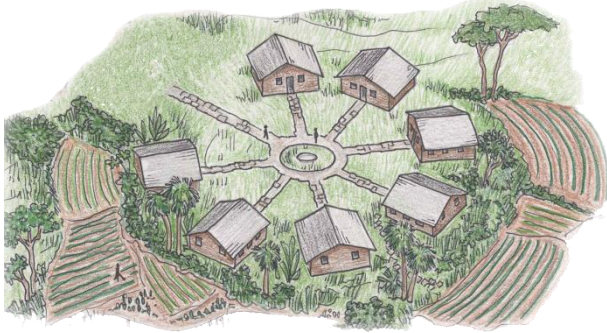


Life at Restoration Gateway

You may wonder what life looks like for your sponsored child...

Restoration Gateway is 500 acres of land on the banks of the Nile River in northern Uganda. At RG the children live in pods, which are groups of houses. Currently, there are three pods of completed houses, and eventually there will be five pods. When a child comes to live at RG, they get a new house mom, whom they call Auntie (in the traditional Ugandan way), and seven new brothers and sisters.



There is a school on the RG property which the orphans attend. Most of them arrive at RG without much, or sometimes any, formal schooling. But even those who are far behind in grade level now have the opportunity to advance year by year. Currently classes at RG range from

Nursery to Primary 3 and each day begins with a time of worship and devotions. Older children also learn skills such as carpentry or construction. Friday evenings finds the children worshipping together and on Sundays the kids go to church in the multipurpose building.

Just like in most homes, the children at RG also have chores. Some help cook the meals. The kitchens don't have electric stoves but instead use traditional Ugandan mud stoves. Every house has a vegetable garden, and the kids help with the gardening—in Uganda gardening is called "digging." Learning how to dig and how to cook over a mud stove are good things for the kids to learn, because when they grow up and leave RG they will still be able to fit into their traditional culture.



Almost every child at RG was very excited to receive their own personal basin! These basins hold the child's clothes. Some orphans have never had something of their very own. The kids at RG eat lots of beans, cassava, and other vegetables from their gardens, and traditional maize meal. They also often eat fish, meat or chicken, and for some this is the first time in their lives that they've consistently had meat to eat.

There are lots of other things to do at RG besides go to school. Like children the world over, kids at RG love soccer, jump rope, and swinging.



They are learning about Jesus at school, at home and at church and most of them love singing and praying. If they still have family living nearby (aunts, uncles, cousins), they may get a visit from them once or twice a year.



If you go to RG to visit your sponsored child, there is a huge hug and a big smile waiting for you 😊

Life in Northern Uganda

You may wonder about life in northern Uganda...



Uganda is a beautiful country, with forests, savannahs, and farmland. It is in East Africa, bordering Kenya and Rwanda. It has a tropical climate, meaning that instead of summer and winter, the seasons are rainy and dry. The Nile River, the longest river in the world, starts in Lake Victoria in the far south of Uganda and ends in Egypt.



The two facets of Uganda which have probably most influenced the orphans at RG are the HIV/AIDS crisis and the civil war in northern Uganda. HIV/AIDS has devastated Uganda, as it has many countries in Africa. Many, many of the children at RG have lost parents to AIDS. The church in Uganda has been able to partner with the government in a unique way, reducing HIV/AIDS dramatically in the 1990's and early 2000's. In the past few years, however, the AIDS rate has been on the rise again.

Uganda has been terribly affected by wars, coups, and civil war for many years. Most recently, the LRA (Lord's Resistance Army) waged civil war in northern Uganda for 25 years. The LRA was famous for its use of witchcraft to gain power, and for the kidnapping of children in order to force them to become child soldiers.



The world became aware of the LRA through the *Invisible Children* film documentary in 2003. In 2004-2005, the church in Uganda joined together in a concerted way to pray over and break the power of the LRA's witchcraft. In the several years after that, the Ugandan army was finally, after 20 years of effort, able to push the LRA out of Uganda. Since 2007, peace and restoration have begun to come to the area. The work at RG is one of the many avenues that the Lord is using to bring healing of wounds to the people of northern Uganda.

What Your Financial Sponsorship Provides

You may wonder what your sponsorship provides for your child...

- A new home, with a bed and belongings of their own
- Indoor and outdoor recreation areas, playgrounds and soccer fields
- All meals
- Clothing
- Stipend for their house mom
- Salaries for their teachers
- School books and supplies
- Free medical care provided by RG