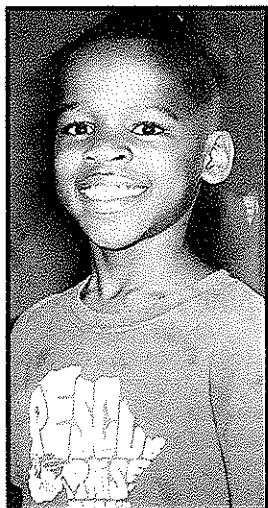




CHILDREN'S CHOIR



RESCUE

RAISE

REBUILD

"For God so loved the world . . ." (John 3:16)

On Tuesday evening, May 17, following the performance of the Watoto Children's Choir, several of us had the privilege of hosting the aunties, uncles and children in our homes. Following are some of the reflections on that experience.

The Waasdorps got to host Auntie "Jo-Shan", along with 11-year old Barbara and 14-year old Jackiline on Tuesday night. We were relieved that they passed the "big dog" test, although Jackiline recoiled slightly when we suggested that the cat might invite herself to sleep in *her room!* We were both so impressed at how polite and well-spoken these girls are. They have such sweet spirits and were so thankful—but as we told them, it was truly our privilege to have them as guests!

— *Ed & Denise Waasdorp*

We were blessed to have Yusef, age 9 and Trevor, age 8 stay with us. They both agreed that beans and rice are their favorite food. They have no bicycles, or place to swim, no TV or electronics, but Trevor is ready to go home. With all that we think we can show them here—there is still no place like home—a little village built by God's people somewhere in the heart of Uganda.

— *Denny & Kathi Dunham*

WE were blessed!!!

It was the first time that we were able to see the Watoto Children's Choir, and from start to finish, it was amazing! They were filled with such energy and excitement for the Lord. We were able to host 3 precious young ladies in our home for the night. They were ages 10, 13 and 28 years old. I think what spoke the loudest to us, was just how GRATEFUL for everything they were. They were so polite and kind and so sincere. What was amazing to us, was not just how they conducted themselves in total stranger's homes, but how disciplined and respectful they were. We pray that God will continue to use these precious children in a mighty way across this country and that the Lord will continue to bless them and the Watoto ministry. For us, their true ministry was the very short time they spent in our home, not just the hour at the church during their performance.

— *Blessings, Rus & Karen Gustin*
Continued on next page.

"WATOTO"

(Continued from Front page.)

Having Uncle Roger, Reagan, Elijah and Nicholas stay with us for approximately 12 hours was a treat—one which we would have enjoyed for longer. Maybe next time we can put our order in early and have a Monday night performance so we can do more than feed them and provide for a good nights rest. Roger said he'd be all for it.

When we got home Tuesday evening we told them what was available to eat before bedtime. They all wanted fruit and fried eggs. When asked how they'd like their eggs, they said "hard" - over and over and over. So that's what they got—our way. However, Roger told us that in the morning they'd show us how to fix fried eggs the Uganda way.

In the morning we had fruit, waffles, Uganda fried eggs and some other good things.

We had a great time together, but all too soon it was time to get back to church for school and the bus ride to Painted Post.

The boys shared their ambitions with us, and we talked about their native foods. They confided in me that they really miss beans and rice, and their favorite meat is beef.

Some day the boys will most likely be a pilot, a doctor and a pastor. Roger is an electrical engineer, and implied that his association with Watoto is a "giving back" situation. God touched his heart and Roger said, "Here I am Lord, send me." We should be more like him.

We supported their theme of hope and stressed how all of us are God's children and that He looks at us all being equal—one no better than another. We blessed each other and prayed together before saying good bye. It was a good time!

—Alice & Dave Palmatier

My Dad needed me. My brother was out of town on business and couldn't make it to my Dad's cardiologist appointment. I volunteered to drive to Cleveland because I was concerned about my Dad. God gave me the strength to drive to Cleveland on Sunday, go with him to his doctor's appointment on Monday, get his blood work completed, go out to lunch, return for an echocardiogram, go grocery shopping with him and return to Wellsville by 8:30 PM on Monday.

Okay God now I need your strength to host three boys and an uncle from the Watoto Children's Choir. He made the provision and after the wonderful concert we unloaded all the back packs and got them in their rooms and Pastor Mason returned with everyone's favorite pizza! The boys were most interested in our family photos on the refrigerator and scattered around the room. "Who's that? Is this your son?" Daniel became "hunter boy" after they saw the pictures of him with his deer. David became "Soldier boy" because he's in the army, Stephen was the teacher, and Anna she was our daughter! The importance of family and who belongs to whom took on new significance when sharing with children who have been orphaned by disease or war. I realized the importance of God's family, the church, in the lives of these young men. Our testimony of faithfulness and obedience to Him and His word are critical. God's family, they body of Christ, reaching out in love to war torn diseased Uganda by loving 3 little boys and an uncle. Thank you God for the privilege.

—Joan Sorensen

I am so grateful that the Lord has provided a home for me with a GUEST room! It was such a pleasure to be able to host 3 lovely ladies from Uganda, in Genesee, PA no less. And with a pizza place next door it was easy to surprise them with a bed time treat of cheese and pepperoni pizza. It was the first of many "Thank You's" from them. They thanked me for everything, getting in the car out of the car, food on the table, after food was gone from the table, still thank you's. Squeals and screams went up as they met Winnie, my golden retriever and the new addition, Jack the cat.

Let me introduce you to "my girls": **Fortunate** is 9 and has been at the Watoto home for just one year. She loves math and wants to be an accountant. She is a very lovely and expressive little girl. She was quite afraid of my kitten, but by the next morning she was playing with him with the extended arm of a stick with a feather ball on the end. I am not sure who was chasing whom around the coffee table but I had to call her a couple of times for breakfast. **Ritah** is 13 and has been at Watoto for 4 years; much more time to have experienced the healing love and care that is obviously there for the children. She loves science and hopes to be a future leader by being a nurse. Ritah never warmed up to the cat, but by morning she tolerated the dog. Pets in homes is not something to which they are accustomed. Before breakfast, **Auntie Jessica** softly told me that Winnie was a very nice dog. She said she came into their room in the morning and was very gentle. Auntie Jessica works in the administrative offices of Watoto, in charge of making the arrangements for all of their choirs that are touring in 5 different countries. She obtains passports and visas, books flights, and arranges for the costumes. She said she does anything that needs to get done to get a choir tour on the road. She also works with the children on their music.

I had the opportunity to join them in prayer on the bus just before they left for the next concert in Painted Post. It was a joy. And again, more "Thank you's". One night never seems adequate to be able to fully learn all that the Lord intends for us to learn from this little group of fellow sisters and brother in the Lord. All of us have little amounts of time the we spend here and there. Wouldn't it be great if we could impart as much of God's love to others in our daily adventures as these children do?

—Luanne Cline

What an amazing and humbling privilege to spend a few short hours with these precious children of God. Auntie Dorah—26, Peace—8, Mariah—8, and Racheal—13 (claiming to be 17 because of her height) were my Watoto guests. We spent time around the dining table having a bedtime snack of pizza and fruit juice and chatting. Auntie Dorah, Peace and Mariah all had birthdays in May and Racheal's is in November (still insisting to be 17!) Racheal and Mariah's favorite subject is math and Peace's is English, which I loved hearing them all speak. They were all very soft spoken though Mariah was so much so that she was very hard to hear except when they started giggling—then Peace broke into a litany of investigative reporter questions with Auntie Dorah which was great fun! Before heading off to bed, at Auntie Dorah's request, we stood in a circle in the kitchen holding hands and praying together. When I look back on their gratitude and respect for *everything*, and their love for Jesus—how much more they have given us than we could ever begin to give them.

—Cheryl Perry