

# UGANDA COUNTRY INFO

## The Location

We will be serving in Kampala, in the south of Uganda. Uganda is a landlocked country about the size of the state of Oregon in the middle region of Africa. Its Lake Victoria is the world's second largest inland freshwater lake (about 4,000 mi<sup>2</sup> smaller than Lake Superior). The climate is primarily tropical but varies based on location in mountains, valleys, and plateaus. Two wet seasons from April to May and October to November provide a large amount of precipitation to the country.

## The Condition

The country's past struggles with AIDS and political unrest have left a wake of destruction. 50% of the population is under the age of 14. 2.6 million children have lost at least one parent. As a country, Uganda is one of the top consumers of alcohol. Though the people of Uganda face these issues and more every day, the hope of Christ is invading the country. As you experience Uganda, you have the opportunity to share the Gospel with those who have not yet discovered it and rejoice with those who have... in church services often lasting 4-6 hours!

## The Strategy

Once you arrive in country, you will be involved in a variety of ministry opportunities. These include ministering at 2 different orphanages, working with local pastors to evangelize their communities, community development projects, serving local churches and pastors, and evangelism presentations and one-on-one outreach.

## Cultural Tips

Uganda has a rich and varied culture as it is home to a great many ethnic groups. Broadly speaking, theatre is popular art form across the country. Music is widely enjoyed as well, both foreign and traditional which often involves instruments like they lyre, marimba (xylophone) and thumb piano. Football (soccer) is well loved too.

The staple diet of Uganda, especially the southern regions, is *matoke*, a kind of plantain that is often cooked into stew or curry. Also common is *ugali* (a maize porridge), rice, and meat stew

which includes liver, stomach, intestines, tongue, etc. Chai (tea) and coffee are the preferred beverages. Though half of its population lives on less than a dollar a day, the country is well known for its warmth and hospitality.

### **Challenges for Prayer**

Begin to pray daily for Uganda. Lift up the local church and its leaders as they minister to the people in their communities. Pray for those we will have the opportunity to share the Gospel with and for their continued relationship with the Lord and involvement in the church long after our team has left. Pray for spiritual freedom for Ugandan believers and physical freedom for the thousands of people in bondage, both those forced into slavery by others and those bound by addiction and sin. Prepare for the Lord to use you to shine the light of Jesus through the darkness in Uganda!

### **Our Ministry Schedule**

As we worship and serve together, our team will bring light into the spiritual darkness and help the truth of the Gospel shine brighter than ever!! The week will include:

- Serving at 2 orphanages
- Community development projects and tribal village outreaches
- Teaching students conversational English
- Visiting and encouraging house churches
- Adventure Day – Boat ride on the Nile, explore the wilds of Africa, shop native handcrafts, and more...