



## **Witness to a Return Home: A Trip to Uganda Tentative Itinerary**

**Thursday, November 4 to Tuesday, November 16**

### **Background and purpose**

In northern Uganda, more than 1.8 million people have been displaced from their homes for as long as 22 years. Targeted by both sides in the brutal war between the Lord's Resistance Army and the Ugandan government, the Acholi people have been subject to extreme violence and forced to live in camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs). Thousands have been killed; homes, roads, and services have been destroyed; and the very fabric of Acholi culture has been torn. In 2007, however, with the departure of both rebels and the government military, relative peace arrived in the area after years of atrocities. Families yearned, and finally had the opportunity, to return to their villages, but they faced huge obstacles in doing so.

Over the past several years, UUSC has been using its unique eye-to-eye partnership to help more than 6,000 people return to their villages in an integrated, sustainable way. During this trip, participants will learn about UUSC's work with Caritas Pader on the resettlement of people displaced by the war. They will learn about the war itself, the period of displacement, and the process of resettlement.

At the same time that UUSC has been working in northern Uganda, the UUA has been developing a relationship with Rev. Mark Kiyimba, leader of a UU congregation in Kampala, Uganda's capital. Kiyimba runs a 400-student school and 20-child orphanage near Masaka and has also been campaigning against the Ugandan parliament's "Anti-Homosexuality Bill." Participants on the trip will worship with Ugandan UUs; meet with other leaders in the struggle for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people's rights in Kampala; and visit the school and orphanage the Kampala congregation supports.

### **Tentative itinerary**

#### **Wednesday, November 3: Arrival**

- Arrive at Entebbe International Airport and travel to Kampala
- Dinner and accommodation in Kampala to be paid for by participants

#### **Thursday, November 4: Kampala**

- Welcome and overview
- Tour of Kampala locations; possibilities include Buganda Kingdom and the Uganda Museum
- Meals and accommodations in Kampala

#### **Friday, November 5: Kampala**

- Tour of Kampala locations; possibilities include the Martyrs Shrine and the Entebbe Botanical Gardens
- Conversation with journalists who covered the Lord's Resistance Army
- Meals and accommodations in Kampala

#### **Saturday, November 6: Gulu**

- Visit Aboke Girl's School to learn about the abduction of young women by the Lord's Resistance Army and the process of healing the community
- Visit Iceme Mission to learn about the attack on the Catholic Mission by the Lord's Resistance Army and the process of healing the community
- Dinner and accommodations in Gulu

#### **Sunday, November 7: Gulu**

- Service at Catholic Church
- Meeting with Archbishop John Baptist Odama to discuss conflict and contribution of the church in support of mission
- Visit the Acholi Bur Camp, a camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in northern Uganda
- Visit the market and town
- Meals and accommodations in Gulu

#### **Monday, November 8: Pader**

- Visit Caritas head office in Gulu
- Visit monument in Lacekocot
- Meet with district officials
- Meet with staff in the Caritas office in Pader
- Meals and accommodations in Pader

### **Tuesday, November 9: Pader**

- Visit Achulu Camp and resettled Village: meet with community members in the sites of operation and learn how they are coping with returning home, and share in their culture of music and dance
- Tour of Pader
- Meals and accommodations in Pader

### **Wednesday, November 10: Pader**

- Visit second camp and resettled village: meet with community members in the sites of operation, learn how they are coping with returning home, and share in their culture of music and dance
- Meals and accommodations in Pader

### **Thursday, November 11: Pader**

- Visit Pajule Mission
- Appropriate technology visit and learning experience
- Evening with Caritas
- Meals and accommodations in Pader

### **Friday, November 12 and Saturday, November 13: Kabarega National Park**

- Depart for Murchison Falls, Masindi
- Kabarega and Murchinson Falls National Park: boat trips and walks to see animals and nature up close
- Meals and accommodations in the park

### **Sunday, November 14: Kampala**

- Travel to Kampala
- Meet and worship with Rev. Mark Kiyimba and the Unitarian Universalists of Kampala and learn about UU Kampala's work for the rights of gay and lesbian Ugandans
- Meals and accommodations in Kampala

### **Monday, November 15: Kampala**

- Travel to Masaka with a stop at the equator
- Visit an orphanage for 20 HIV-AIDS orphans sponsored by the congregation, as well as a school for more than 400 HIV-AIDS orphans in a nearby village
- Dinner and celebration in Kampala
- Accommodations in Kampala

### **Tuesday, November 16: Kampala**

- Reflection on the trip and goodbyes
- Depart for home
- Optional side trip to Kidepo Valley National Park for three-night stay; contact Nichole Cirillo for more information

**\* Itinerary and trip details subject to change at the discretion of staff. More detailed information will be available to interested participants and as the date of the trip nears.**