

1:ONE

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THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL BUT THE WORKERS ARE FEW

SOROTI, UGANDA - While some people might focus on the overwhelming suffering and need in Uganda, Tim and Angie Sliedrecht look around and see tremendous opportunity.

"There is so much potential here," Tim Sliedrecht said. "The harvest is plentiful. I would like people to consider the opportunities here in Uganda."

Tim and Angie have been serving in Soroti since 2007. Their primary goal is to mobilize the local church in ministry and missions and to challenge congregations to adopt a Biblical worldview that does not separate the secular from the sacred.

"Instead," Tim argues, "we need to see everything as part of God's kingdom. We are to embrace Christianity every day of the week not just Sundays."

Recently, the Sliedrechts led a short-term team of 7 local Bible College students who reached out to the "enemy" Karamojong tribe. At the end of Idi Amin's regime in 1979, the Karamojong raided the Amin compound and stole munitions that they have since used to attack and murder neighbouring tribes. As a result, the Karamojong are feared and despised by all. Typically, local Christians pray for the destruction of the Karamojong. But this short-term team developed a burden for the Karamojong tribe. One stu-



PHOTO CREDIT: BRIAN CARNEY



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A STRONG SENSE OF PLACE

KAJO KEJI, SUDAN - In thousands of villages across Africa children fortunate enough to afford uniforms attend mud-walled schools with straw roofs. Every year during the rainy season the entire structure is weakened or often washed away and must be rebuilt.



PHOTO CREDIT: GARY SHARPE

In 1918, eight year-old John Loboka Lui was excited to attend the new school built by missionaries. He walked 12 ½ miles every morning from Kajo Keji to Kenyiba to get there and 12 ½ miles home.

Unfortunately, if he arrived late he was flogged seriously.

In spite of many floggings at the hands of those strict disciplinarians, John still grew to appreciate the value of education and when he

was 20 years-old he built a school under the mango trees in Kajo Keji. Then he and some student leaders established a church next to the school.

Today the Logu Primary School in Kajo Keji is being rebuilt by John's son, Enoka. When completed 280 children will attend this school.

Enoka Duma (50) was born in a refugee camp in northern Uganda during the war. Life was difficult growing up in a refugee camp. He drank excessively and he and his friends were wanted by the police for beating a man. After he married he and his wife became Christians. He searched for the man he had beaten and sought forgiveness. "You must teach others to forgive," the man instructed him.

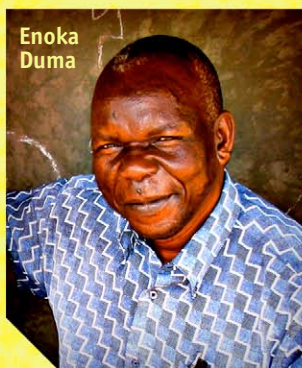
PHOTO CREDIT: GARY SHARPE



organization that helps equip and train pastors. International Teams provided SERM with bicycles that they use to deliver the gospel to neighboring villages and tribes. With the help of International Teams, Enoka is rebuilding his father's school plus six others, all out of solid brick with a galvanized steel roof.

And yet, every weekend Enoka crosses the border back into Uganda to his home in the Adjumani Refugee Camp. In spite of being a respected elder in his community, Enoka continues to live in a refugee camp. His strong sense of place and commitment to his people keeps him in Kajo Keji and Adjumani, building schools, leading his people and teaching forgiveness. **BLM**

PHOTO CREDIT: GORD SKOPNIK



A GLIMMER OF LIGHT AND HOPE

ROME, ITALY - "I think the most important part of our ministry is returning to people their dignity," said Tim Uthmann.

Tim and Rachel Uthmann have been serving refugees in Rome since September 2007. They are the vanguard leaders of refugee ministries for International Teams in Rome.

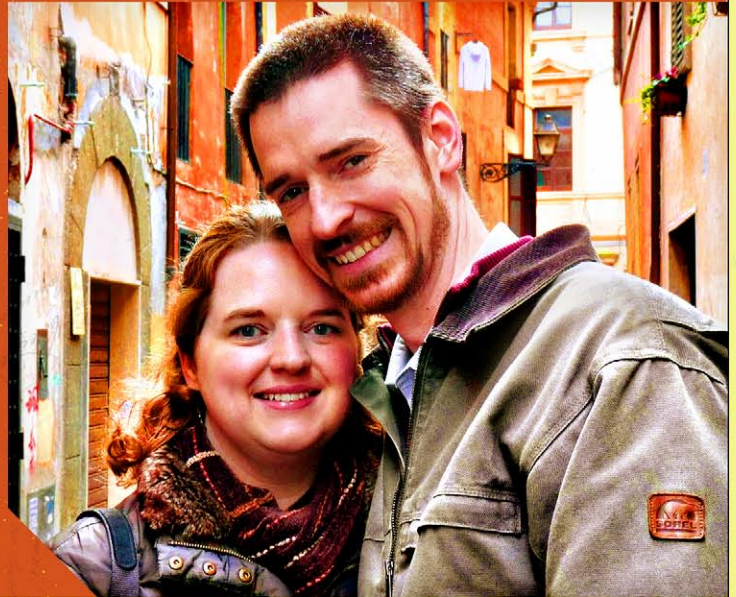


PHOTO CREDIT: LAURA STURM

With no organized refugee housing, the Uthmanns meet with refugees in the Rome train station, on park benches and in the streets where refugees live and sleep. They see very few women and children. Some refugees make their own temporary shelter in abandoned buildings and that's where the Uthmanns suspect the women and children stay.

Tim and Rachel host cultural exchange evenings in their apartment where university students may meet refugees (often for the first time) and hear their stories. In addition, the Uthmanns help prepare lunches for about 250 people twice a week. On Saturdays they distribute hot meals in catering tins at a prearranged location outdoors but are often relocated by the *polizia*.

The Uthmanns see their role as helping churches to understand and care for refugees. This can be challenging since many blame societal problems on immigrants. Some vigilante groups have attacked refugees recently. One man was doused with lighter fluid and

ignited. Another was beaten and robbed.

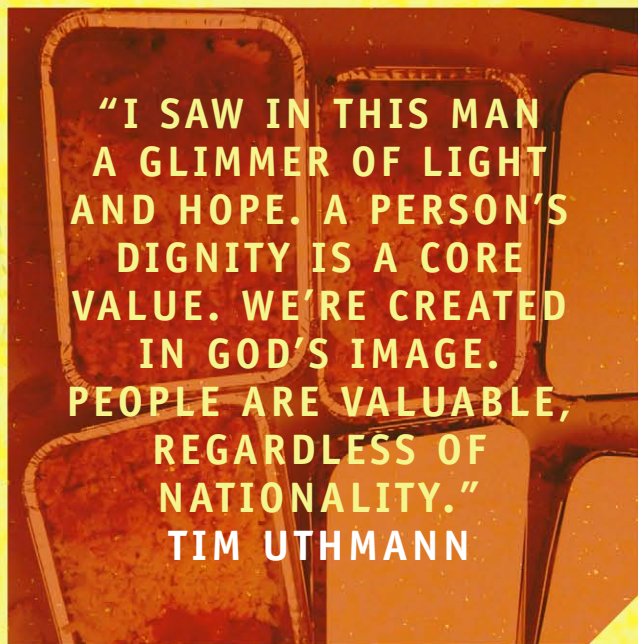
One night, while Tim was serving hot tea and cookies in the train station, a man asked for help in finding a Persian Bible.

"I saw in this man a glimmer of light and hope," Tim said. "A person's dignity is a core value. We're created in God's image. People are valuable, regardless of nationality." **BLM**



Refugee Feeding Program in Rome

PHOTO CREDIT: PHIL STANGLAND



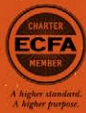
International Teams

TAKING ACTION

PRAY Please pray with us that God will continue to guide the Uthmanns, the Sliedrechts and Enoka Duma and that workers will be raised up to serve alongside them.

GO Is God calling you to help "bring in the harvest"? Go to iteams.org/go to find out more about opportunities to serve.

GIVE International Teams continues to respond to the recent crisis in Darfur, Sudan. Please consider giving generously to our Darfur Emergency Relief Fund at www.iteams.org/news/darfur



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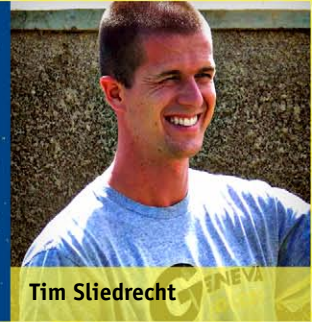
INTERNATIONAL TEAMS

1:ONE

Bringing people together to help the oppressed

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LUKE 10:2-3 (NIV)
"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves."



Tim Sliedrecht

PHOTO CREDIT: TODD JONES

dent whose mother was beaten by a Karamojong while he was still in her womb now believes his life was spared so that he could serve this hated tribe. Another student plans to develop a Karamojong children's ministry.

"This is a huge shift in thinking. These students now understand what it means to forgive."

In addition to mobilizing the church, the Sliedrechts counsel children formerly abducted by the LRA. But with 250 newly released (or escaped) children, they need help.

Tim sees the need for someone to teach Teso area widows skills and business

management so that they can support themselves. One local widow support group has 28,000 widows registered.

The Sliedrechts plan to establish an orphan village in Mbale in which widows will be encouraged to care for 6 orphans as their own.

In addition, Tim and Angie would like to organize a Resource Center for local pastors many of whom do not even own a Bible. The success of these initiatives is dependent on the availability of funds and workers who will serve alongside the Sliedrechts.

One way that the Sliedrechts raised funds for their ministry was by organizing 3 teams that participated in the RIDE for Refugees in 2008. Altogether, the teams raised \$14,600.

There are many opportunities for Christians in the West to teach skills, disciple, organize and give. To learn more about opportunities to serve alongside the Sliedrechts or to donate adult or children's Bibles or Christian material contact tim.sliedrecht@iteams.org. **BLM**



A young man who was abducted by the LRA

PHOTO CREDIT: BILL HORNE