

## Christmas Parties Prove Powerful

### What God Did During Christmas 2010

*“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives & release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor & the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn...”* Isaiah 61:1, 2

“Amazing grace, how sweet the sound...” This refrain could well describe what took place this past Christmas season in seven prisons in and around Kampala, Uganda, as nearly 1200 prisoners answered God’s call on their life. This wasn’t how the Christmas outreaches were originally planned by the Sports Outreach Kampala staff; in fact, the word they got in October was “Be prepared for reduced funds for the Christmas parties and outreaches.” Though donors in the USA were faithfully doing all they could, the reality was that- “this would be a lean year for the parties and outreaches.” Through the staff’s prayer time God led them to determine to do the very most with whatever He provided in order to share Christmas with as many slum children as possible.



By October’s end the Kampala staff received requests from other faith-based non-profits; “Can you help us with our Christmas outreaches? Our funds are very low.” Churches began to realize that there would be less to share with the poor at Christmas and they too, sought help from our staff. After more prayer and deliberation the staff decided on a radical plan of action. They would move forward without fear. In fact they would plan to provide for even more people this year than in Christmases past.

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#### CONTACT UPDATE

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*Do you have a prayer request or praise?*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Learn more about Gift Planning to support Sports Outreach Institute.  
Email Dave Biehl at [DBiehl@SportsOutreach.net](mailto:DBiehl@SportsOutreach.net).

And what was the result? The largest Christmas outreach in the history of Sports Outreach! Over 425 children from four slum projects received clothes, food, a Bible, a toy and a Christmas feast with friends and Sports Outreach staff. An additional 85 families were given Family Packs that included eight weeks of food, clothes for every family member, a Bible, and household goods bringing joy to another 515 individuals trapped in the grip of poverty. Of these, 136 people made first time professions of faith in Jesus!



As if this wasn't enough, Sports Outreach was able to assist several of the organizations that had earlier sought help. More Bibles, food and clothes were available to share with another 1,145 people! One of those organizations, Mercy Link, provides spiritual guidance and assistance to prisoners and their families. During the days leading up to Christmas they partnered with Sports Outreach to hold celebrations in seven prisons! 7,081 prisoners received food, a Bible, soap, and flip-flops! Nearly 425 prisoners' children also celebrated Christmas with a feast and puppet show; they left with a new toy and a children's Bible. God had indeed taken the staff's radical plan of action and multiplied it one hundredfold. Like the parties in the slums, the prison outreaches included prayer, singing and sharing the Christmas story and a gospel presentation.

God used many of you to provide the funds and prayer covering so vital to these ministries. God brought His people from different churches, organizations and backgrounds to share a message of faith that spoke to the poor, the lost, the hopeless and the prisoners. God's grace caused many to accept Jesus. It is indeed "The year of the Lord's favor."

Your support, encouragement and prayers continue to sustain SOI and its ministries. If God favorably leads you to a financial contribution won't you please consider a special gift to support the full-time Sports Outreach staff in Africa?



*Grace & Peace,*

*Rodney*





P.S. - Please note our new phone number, effective March 1st: 434-582-4707.



**Yes! I Want To Support SOI ...**

- Please accept my gift for the work and staff in Africa.
  - Please use my gift "Where Needed Most".
  - Please use my gift as staff support for \_\_\_\_\_
  - OR, please use my gift for \_\_\_\_\_
- Please make checks payable to Sports Outreach Institute.

**PAYMENT OPTIONS** [accepted online as well @ [www.sportsoutreach.net](http://www.sportsoutreach.net)]

Donate via credit card (circle card type):    

Card#: \_\_\_\_\_  One Time  Monthly

Amt \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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