

# The Church of God in Eastern Canada

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## MISSIONS REVIEW TRIP REPORT (Sept 16 to Oct 6/2011)

Ken and Julie Wiebe with Debbie Thiessen from Morden, Manitoba travelled to Uganda and Kenya to conduct a review of the mission projects of the COGEC Board of Missions which includes the Furaha Child Sponsorship program. Plans originally were for the Furaha administrator and coordinator to go along but this didn't occur due to unforeseen circumstances with health issues for Praneetha Selliah and time issues for Denuja Navaratnarajah.

192 sponsor children and young men and women were interviewed and 12 from the Congo were reported on for a total of 204 sponsor individuals. It was a busy time and we travelled to a new area of Uganda for us visiting some different churches than we had before.

Gifts (a basin, plate, cup, pencils, pen, notebooks and a ruler) were purchased in Kampala for each one of the 300+ in the Furaha program, with the program's special needs/gift funds.



An interview was conducted with 3 of the people who have been in the program since kindergarten and will be graduating in the next year or two. The two young ladies said, "All that I am, all that I have and all of my future, I owe to Furaha. It's because of this program I have an education and know Jesus Christ as my Saviour". They expressed with thanksgiving and gratitude for the sponsors and how the support received has made them who they are today.

Financial reports were received and reviewed with deficiencies identified and a path forward plan initiated. There are so many desperate needs it is difficult task to manage the funds stringently at times.

Debbie Thiessen has a nursing background and participated in some clinics (dealt with ringworm, scabies, fungus and hygiene issues) and did some home visits to HIV+ clients in the TAPP assistance program of the church. It was a very stretching experience for her, this her first visit to Africa.

A big privilege for us was to participate in the official opening of the TAPP residence at Mutungo – a result of the compassion and response to the needs of the homeless and sick with aids by some in the Fairview Church of God in Toronto.



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Regional pastors bringing sponsor kids for the interviews were given gifts we'd brought from Canada.

Some days were spent teaching: accounting basics for Ken and beginning ESL classes for Julie.

We travelled into the east of Uganda in the mountains visiting some churches and interviewed kids and enjoyed some beautiful country. This is the group we travelled with to Sipi falls: David Ojule, Sunday, Debbie, Grace, Colleen, Edrin, Ken and Julie and another pastor.



We visited the Heritage International school and saw lots of expansion and progress. This is the school where some of the Stevenson kids have attended along with many expatriate's kids as well as kids of some of the people in the government.

Finally, we visited Rod and Jan Dormer in Kenya at the Kima International School of Theological (KIST) where we had some recoup time in a lovely guest house on campus and joined into the Dormers very busy schedule for 5 days. They are one of the families in the Living Link program which the COGEC missions program supports.

Challenges we faced were: a few days of sickness for Ken and Debbie, village food and pit latrines.

Overall this was a successful trip and we thank God for His leading and provisions.



Submitted by Ken & Julie Wiebe