

# LOKO VILLAGE RELIEF



LEFT: THE HOUSES ENGULFED IN FLAMES

RIGHT: THE FIRE DEPARTMENT USING THEIR NEWER TRUCK

## 26 Families lose everything in fire.

Around 8:30 PM Friday, February 27th a fire broke out in a section of Loko Village. The fire spread quickly and fiercely as all the structures are made of plywood, timber and tin. Without rain for the past two months, and the temperatures daily reaching in the upper 90's, everything was dry to the

bone. Within minutes several structures were fully engulfed and rapidly spreading, despite the efforts of the locals throwing buckets of water. The local fire department arrived to only spray a ten foot section that was not in the path of the racing inferno. In three minutes the fire truck had to

leave to refill the tank on the truck. Meanwhile, all we could do is watch as the flames traveled from one house to the next. In the end, 26 families are left with NOTHING. Twenty-six families, 120 people: no house, no clothes, no food, no money. Everything was gone in minutes.



THE CHILDREN AFTER EATING



BEANS, RICE AND DRINKING WATER



HAPPY BELLIES, HAPPY FACES

# What could we do? How could we help? Where was the money coming from? What would Christ want us to do?

The fire took everything on Friday night. On Saturday, Calvery Chapel put up some tarps in the field so the fire victims had somewhere to stay. Sunday, Johnny and Jess Rich (from Calvery) talked about what to do next. Buying supplies: bedding, saucepans, clothes, was the first idea. But where would the people store these things? They had no home, nowhere to go. Rebuilding the homes would take days or weeks to organize.

After meeting with the local chairman, we found out that most of the people had not eaten since the night of the fire, almost two days before. The first order of business then was to feed any

of the victims that were still nearby. So starting on Monday night, after a day of running around buying 50 Kgs of rice, 40 kgs of beans, oil, seasoning, onions, tomatoes and charcoal, the serving of one meal a day began.

How do we keep track of who was really affected by the fire versus the ones who just want free food? Jess and Johnny met with the local chairman and they compiled a list of who was exactly staying in each house and their names. We decided the best way to keep track of the right people was by putting a neon colored wire tie on each person's, who was on the list, wrist. If your name was on the list, you received a wrist bracelet. If you have a wrist bracelet, you would receive a meal. No bracelet, not on the list, not really a fire victim. It sounds harsh, but with so many living around the site of the fire, we wanted to limit the food to those whom we knew, and verified through the chairman, were actually victims.

MONDAY, TUESDAY,  
WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY,  
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY,  
VOLUNTEERS FED 50- 70  
PEOPLE NIGHTLY



## SERVING



DANIELLE & GLORIA



SIFTING BEANS



SARAH WASHING HANDS



THE FEEDING LINE

# With God providing the money, we head to market to buy supplies for each family.

## SUPPLIES



SHOPPING FOR SUPPLIES



BUYING IN MARKET



26 PILES OF SUPPLIES



JERRICANS, SAUCEPANS, MINGLING SPOON, SIGIRI STOVE, TOOTHBRUSHES, SOAP, CLOTHES, ETC.

What can you buy to replace a families househole? That is the question we had to ask ourselves and some of our dear Ugandan friends. Of course we would like to replace everything if we could, but is that wise? If we provide everything each family needs, what about those who live 10ft away that weren't affected by the fire? What about the local shops that provide flour, soap, matches, etc.? They stop making money because we have provided everything. Some of the fire victims even had little shops that would provide the family with much needed income. We would be taking away their business too.

After much deliberation we came up with the following list, plus some clothes that came in by donations from various families and NGO's in the area.

- 2 saucepans

- a mingling spoon
- 1 matchbox
- 1 sigiri stove
- 1kg of charcoal
- 5kgs of posho flour
- 1kg of beans
- 1kg of soap
- a jerrican
- 2 wash basins
- 500g of cooking oil
- 500g of paraffin
- 1 small lantern
- 5 eating spoons
- and a few other donated items

## THE HEAD OF EACH HOUSEHOLD WAITING FOR THE HANDING OUT OF DONATIONS



# The rebuilding of twenty- eight structures. Twenty- eight homes, each one measuring 8ft x 8ft.

With the feeding program set up to feed the victims once a day, what was/is the next vital area that we could assist with. These people needed their homes back, somewhere to call their own. Johnny and Jess meet with Nile Ply and a local roofing company to see if they would be willing to help, or at least give a discount if we bought in bulk. The two companies said they are willing to help but will not be able to give us an amount until Saturday. All of us involved really feel that we are suppose to be moving ahead with this. Why?

We are called to 'love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul and mind', and to 'love our neighbor as ourself'. I

---

**"LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND ALL YOU MIND". AND "LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF". MATTHEW 23:**

---

don't think it is a coincidence that our church, Acaica, and Calvery Chapel are both going through the book of Matthew. Both churches are even around the same chapter, so both of our churches have been going over what is the greatest commandment. Are we going to live out love or are we going to just wait for someone else to? It was as if God was saying, "You've heard it over and over. It is still ringing in your ears. Are you going to love me? Are you going to love your neighbor?"

With Johnny posting on his website about the fire, people started writing right away... how can we help, what can

we do. Several families in the area were saying the same thing. The feeding program was the first real thing we could do.

Next on the list was the rebuilding. After talking with Nile Ply and roofing, what other materials were needed to reconstruct the houses. Poles, nails, screws, wood perservative, machetes, hinges, latches, plywood, etc.

We were quoted 20,000/= per pole. We needed almost 300. That would be 6,000,000/= or \$2,600. Fortunately God provided someone who knew someone who could get the poles at 7,000 each. Johnny posted that we would need approximately \$1,000 to buy the poles. Within 24hours we had more than enough to go and purchase the poles.

As I sit here and write this, the poles have been debarked and treated with wood perservative. The ground has been raked clear of big rocks. (go to page 6 for photos).

Since we are at a standstill right now because the land where all these structures were, doesn't actually belong to the people living there. It belongs to a branch of the government. The engineer for that department has said he only needs a letter from the people there asking for permission to use that land, and he will then give the okay for them to continue living there. Now it is a political play because the local chairman wants to use this letter to meet the "higher-ups" to gain political "favor" and some money to even write the letter. Shouldn't it be about housing the people and not for personal gain? So we wait... more to come in Part 2.



DELIVERY OF EUCALYPTUS



JOHNNY HELPING UNLOAD

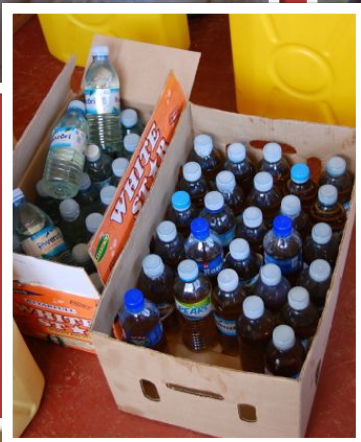


DEBARKING THE POLES



VICTIMS ASSISTING

## PHOTOS FROM FEEDING AND DISTRIBUTION



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

JESS TELLING VICTIMS ABOUT CHRIST, KENNA, JOSH AND MICHELLE DIVIDING OUT CHARCOAL, CUPS AND PLATES, MAMA JAJA- THE LADY WHO COOKED EACH NIGHT, 26 PILES OF THE SUPPLIES, OLD WATER BOTTLES FILLED WITH PARIFFIN (KEROSENE) ON THE LEFT) AND COOKING OIL (ON THE RIGHT), CALVERY YOUTH GROUP MOVING THE SUPPLIES TO THE CHURCH FOR DISTRIBUTION, 26 PORTIONS OF POSHO FLOUR

# PREPARING FOR REBUILDING



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

CLEARING THE SITE OF ONE 6 UNIT HOUSE WITH KELLI, BECKA, MIKE AND VOLUNTEERING VICTIMS, SOME OF THE MEN LAYING OUT THE UNITS AND DIGGING THE HOLES FOR THE SUPPORT POLES, KELLI RAKING OUT THE TRASH AND BIGGER ROCKS, THE SMALL AREA THAT WAS AFFECTED BY THE FIRE, JOHNNY MEASURING OUT AND STAKING ONE OF THE UNITS