPCV he surely would not be falling, rising, and racing again.** We see the track ahead and it is by God's power that we will finish our course. "Healing to the nations through Jesus Christ," is emblazoned across our team uniforms as we run hand in hand.

—Annette



Bridge for Peace
Brunch & Auction
Honoring "Ma Joanie" Carrott

March 26 from 12-4 \$55 pp

Wow! B4P event at *Wheatley Hills Country Club* honors our beloved "Ma Joanie" Carrott. Auction items include a 14K Cubic Zirconia necklace, getaway destination, oil paintings, dinner certificates, and other lovely items. Our delightful buffet brunch in this charming setting will be a day to remember.



Proceeds to benefit

Bridge for Peace

Www.bridgeforpeace.org

Wheatley Hills Golf Club
147 E. Williston Ave.
E. Williston, NY 11596
516-747-8822

Bridge for Peace

Presents two
Performances of

"Lord Is It?"



Experience this dramatic presentation at these venues:

Saturday April 1st Christ Church, Shirley

Sunday, April 2nd St. John Nepomucene, Bohemia

Free will offering to support the ongoing ministry of Bridge for Peace

For more information call 631-730-3982

www.bridgeforpeace.org



February

Rome Mission
25 Rome Healing Seminar
26 through March 4, Rome Prayer Walk



March

3 Rome Pizza 'n' Prayer 7p.m.
5 Peace & Justice Lunch
St Sylvester's Church, Medford
23 Samantha's Li'l Bit of Heaven
Healing Ministry available
26 Auction honoring 'Ma' Joanie Carrott
Wheatley Hills Country Club

April

1 **Lord is it I?** Dramatic production
Christ Church, Shirley 7pm
2 **Lord is it I?** Dramatic production
St John Nepomucene, Bohemia

Annette's Blog

<http://annetteeckart.blogspot.com>

Facebook Pages

Bridge for Peace
Bridge for Peace: Uganda
Children's Villages

Website—Details on all events

<http://www.bridgeforpeace.org/>

New TV times

ALL SUFFOLK COUNTY Tues
at 7am Ch. 20
MNN (NYC) Monday @ 3:30pm

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