



[View Normal Layout](#)

[Mission Network News](#)

Blessings for Albino children in Uganda

Posted: 6 October, 2008



Uganda (MNN) — In Uganda, people believe that an albino child is a curse on the family.

People with albinism inherit a combination of recessive genes that causes a lack of melanin pigment in the skin, hair and eyes. This allows their eyes to be easily damaged and their skin to be unusually susceptible to skin cancer when exposed to sunlight.

Because of their appearance, their communities often shun them, or worse. Ritual killings of persons with albinism are growing to crisis proportions in East Africa. To address this issue, a regional body--the Pan-African Albinism Association--was established in May to address the rights of persons with Albinism.

Reaching out to the children who struggle with the condition fits squarely into the vision statement of [Every Child Ministries](#). ECM's Lorella Rouster says a new ministry opportunity to these kids developed last year during a mission trip. "We saw a boy who was an Albino, and one of the team members noticed how he was going around with his arm up all the time, trying to protect his eyes from the sun. She immediately took off her sunglasses and gave them to him."

The difference that kindness made in the boy's life was startling. ECM is collecting sunglasses for distribution at Christmas in the northern Ugandan areas where they're working.

Does a pair of sunglasses equate the Gospel? It's the first step. Rouster urges people not to underestimate the value. "It's a very significant gift for them. It's just a way of showing them the love of Jesus, and then at the same time, we will be telling them about Jesus and sharing with the children the reason why He came into the world."

The Every Child Ministries Christmas team will deliver hope and love along with the sunglasses so that these children will understand their value in God's sight.

ECM also hopes to develop sponsorship programs for these Albino children. With a sponsorship, says Rouster, "This will help us to make contact with them and their families. They can go to school and also hear the Gospel regularly."

For example, ECM's sponsored children in the Gayaza project receive educational assistance like school fees, school supplies and uniforms, and they participate in a Saturday meeting. The Saturday meeting includes Bible teaching, discussion of practical life matters, a health check, a vitamin and a nutritious meal.

What it translates to is a future of hope for a child who would otherwise grow up being ostracized and devalued. If you'd like to help, ECM is looking for those who can donate new or gently-used sunglasses and for those who can get their church or other group to collect sunglasses for the project. [Click here if you want to get involved.](#)



About this Organization

- [News for This Organization](#)
- [Profile Page](#)

Every Child Ministries

Phone: (219) 996-4201

Fax: (219) 996-4203

[Web site](#)

*PO Box 810 Hebron, IN
46341*

About Uganda



- Population: 32,813,000
- People Groups: 66
- Unreached Groups: 6 (9%)
- Primary Language: English
- Primary Religion: Christianity
- Evangelical: 46.3%

[More News About Uganda](#)

[Info About Uganda](#)

Data from the [Joshua Project](#)

This Story in Audio

[1min](#) [2min](#) [4.5min](#)



Related News

- Burundi (MNN) 06/2010 — [A gift provides a reminder of faith, hope and love.](#)
- Kyrgyzstan (MNN) 06/2010 — [Watching the Kyrgyz referendum](#)
- Cuba (MNN) 06/2010 — [With new freedoms, Cuban church is flourishing](#)
- Japan (MNN) 06/2010 — [Ministry answers Japan's crisis](#)

<http://www.mnnonline.org/article/11738>