



acape Community transformation



MUKO, UGANDA • MICHIGAN, USA • *An ecumenical program for community transformation*

July 2010 Newsletter

In This Issue:

- [Changes in Our Staff](#)
- [An Orphan Waiting for Sponsorship](#)
- [Muko HOPE Update](#)
- [Muko Empowerment Project](#)
- [Acquisition of Land for the ACT Centre](#)

Acquisition of Land for the ACT Centre

We are still attempting to obtain a parcel of land to consider building the ACT Centre for the main purpose of providing a place for the oversight, sales and production of handcrafts and housing the ACT offices among other activities. The process involves getting agreement, approval, and blessing from many leaders including village chiefs, sub-county chiefs, government officials, the "bataka" (neighbors to the land), etc.

We have chosen the most ideal parcel named the Katiba curve. It is right alongside the newly paved highway that runs between Kabale and Kisoro (on the border of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.) It goes directly through Muko Sub-County and right by the Muko marketplace - a truly great spot! It is about 2.5 acres in size. ACT-Muko Board Chair, Charles Tuhaise, has been doing the necessary application filings and meeting with the officials. We will be requesting the Katiba land as well as the earlier desired Habuhinga Hill at the suggestion of the officials. Habuhinga Hill is not very accessible by vehicles as well as being about 9 km off the main highway.

We will continue to pray for the resolution of getting the land before we take our next steps in designing the building, fund-raising and building it.



Katibe Curve



Habuhinga Hill

[Return to top](#)

Changes in ACT Staff

ACT Muko and Act MI boards redesigned the paid staff positions to be better suited for our growing ministry. The Social Worker position was vacated by Blessing, and has now evolved into the ACT Operations Manager. The ACT-Muko Board has interviewed and hired Alex Twikirze (pronounced twee chee ree zeh) .

As well as overseeing Muko HOPE, Alex will be responsible for supervision of the ACT Mobilization and Agriculture Manager (an expansion of Tito's position) and the Muko Empowerment Project Manager (MEP) Alexander Gumoshabe.



[Alex Twikirze](#), ACT Operations Manager



[Tito Tugume](#), ACT Mobilization & Agriculture Manager



[Alexander Gumoshabe](#),
Muko Empowerment Manager

All three staff are originally from and currently live in the village of Muko which gives them the advantage of knowing the children and families. This will be a great help for Generous who oversees the whole organization from eight hours away in Kampala.

We trust that the change in staff will be evident to those of you who are Sponsors by the more regular communication from your orphan and the staff.

Letters of Introduction from each of these gentlemen are available on the web. Their name is a hyperlink to the appropriate letter.

[Return to top](#)

An Orphan waiting for sponsorship



Rogers Akankwasa

Rogers is 10 years old and lives in the village of Rurembo. He attends the village school and is in Primary 3 grade.

Rogers is currently living with his mother and siblings but if sponsored, will have the ability to go to school in Kabale with the other Muko HOPE orphans to get the education that will change his future. Shortly after his birth, the father died and the child was left in the hands of his poor mother. He was left with other three children; two brothers and one sister. It is unfortunate that the child never received the father's care. The father didn't leave enough property behind to look after the family and the mother now finds a lot of difficulties getting basic needs for the family. If the child gets help, he can get hope for the future.

If you and your family are interested in sponsoring Rogers, we will get you a sponsor packet and you can immediately begin writing to Rogers and praying for him. Please call or email Margie Phillips (989) 839-4133 or margie011@mac.com and request the sponsor packet.

[Return to top](#)

Muko HOPE (Helping Our Orphans Prosper and Endure) Update

Praise God! As of June 25, we have 51 of the 60 identified orphans sponsored! Only 9 more are waiting for sponsorship. Once we have all 60 sponsored, we will instruct Alex Twikirize, ACT Operations Manager, to identify another group of children in need of sponsorship. At this point we are so excited to announce that due to the number of sponsors currently, we are now ensuring 85% of the sponsorship money going to direct orphan care and only 15% for administration (salaries, expenses, etc.)

In the past year, our Ugandan partners recommended that the Muko HOPE orphans be enrolled in boarding schools in Kabale (about 40 minutes away from the villages). In Uganda, these kinds of schools provide the best education and optimal living conditions for the orphans. Currently 26 of the 50 sponsored orphans are enrolled and have spent the last school year in Kabale. This represents the first group of orphans that were sponsored. The rest of the children will be enrolled in February 2011 which is the beginning of the next school year. The children live at the school during the school terms and go back to their guardian's homes in the villages during school breaks. In Uganda, the school breaks are approximately the months of January, May, and September with the children attending school the rest of the months year-round. The 2010 mission team observed these children to be very excited and happy at the schools; behaviors that are not typically observed in the village schools. In addition, the teachers shared with the mission team that the orphans' English is dramatically improving. At the schools they are afforded the opportunity to be full-time students and not have home responsibilities like working in the fields.



Hornby High School



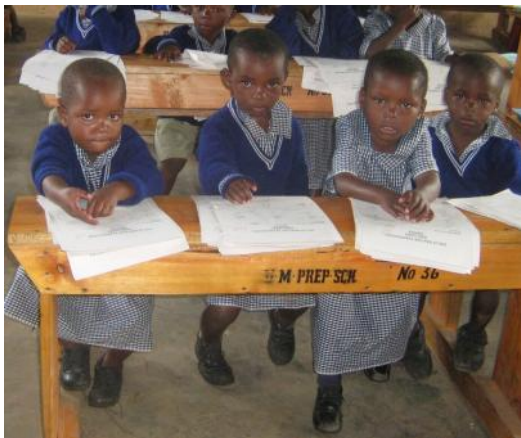
Boaz in High School



Muko HOPE Girls in Primary School



Muko HOPE Boys in Primary School



Children at their desks in classroom



School Dormitory



Entrance to Boys School

[Return to top](#)

Muko Empowerment Project (handcrafts)

With our new manager, Alexander Gumoshabe, MEP looks forward to advancing the basket-weaving skills of the village women. To date there has been two week-long training sessions with trainers from outside the village to teach the women new methods of weaving as well as gathering and dyeing the natural materials. We have new relationships with basket distributors which has expanded the sales beyond our church gift fairs. Through the sales of the MEP handcrafts, the women are able to be paid a fair wage and ACT receives sufficient revenue to support all the programs for the villages.

During the mission team visit, the women learned the concept of quilting. The women in the villages will be sewing colorful blocks of African fabrics which will then be completed into quilted items by the Midland-based sewing group. We are all excited about this "bega hibega" (Rukiga for shoulder-to-shoulder) project where the two groups of women in Michigan and Muko are dependent upon the other!



Muko basket maker



MEP workers in Muko



Learning the use of cutting tools for fabrics



Midland women sewing



[Return to top](#)