

“Taste and see that the Lord is good.” Psalm 34:8



This verse keeps coming to my mind as I think back to our trip to Uganda, which has already been a month ago. I give thanks to God for allowing my husband, my two children (16 months and 3 year old) and myself the opportunity to see in person the work He is doing in rural Uganda through Word and Deed Uganda and Christian Development Uganda.

While in Africa, we got to celebrate the birthday of Marion’s son’s 4th birthday (Marion is on staff at

Word and Deed Uganda and in charge of the secondary school Rising Stars). Her son is just a few months older than my son, and they became fast friends, often seen playing together while on visits to villages and schools. This birthday party stands out, as this boy’s cake saved my children – I had to hide their anti-malarial tablets inside the cake and frosting in order for them to take their pills! This was a nightly endeavor, and thankfully a bit of that cake lasted the whole week we were there. So, we tasted that the Lord is indeed a good God who cares about details!



Precious, Stephen, Marion, Phiona, Sue & Colin, Mike Peachey and Catherine were such a joy to work with, and they were

all so generous with their time and efforts in making sure the Rising Stars felt loved and supported.



One of the ways the team did this was by helping me care for my own two children while I spent time at the schools trying to get to know the Rising Stars individually and get an idea of how they were coping. Wonderfully, many are sleeping on mattresses for the first time



in their life! They are also receiving a more well-rounded, thorough education with far more resources than the local rural schools could afford.



However, as you can all expect, the transition, from a home environment with hardly a schedule or a rule to a boarding school with strict timetables and procedures, has brought a host of hurdles — three notable ones. The first and second are related — students have a very early waking time and then a few hours gap between waking and breakfast. They are tired and hungry during morning lessons. The third battle is with language. English is not their first language, and many have not seriously learned



English until just a few months ago, when they arrived at the boarding school. It is a school policy that all children must speak English at all times while

at school, which has proven very difficult indeed for these Rising Stars.



Despite the hurdles, the students have chosen to muster the strength to jump over the hurdles instead of walking away from the challenges. I am struck by their resilience. In each child's face, I saw the goodness of the Lord. He knows and cares so deeply for these children. One way God showed His



care for the students was by sending them gifts from their sponsors, and we had the privilege of distributing these gifts to the students. Unwrapping (which was done so carefully, so as to not ruin the paper!) the presents and



bringing out the gifts brought huge smiles!

I am so grateful to God for giving hearts of gold to the Word and Deed Uganda team. I saw how much this team loves and cares for each Rising Star. More than



one challenge has arisen for the

Word and Deed Uganda team, concerning students' needs, and each time grace and understanding overflow from Precious, Stephen, Marion and Phiona. The team works with the unique needs of each child. Students are placed in settings where they can best succeed. I have seen the team try more than one setting for a child, before the child succeeds. Precious, Stephen, Marion and Phiona keep working with the children instead of letting them dropout and be replaced. What a reflection of Christ — staying with us, even in the hardships!



We feasted on God's Word together as a team each morning that we were in Uganda through a morning devotional, and I can confidently say God is so good! I left Africa and returned to England confident that the Word and Deed Uganda team is laboring hard for the Gospel. Let us join in their efforts by praying to the Living God, who hears us and answers, for He is always good. Let us also join in the effort of



helping more students succeed academically by finding new sponsors, who I know will be blessed by the Rising Stars and Word and Deed Uganda! Please help me in talking to friends and relatives about the Rising Star Program. Do put them in touch with me! Thank you all for taking the time to read this report of my time with the Rising Stars. Your support is so valued!



“Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him. Fear the Lord, you His holy people, for those who fear Him lack nothing.” ~Psalm 34:8-9

