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ReligionSPIRITUALITY

Orphanage opening fulfills dream of Mosier couple

By ELROY KING

The opening of Osanidde Village, an orphanage for children who's parents have died of AIDS, has fulfilled the long held

dreams of a Mosier couple.

The orphanage is on Bussi Island in the middle of Lake Victoria in Uganda. Currently it houses 74 children ages four to 14, and Jon and Ann Dunagan have hopes that it will grow to handle up to 300 children.

Osanidde is a special African word in the Luganda language which is pronounced "Oh Sunny Day," Osanidde is a word of honor used only in reference to God (or a sovereign king). It's a phrase from a well known Luganda worship song the chil-dren love to sing, and the word means "you are worthy."

The orphanage is located on a 35 acre. lakeside plot, on property owned by Harvest Min-

istries, a ministry started by the Dunagan's 20 years ago. They minister in Third World countries and he has preached on all seven continents, including Antarctica where his listen ers were a team of Russian sci-

Ann Dunagan said Bussi Island is known for pineapples, sunshine and peace, and even during the civil wars in Uganda Bussi Island remained peaceful. But that island is now devastated by AIDS.

Jon had worked with Ugandan minister Drake Kanaabo for 15 years and two of his grown sons. Michael and Ronnie, are now among those who are involved in the actual su-pervision of Osanidde. They are among a total of four "uncles" and seven "mamas" who oversee the children, who live in seven houses now on site (another is under construction).

Each house has eight to 10 children, and there are 35 boys and 39 girls.

The first children moved into the houses, made of bricks and stucco, in February of this year. Each house has its own garden and the kitchens are lo-cated outside the house. The residents in each house eat together as a family.

The houses are about 22-by-24 feet in size and have two rooms for the children and rooms for the "uncles" or

Many of the children come from deplorable conditions and before coming to Osanidde VIIlage they lived in grass shacks or slept under trees on plastic bags. Many of them had never slept in a bed before.

They come from Bussi Island or from Kachanga Island, which Ann says is one of the poorest places in Uganda.



SEEN WITH SOME of the residents of Osanidde Village is Christi Dunagan, the daughter of Jon and Ann Dunagan of Mosier. She came with her parents along with Peggy Clear, the widow of Pasto Norman Clear of The Dalles, to Uganda when the orphanage opened in February. (Contributer

It costs \$1 a day or \$30 a month to sponsor a child and most of the children have sponsors. Covenant Christian Church in Hood River, where Ann and Jon are both elders, sponsors a house (called Covenant House), as does a dentist in the Seattle area. Other sponsorships come from churches, youth groups, busi-nesses and others. Information on the orphanage or sponsor-ship is available at www.harvestreport,net/osanidde.htm. or www.harvestreport.net. One pamphlet states that sponsors can name their own orphanage

Despite their backgrounds,

Ann says the children at Osanidde are the happiest chil-dren she has ever seen. She dren sne has ever seen. Sne said they get up at 4 to 4:30 a.m. for prayers, which they do on their own. They all attend a Christian school and have classes where they speak English, Luganda and Swahili. She said the children are learning they can make an impact in the

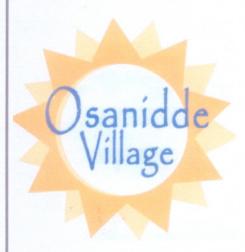
Most of the schools in Uganda are government run and cost money to attend. It is usually hard to get permission to start a school. Ann said the Ugandan vice president was on a neighboring island at the time of the dedica

tion of the orphanage and while visiting gave Harves Ministries permission to oper the school on the spot. The need there is great, sh

said, and they plan to expan-their work "as God provides.

The Dunagans, who have have lived in the Mid-Colum bia area for about eight years the last seven in Mosier. Be fore that they lived in th Bend area.

They helped start anothe orphanage in Mbarara tel years ago. It now has aroum 400 children and is manage by a Swedish organization.



Osanidde YESU!

JESUS. You are Worthy!