

is how the laws of physics appear to be non-existent. Little motorcycles everywhere called boda-bodas, used as taxis, zoom in and out of little spaces that you wouldn't think possible; 1980s Toyota vans, also taxis, crowd the roads and somehow manage to squeeze through spaces that look impossible while also squeezing an impossible amount of people into them. The amount of stuff Ugandan people can manage to put onto one boda-boda is astounding. As Pastor Phil had said, they are masters of Tetris. I literally witnessed a boda-boda going down the road with a set of furniture on the back. A set! A dining table, a chair, and a couple other pieces.

Which brings me to our task on the second day, to get beds to the CII school that is surrounded by what I would call the jungle, or what Pastor Phil said was "in the middle of the bush." Uganda has terrible storms, and Grace Children's Home was subject to one that landed a tree right on top of the boy's dormitory, crushing all their beds. Luckily, no one was in the building at the time and the dormitory has already been partially fixed.

We hired a dump truck to meet us at Rock of Joy where the beds had been stored. Slowly, we had people stack 16 bunk beds into this one dump truck. Somehow they managed it with no one getting hurt and none of the beds breaking.

While the truck was loaded, I walked a tour of the school. Rock of Joy is well developed and has mostly brick and concrete buildings. One of the concrete buildings is in bad need of interior repairs and paint and exterior paint as well. Allan has started a painting and home repair business, hiring graduates of Rock of Joy, so CII gave him the funding to repair the building as needed.

There are two buildings built with wood planks that need to be replaced with brick and concrete in the next two years according to government inspectors. The concrete delivered on the first day will help start that process to show that they are making progress. A proper kitchen needs to be built, there is a cooking furnace that works

well but the walls and floor around it need to be replaced and a concrete floor is needed.

After the bunk beds had finally been stacked on top of the dump truck we had more supplies to get before heading to Grace Children's Home. Of course these supplies were also being stacked onto the same dump truck. By the end there were 16 bunk beds, 32 mattresses, and 2.5 tons of concrete in one truck.

The drive there through thick trees on a somewhat-there road was interesting enough, but the best part was seeing the kid's reaction to the truck of beds coming down the road. They were so excited that they helped unload the beds and carry them into their dorm.

Grace Children's Home was beautiful. Abraham, the head teacher and Pastor Daniel's son, does wonderful landscaping and has made a small bridge that crosses a stream that begins at their well and a garden area. I got to see their pigs, ducks, and what was left of their chickens. Last year during a funeral that everyone attended, the school had about 230 chickens stolen. Every child at this location is an orphan, there are no families to pay for them to attend, so what they already have is how they take care of themselves.

The concrete brought in will help start a barrier wall to prevent the theft of more animals but more importantly, it will prevent the theft of children. One of the biggest problems in Uganda is human trafficking and Grace Children's Home is dealing with this issue first-hand. Last year traffickers came through the trees that surround the school and took a young boy. Thankfully the boy was found and returned but the traffickers were never caught. The wall and gates will help protect these children from this happening. We are hoping that the wall can be built over the next year or so.

As we had lunch in a wood gazebo-like hut,

❖ GOOD CAUSE *continued on page 24*



Allan and Shirley as we wait to get the van in for new tires.



The kids were so excited they helped unload the beds and carried them to their dorm.



Pastor Dick of Jireh Primary School stands next to the clean water well that we tasted from while visiting.



One of the first of many children I saw wandering around alone and with no shoes.



Boda-boda taxi and a man carrying new bedding on his head. I was amazed by how much stuff and weight people carried around like this.