**Martha Holland Dobson: My Story**

 **I was ecstatic!** I had been a part of three previous teams encouraging and ministering in Ugandan women’s conferences and out in the villages, **but this time was different!** My pastor and church friends had caught my vision, and we were headed to Masindi, Uganda. This time while the women on the team ministered to women, the men would work along-side Ugandan men to build the first two cottages for an orphanage for children whose parents had died, primarily of HIV and malaria. **I was thrilled** **because this time** my husband and friends could experience the love and generosity of the Ugandan people which I knew would never leave their hearts. It’s contagious!

 **I was amazed at the faithfulness of the God I serve who promised in Philippians 1: 6 to complete the good work He begins in us.** He has continually ordered the steps of a 13-year-old (Me) who surrendered her heart to the Lord and felt a calling to go north, south, east and west to encourage and empower people with the love of Christ! During 15 other mission trips my heart and life were broken for persecuted Christians (China and Vietnam), for the desperately poor Ethiopian Jews who had never seen a doctor or experienced the miracles of the New Testament. These experiences and so many more **deeply touched my life and heart. but** **this time was different**.

On my first trip to Uganda, our team members prayed over the land where Pastot Robert Kaahwa envisioned building an orphanage and then walked across the road to a 6’ x 6’ mud hut with a dirt floor where three **young boys lived alone, having only the roots they dug from the ground to eat and water to drink that had to be carried from five miles away (**Pictures on my web page**)**. Their mother had left them, and they only saw their father every month or two. I have never been able to get the picture of these boys out of my mind. **Yes, my heart was broken, and I was forever transformed!** I became passionate to see a loving home built where children would grow up, empowered by the love of Christ and trained to carry the Gospel to the nations—a unique vision for an orphanage.

 After each trip, church friends donated funds for the land permit, for a hand-dug well, and for a truck to transport sand to make bricks by hand to build the orphanage.

 **Yes! I am energized now even more to see this dream fulfilled.** You see, this time I got to see one of those three boys again at his home, as our team members held children in the community and prayed for them. I watched a four-year-old girl push the handle of the well up and down for water. No longer do the women have to walk five miles each way for water. I watched the men on our team toil in the Ugandan sun, laying a foundation, building cottages and creating lasting friendships.

  **A number of years ago, the Lord impressed me to write *Be Encouraged,*** a powerful women’s devotional/Bible study with testimonies of women who overcome the obstacles in their lives through God’s grace and intervention. Evidence of God’s miracles in these lives will help women discover hope and victory for their own lives. God showed me that **ALL the profits from the book should go to complete this orphanage in Masindi, Uganda where the school’s tuition would fund the school and pay for the orphans, self-sustaining.** For more information about the Encouraging the Nations ministry and the orphanage, to request prayer or to get involved with our ministry, go to the website: [www.encouragingthenations.com](http://www.encouragingthenations.com) or contact us at 704-929-2575

 **Education**

**St. Andrews Presbyterian College, Laurinburg, N.C.**

**McGill University, L’Ecole Francaise d’Ete, French Immersion Summer Program**

 **Montreal, Canada--Diplome**

**UNC-Chapel Hill, N.C. BA French Education, Phi Beta Kappa**

**East Carolina University Masters Work**

**Dartmouth College, ALPS Spanish program**

**Meredith College and UNC-G, English as a Second Language) (ESL) license**

**Church of God School of Ministery Certificate in Ministerial Studies**

 **Employment**

**40+ years of teaching high school French and English, community college English and**

 **ESL, Saudi Arabia Aramco Schools, elementary/middle school French and ESL**

**N.C. Teacher Academy training teachers in week-long and weekend conferences**

**Consultant for McMillan-McGraw Hill textbooks for English Language Learners**

**Director of Global Language Camps, 1986-1994**

 **Ministry**

**Evangelism Explosion**

**President of Women’s Ministries, Landmark Church of God**

**Sunday School Teacher**

**Day Care Board of Directors**

 **Board of Directors for Mother’s House ministry to abused and addicted women**

**Certificate of Ministerial Studies District Coordinator**

**Dr. Edward L. and Irma B. Williams Scholarship Committee**

**Teacher of women’s Bible studies and adult Bible school**

**Mission team leader to Ecuador, United Arab Emirates and Uganda**

**Member of Women’s Aglow ministry**

**Author: *Standing on His Promises* and *Be Encouraged*, *Encouraged Workbook***

**Member of numerous prayer groups**

 **Honors**

**Harmony Elementary and Iredell-Statesville Teacher of the Year 2006-2007**

**North Carolina Christa McAuliffe Fellowship, 1989-1990**

**American Association of Teachers of French Outstanding Service Award for work to**

 **organize and direct Camp Esperance, 1988**

**North Carolina finalist for the Teacher in Space program, 1985**

**Western North Carolina Most Outstanding Women’s Ministries President, 2001**

**I am available to speak and conduct Bible studies and women’s conferences on the book, *Be Encouraged* and *Be Encouraged Workbook* and on other topics which are available by request.** [**www.encouragingthenations.com**](http://www.encouragingthenations.com)