



**World***Help*

HELP FOR TODAY ... HOPE FOR TOMORROW

## **Good Samaritan Children's Center Project Proposal**

Helping the Forgotten Children  
of Northern Uganda



## The Need

**Civil war has been raging in Northern Uganda for 19 years. What makes this war unique is that it is fought by children.**

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Civil war has been raging in Northern Uganda for 19 years. What makes this war unique is that it is fought by children. Children as young as 7 years old have been kidnapped and forced to become soldiers... forced to kill friends and family. The so-called Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) is the rebel group responsible for this atrocity. They abduct children because they can be easily manipulated and brainwashed. The LRA arms the child-soldiers with a lightweight "child-sized" assault weapon. It is kill or be killed. The youngest girls abducted by the rebels become "wives." These are children birthing children who become a second generation of young militants that have never known anything except violence.

One boy was actually forced by the rebels to kill his brother. They put a gun to his head and told him that if he didn't kill his brother they would kill him. They wanted to enforce so much guilt and shame on this child that he would not be tempted to escape and go home.

A young girl, by the name of Grace, was abducted at 11 years old. The soldiers came in, killed her father, and then beat her and her mother. Abducted into the army, she was forced to carry a weapon and ammunition. She became pregnant by one of the soldiers, and had a baby when she was 12 years old. The baby was killed by gunshot. She tried to escape, but was captured and beaten ... over 100 lashes. Finally, she and her brother escaped, but when they returned home, their mother had been stabbed by the rebels and had gone insane. Grace continues to have nightmares every night.

Unfortunately these stories are not just isolated instances. This is the normal way of life for these children. In spite of horrendous treatment and continued threats, many boys and girls have tried to escape from the clutches of the LRA, and few have made it out alive. The numbers are staggering ... thousands of children abducted and forced to kill hundreds of thousands of their peers. The Government of Uganda forces have engaged the LRA on several occasions. But tragically, they only end up fighting the children they are desperately trying to save.





## The Need

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Hundreds of thousands of children and teenagers in the areas surrounding Kitgum, Gulu, Pader and Lira, Uganda have no hope ... they have no future. The LRA and AIDS have left unimaginable scars on these children. As the conflict intensified, the Government of Uganda began encouraging rural people in affected areas to move into protective "Internally Displaced People" (IDP) camps near these northern towns. Due to lack of preparation and the huge influx of people, the camp conditions are deplorable and inhumane. More than 1.6 million displaced people have fled from their native villages to the squalor and hopelessness of the overcrowded refugee camps. Round huts with thatched roofs, only ten feet in diameter, house an entire family. The huts are so close together that it is hard to walk between them. The children in the IDP camps must endure dust storms in the dry season, mud in the rainy season, and unimaginable filth. Water is a precious commodity and toilets are few. Promiscuity and the lack of outside protection expose the camp residents to disease and abuse. Such a sudden and massive arrival of children and young people in areas already ravaged by civil war is having catastrophic health consequences.

Many children have been born and have lived their entire lives in these squalid camps; it is the only life they have ever known. They have received almost no education and their only earthly possessions are the clothes on their backs.

A substantial number of the teenagers in the camps have been abducted in the past. Forced to kill and forced into sexual slavery, they have seen and experienced the most horrible acts imaginable. These former child-soldiers, wives, and refugee camp dwellers are Uganda's *Forgotten Children*. They live daily with an overwhelming fear that we cannot begin to understand, even as adults. These *Forgotten Children* are part of the worst humanitarian crisis the world has ever known.

We must help! God has called World Help to play a part in stopping the harm... in providing hope... and in helping to give these children a future. We want to provide for ten "Good Samaritan Children's Centers" in Northern Uganda. Each center will provide a way for 50 helpless, hopeless children to have a future.





## The Partner

### Alex Mitala

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Born on February 22, 1952, Alex Mitala was one of 11 children. His drunkard father left the home when Alex was young, leaving his mother to raise the family. At age 15, Alex dropped out of school and two years later he was a wanted drug pusher – selling drugs to children. By age 20, he lay dying of malaria in the jungle where he took refuge. Through his fever he heard a voice saying, “Mitala, if you do not get saved, you will surely die!” This message was repeated three times a day for three days. He wondered, “What does ‘saved’ mean?” After he was miraculously healed, Alex went to find out. In December of 1971, God led him to a small evangelical church where he was saved and changed for life. Five years later, during the violent reign of Idi Amin, Alex was smuggling Gospel literature to the underground church in Uganda – this time an outlaw for Christ!

During the unrest in Uganda, Alex lived in Kenya where he planted three churches. Upon returning to his country in 1979, he began *Back to the Bible Truth (BBT)* to help the fractured church reorganize and grow. His ability to speak six languages helped him reach multitudes who had never heard the name of Jesus.

Alex Mitala and his wife, Catherine, are currently raising six biological children and 14 orphans. He is also the chief overseer of an entire denomination in Uganda with over 10,000 affiliated churches. Alex has introduced World Help to local pastors in Northern Uganda who have a passionate heart for helping the *Forgotten Children*. These pastors and their congregations do not personally have the resources to help and feel guilty because all they can do is stand by and watch. They have no way to meet this great need and they have asked for our help.





## The Strategy

### Ugandan pastors and churches who have vision and can effectively meet needs.

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The pastors from Northern Uganda have shared their vision of providing 14 Good Samaritan Children's Centers to help the *Forgotten Children*. These pastors and leaders of the local churches live each day surrounded by suffering. They know what can be done as well as the culturally-sensitive methods that are most effective. God has given each of them unique vision about how they can give hope and a future to children in the towns of Kitgum, Gulu, Pader and Lira. The pastors have told us that they have the vision, but they do not have the resources to help.

There are so many needs: education, medical care, food, clothing, vocational training, counseling, and simply love. No one organization or program can provide for all of these, and no organization outside of Northern Uganda can be completely effective at providing those needs without internal assistance. The Ugandan pastors and churches that are our co-laborers are in a key position to know how to best to meet the need: They have lived with the *Forgotten Children* for years. They are respected in their own towns. They speak the languages. They know the influential government officials, the camp commanders, the military leaders, and the school officials.

These Ugandan pastors want to use what they do have – their church buildings and their congregations – to establish Good Samaritan Children's Centers. World Help is in a unique position to provide them with the resources to do it.

All of the Good Samaritan Children's Centers in Northern Uganda will have the following strategies in common:

- They will provide for the needs of fifty children.
- They will help the neediest of children: young children and teenagers in camps or villages who have been orphaned – either one or both parents dead because of violence or AIDS.
- They will ensure a Christ-centered focus for all of the activities and programs that they undertake. The children will be shown the love of Jesus on a consistent basis, week in and week out.
- They will provide appropriate educational resources, given the unique needs and abilities of each child. Education is the key to helping these children escape from hopelessness and poverty.





## The Strategy

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Although each center's core strategy will have some common elements, the individual Good Samaritan Children's Centers will also be unique. Each one will be tailored to meet specific needs prevalent in the villages and IDP camps near the churches.

- Some will function as a "daycare center." Young children will come to the church in the morning and leave late in the afternoon. The center will provide three meals a day and basic primary school education.
- Some will provide boarding-school education for children. There are a number of Christian boarding schools in Northern Uganda that will work hand-in-hand with our partner churches. The pastors will regularly monitor the progress of the children, and the children will stay with the pastors and their churches during holidays and school breaks.
- Some will help teenagers, providing the resources for them to attend vocational training programs in fields such as welding, carpentry, masonry, sewing and hair care. Teenagers who have a minimum 7<sup>th</sup> grade education are eligible for these vocational programs.
- Some will actually provide vocational training at or near the center. This will enable the church to help the most needy teenagers, those who do not have the required education level and cannot qualify for conventional vocational programs.
- Some will utilize a combination of these approaches to most effectively meet the needs of the 50 children that God has entrusted to them.





## The Opportunity

### We cannot just “Do Nothing”.

We can't just “pass on the other side” and do nothing. We need to be the Good Samaritan and do whatever we can to help.

For \$39,000 we can underwrite one center for an entire year. The local pastors will be the directors of the centers, and they and their congregations will provide the love and care that these traumatized children desperately need. Your gift of \$39,000 will supply the following:

- Structural improvements to house a Good Samaritan Children's Center
- Furnishings
- Utilities
- Scholastic materials
- Uniforms/Clothing
- School fees
- Kitchen utensils
- Daily meals
- Salaries for cooks, academic tutors, supervisor etc.
- Medical care
- Grief counseling
- Bible lessons

World Help is committed to help transform the Good Samaritan Children's Centers from vision to reality. Please consider joining us! You can help make a difference in the lives of hundreds of needy children. You may be able to help with a small part of this project or you may be able to provide for an entire children's center.

Additionally, for only \$24 a month, you can sponsor one of the *Forgotten Children*. With your help, many of these children will experience God's love in such a way that they commit their lives to His service. Christ-centered children's centers will play a significant part in raising up the next generation of Christian pastors, church planters, teachers, doctors and nurses throughout Uganda.





## Why World Help?

### Fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandment

World Help exists to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandment through partnering, training, helping and serving, especially in the unreached areas of the world. Our mission is accomplished through a variety of programs and projects including effective evangelism, discipleship, church planting, humanitarian aid, child sponsorship, leadership training and literature distribution.

World Help provides information, a network of international contacts, and financial and ministry accountability for each mission project in which we participate. Since our inception, World Help has touched over 59 countries through our ministries. We have seen and responded to the spiritual and humanitarian needs of people groups around the world. God has truly blessed us and opened so many doors to spread His Word to the ends of the earth. We give all the praise and glory to God for what He has accomplished in and through us.

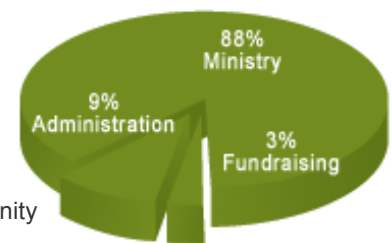
#### Mission Statement

*We exist to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandment through partnering, training, helping and serving, especially in the unreached areas of the world.*

#### Core Values

We are committed to:

- Authentic Relationships and Teamwork
- Fanatical Attention to Quality and Detail
- Working with Passion and Enthusiasm
- Always Doing what is Right
- Accomplishing God-Sized Tasks that Last for Eternity



*World Help is committed to faithful stewardship of funds entrusted to us by donors. We promise to use your gifts wisely and effectively in Christ's name. World Help strives to keep overhead costs to a minimum using only 9% for the administration of our various projects. All gifts designated for specific projects are used as designated.*

*To ensure our financial accountability to you, World Help is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) and an annual financial report is readily available for anyone requesting a copy.*

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