

## **Contributions to Uganda and Ongoing Efforts**

In 2007, Michael Blomsterberg was honored to lead a team of visionaries on a mission to Uganda – a country afflicted by disease, poverty, famine, and war. Michael's mission was in support of Clovis Ategeka and his nonprofit organization, VisionForce Uganda (VFU). VFU strives to provide the knowledge and education necessary for Ugandans to transcend and prosper by teaching vision, leadership, and entrepreneurial skills to the youth. They then possess the tools and inspiration to create immediate and ongoing change in their lives and the confidence to create their own jobs after graduation. As part of their mission, Michael and his group created, furnished, and equipped VFU's "Vision Café", which offers services at subsidized prices and acts as a source of supporting funds for VFU.

The following include some of the extraordinary contributions made by Michael and his team through the Uganda Mission:

- ☞ The raising of \$32,771.42 (\$3,171.42 over goal!)
- ☞ The donation of ten computers, one Visionary Mind Program, one 3-in-1 fax machine, one photocopy machine, two printers, and indoor and outdoor furniture
- ☞ The complete renovation of the interior and exterior of the Vision Café
- ☞ The purchasing and posting of advertising signage for the Vision Café
- ☞ The purchasing of VisionForce Uganda's website, and the employment of VFU students to build the site
- ☞ The outfitting of the office with the tools and supplies necessary for startup
- ☞ The pre-payment of four months' rent for the Vision Café
- ☞ The shooting of 28 hours of raw footage, including personal interviews with VFU students, for a documentary to create awareness about Uganda
- ☞ The delivery of "Shoes of Hope" to orphanage and street children in Jinja
- ☞ The execution of a multimedia press event for the grand opening of the Vision Café
- ☞ The leading of six entrepreneurial leadership workshops for the Kampala community
- ☞ The leading of a meeting with Community Development Association of Uganda (a human rights organization), and the donating of funds to the organization
- ☞ The allocating of raised funds in support of as many VFU-related businesses and individuals as possible

The following include some of Michael's ongoing efforts since his return from Uganda:

- ☞ Michael has engaged in ongoing communication with VFU in support of the students' visions and projects. In addition, he regularly sends empowering books and tools to Uganda to aid the students in their quests. His efforts have helped the students to discover newfound self-reliance. As a result, many of them have made remarkable achievements in both their professional and personal lives.
- ☞ *VisionForce: Uganda*, the documentary created by Michael's team, has been completed. It is currently being used to raise awareness and provide greater opportunities and resources for upcoming missions. *VisionForce: Uganda* can be viewed in its entirety under The Film tab on the Humanitarian Efforts page of Michael's website.
- ☞ Michael has continued his work with MercyLine Ministries, funding and overseeing "The Poultry Project". This program helps orphans and widows affected by the genocide in northern Uganda by feeding and funding them while they work toward a life outside of the refugee camps.
- ☞ Plans for Michael's next mission are currently underway.