



November 9, 2011

Dear Friends –

The mission of H.E.A.L. Ministries (Hands Embracing All Lands) has always been and will continue to be the fulfillment of James 1:27 which states:

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. NIV

It is with excitement and pleasure that we share with you a vision that is more focused as we continue to serve widows and orphans. This past year has been a time of great reflection over where we believe God is at work within the ministry and where He is at work within the areas we serve.

The journey to focus the ministry started July 2010 with the first H.E.A.L. Ministries mission trip to Uganda. Relationships were formed with the ministries we serve, and a passion for the Ugandan people began to form. This passion grew deeper in January 2011 on another trip to Uganda. The mission team witnessed first hand the immense needs of widows, orphans, and abandoned women and children in this region. God planted a seed in H.E.A.L. Ministries founder, Tina Weir, to passionately pursue a more focused work in Uganda.

Tina shared her heart with the Board of Directors of H.E.A.L. Ministries. The Board of Directors began to reflect, through prayer and assessment, what H.E.A.L. Ministries specific mission in Uganda might be. In July 2011, after another mission trip to Uganda, God confirmed that the timing was right for H.E.A.L. to begin its long-term presence there.

The Board of Directors has seriously, and with humility, looked at the history of H.E.A.L. Ministries. Through this evaluation, we have seen God's hand in every circumstance and how each circumstance and each mission trip has led H.E.A.L. Ministries to this point. We have also recognized God's work in Tina and each board member through our personal stories and spiritual journey. We see the markers that God has given us, and because of this our hearts and minds are in alignment to narrow our focus in Uganda.

Seeking to be obedient to God's call, the Board of Directors has commissioned Tina Weir, Director of Missions, to spend a minimum of six months in Uganda to evaluate the areas of greatest need and to assess how H.E.A.L. Ministries can have the greatest impact.

Our vision is this:

To bring hope and healing to widows, orphans, and abandoned women and children in a Christ-centered environment.

The plight of orphans has been well documented. UNICEF reports that there are between 143 and 210 million orphans in the world with only 250,000 adopted each year. In Africa alone, every 15 seconds a child becomes an orphan due to AIDS. In Uganda, there are over 2 million orphans.

However, what most people do not know is that the majority of orphans are NOT adoptable for reasons either legal and/or cultural. Most of the children in Uganda have been abandoned by their families and therefore are not really orphans. Orphaned and abandoned children for the most part do not have one full meal a day. They do not have clothing or shelter or medical care. They are defenseless. Unless these children are reached, they are vulnerable to prostitution, sex-trade, slavery, becoming a child soldier and even suicide.

There are many factors contributing to the crisis of orphans and abandoned children. But one factor that is rarely addressed is the plight of widows and abandoned women who have children. Often in their anguish, with no hope for a future and no means of support for their children, they themselves abandon their offspring. We cannot imagine the torment and anguish parents and children must live through when the only solution is to turn to institutions or corruption to provide for their basic needs.

It is distress in a polluted world. It is a cycle that must be broken.

We invite you to partner with H.E.A.L. Ministries through your financial support. Your financial support will give us the resources to begin Phase 1 of our vision. We believe that our first step is to identify the area of greatest need in Uganda. Our research will begin in Jinja and surrounding villages. Our immediate mission during this period is for our Director of Missions to build relationships with governmental agencies, community and other ministries in the region. Through these relationships and research, H.E.A.L. Ministries will be able to understand the culture and develop alliances with organizational structures that best serve widows, orphans and abandoned women and children. This time allows H.E.A.L. to humbly seek answers, regarding the Lord's will for the ministry. This phase will be supported and validated by the Board of Directors through bi-weekly reports from the Director of Missions and on-site visits in Uganda.

The enclosed card will help you identify ways to invest in this project and to be a part of what we are calling "Team 1:27". Your financial support is an investment to begin identifying real solutions to break the cycle of abandonment and defenselessness. Your financial support will help us identify the type of Christ-centered environment that will best bring hope and healing to widows, orphans, and abandoned women and children.

It is an exciting time for H.E.A.L. Ministries as we take the next step that God has called us to do. We don't know the answers and the outcomes, but we rely on a God who does. And we invite you to join us in this journey. For information regarding 2012 mission trip opportunities, go to www.heal-ministries.org.

Yours in Christ,

H.E.A.L. Ministries Board of Directors

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