

Appeal for selected children's books for the UCU Children's Library and Daughter Projects

Immediate need for several boxes of good, preferably hardback, new or used children's books for ages 1-12 to be put on the container in Fairfax, Virginia by June 1, 2009 for shipment to Uganda Christian University. If you have any time to consider this appeal, please read on:

We have not solicited more books for the UCU Children's Library of late because we have a core collection of more than 5000 volumes, with many wonderful picture books, a good collection of classics for older children, and a range of fiction and nonfiction titles. Our shelf space is limited, and is probably three-quarters full. We have yet to hear from one of our children, "I've read every book in the library!"

However, two new projects have come along for which I would love to offer books if there are donors among you who could collect them and have them sent to the Truro container by June 1. I will give the packing and mailing details at the end of this appeal, but first I would like to tell you a bit about each project and how they are related to UCU.

Our Assistant librarian at UCU, Monica Ntege, loves children's books and is active in her Church of Uganda parish near Mukono town. Recently she asked if she could have duplicates donated to the children's library so she could establish a small Sunday School library at her parish. I explained that **up until now, all books had been sent with the understanding that they would be used in our UCU Children's Library, and I would need to be explicit about our giving duplicates to her or other projects before I would be comfortable with doing so.** She understood, and I said I would see if we could get more books. **For all future donations, we would first determine whether we need them in the Children's Library at Mukono or our western campus in Kabale and if not, we would not stamp and process them but would instead donate them to her for her parish collection or to other projects with a close link to UCU.**

At about the same time, a student in the Child Development and Children's Ministry program at UCU named Moses Okumu told me about a project he was starting in conjunction with his degree. He had first wanted to do Library Science but had ended up in Child Development instead, and now he has an interest in combining his two passions based on seeing what we have done with the Children's Library at UCU. Here is a snippet from the email I received from Moses today updating me on the library he is starting in eastern Uganda near the Kenya border:

"All is fine and the library is to begin full operations in May during the second term of school. We have now painted the room, worked on some shelves which shall house around 200 books. We are hoping to have more shelves made. We are also in the process of making window shutters for the windows in order to ensure that there is enough security for the books and the items in the library.

"I have been trying to order games for the children. I have managed to get Blokus, Chess, Ludo and draft. I do hope to get a carpet for the floor, TV or projector for video therapy and educative movies. But all is well and **we shall be grateful to have some more story books in our library since we have only 30 copies now and the remainder are textbooks.**"

He signs his emails:

Moses Okumu

(Mal 4:6)

Child Advocate

Founder Africa Christian Children's Libraries (ACCL)

Let us join hands and set up children's libraries, "To create a distinctively Christian environment of educational resources designed to reach those who don't know God's love and mercy with a message of hope, possibilities and excellence."

I would love to help Moses expand his collection of story books.

Following is a list of suggestions that either Monica or Moses would appreciate:

1. Golden Book classics, especially in hardback, can often be found cheaply in secondhand sales; classics like *Cinderella*, *The Ugly Duckling*, *Nursery Rhymes*

2. Children's Bible story books; I like Ella Lindvall's *Read-Aloud Bible Stories*, Vols. 1-4; Mick Inkpen's illustrated Bible stories; and Tomie de Paola's *Bible Stories*. Or others you like.

Other suggested titles:

Beatrice's Goat by Page McBrier (set in western Uganda); *Handa's Surprise* by Eileen Browne; Tim Ladwig's *When My Daddy Prays*, *The 23rd Psalm*, and *The Lord's Prayer*, all with illustrations of black people; *Are You My Mother*, *Hop on Pop*, and a few Dr. Seuss though not the ones with too many made-up words for these students working to learn English; and the graded readers like *Frog and Toad* and *Frog and Toad Are Friends* by Arnold Lobel; *Henry and Mudge*, and others like them. Children here also like the *Curious George* books by H.A. Rey and the *Franklin* series about the turtle. Other classics like *The Little Engine that Could* would be great.

Here are the details for getting a box of books like the above to the container:

"Let's shoot for the first week of June to get the books to me. I'll be back from East Africa by then. **Please instruct them to put the books in boxes that are _small, sturdy, tightly packed, well taped and marked. They should be labeled on the side (not where the John Hutchins address goes) "For Peggy Noll/UCU Children's Library/Uganda Christian University/Mukono."** You can then distribute them as you have advised the donors.

_Have them send them to my home:

**John Hutchins
11908 Lilita Lane
Clifton, VA 20124**

It is preferable to have the boxes delivered to the back of the house at the garage. The entrance gate is not locked - there is no dog. The fence is to keep the deer out.

I am sending this request to you because you have helped us in the past with the UCU Children's Library, and I thought a few of you might have a source for used children's books (a sale at your local library or elementary school; the Borders sales tables; a friend cleaning out her grown children's bedrooms...) that would help the two projects above get started as our first "offspring" from the UCU Children's Library. Even 20-30 good books for Monica and Moses would be a great way to get them going.

Please let me know via email to pnoll@ucu.ac.ug if you think you could collect a box and send it to Fairfax, VA by June 1. That way I can alert John as to how many boxes he might expect. I know this is short notice but thought it was worth a try since the container still has space on it.