



PEOPLE • COMMUNITIES • HOPE

DISCOVER

Serve With RECLAIM

*Discover How You Can Become Part of
What God Is Doing in East Africa*

*"What has God placed in my hands,
and where might it be useful?"*



Welcome

Thank you for your interest in RECLAIM East Africa.

Perhaps someone told you about the ministry. Maybe your church is exploring ways to become involved. Perhaps you have a heart for children, missions, education, community development, or East Africa. Or maybe you simply heard about RECLAIM and wondered:

What do they do—and is there a place where I could help?

We would love for you to discover that with us.

RECLAIM brings together people from different countries, cultures, churches, professions, and backgrounds around a shared desire: to participate in God's work of restoration.

There are many ways to become part of that work, and traveling to East Africa is only one of them.

This introduction is simply an opportunity to learn who we are, why we serve, how we got here, what God is already doing, and where your own gifts and interests might intersect with the work.



Who We Are

RECLAIM East Africa is a Christ-centered ministry serving vulnerable children, families, and communities throughout East Africa, with developing work in Uganda and Kenya.

The name RECLAIM expresses something at the heart of our ministry. We believe God is a God of restoration.

Brokenness can affect a life in many ways. Poverty can close doors. A child can lose access to education. Families can struggle under circumstances beyond their control. Disability can lead to isolation. Communities can lack resources and opportunities. People can lose hope.

Restoration

We want to participate in God's work of restoring what has been lost or broken.

- *Hope.*
- *Dignity.*
- *Opportunity.*
- *Relationships.*
- *Purpose.*

Sometimes restoration looks like meeting an immediate need.

Sometimes it means helping a child remain in school.

Sometimes it means strengthening a family.

Sometimes it means equipping a local leader who will influence a community for years.

Sometimes it means helping create opportunities that allow individuals and communities to become stronger and more sustainable.

And sometimes it simply begins by walking alongside someone and letting them know they have not been forgotten.

Why We Serve

Our Christian faith is not something we add to the work of RECLAIM. It is the reason for it.

We believe that true and lasting restoration is ultimately found in Jesus Christ.

Jesus consistently moved toward people. He saw those others overlooked. He welcomed children. He demonstrated compassion toward those who were hurting. He restored dignity. He met practical needs. He taught truth. He developed leaders. And He invited His followers to participate in His work.

We want RECLAIM to reflect that same heart.

Faith in the Way We Serve

That means our faith should be visible not only in what we say, but in how we serve, how we lead, how we handle resources, how we treat people, and how we build relationships.

Prayer, discipleship, Christian teaching, encouragement of churches and ministry leaders, and sharing the hope found in Jesus are important parts of our ministry.

At the same time, we serve people because they have value—not because of what they believe.

RECLAIM serves people with compassion and respect regardless of religion, ethnicity, nationality, gender, disability, or economic status.

Assistance is never conditioned upon a person's religious beliefs or participation in religious activities.

We believe we can remain unmistakably Christian while extending the love of Christ freely to everyone.

How We Got Here

The story behind RECLAIM began long before the name.

In 2014, what would eventually grow into this ministry began simply—with a willingness to go where God was leading, meet the people He placed along the way, and serve where opportunities arose.

There was no plan to build an organization around mission trips. In fact, the expectation was almost the opposite: perhaps this would simply be one person walking with God into the places He opened.

But over the years, relationships grew. Children and families became more than names and photographs. Pastors, teachers, ministry leaders, churches, and communities became friends and partners. Needs became clearer.

But so did something equally important—the tremendous ability, faith, vision, leadership, resilience, and wisdom already present within East Africa.



What if others could be invited into these relationships too?

- › What if a teacher could walk alongside a teacher?
- › What if a pastor could encourage another pastor?
- › What if a mechanic could share what he knows with someone building a livelihood through the same trade?
- › What if a healthcare professional could work alongside those already caring for their communities?
- › What if farmers, businesspeople, tradespeople, educators, students, retirees, churches, and others could bring what God has placed in their hands and discover where it might meet an opportunity already taking shape?

Today, RECLAIM is building upon that foundation. There are already people serving. There are already relationships. There are already churches and ministry leaders. There are already children, families, leaders, and friends whose lives have become intertwined with our own—woven into our hearts and our lives.

There are already needs, ideas, dreams, abilities, and opportunities in Uganda and Kenya. And increasingly, there are people and churches elsewhere asking: “How can we become part of this?”

We are not building ministry so that people have somewhere to go. We are inviting people into ministry and relationships that are already growing.

We believe RECLAIM can become a bridge—bringing people, gifts, resources, relationships, and opportunities together while keeping Christ, meaningful relationships, and local leadership at the center.

What Does RECLAIM Do?

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Supporting vulnerable and underserved children while strengthening families and caregivers whenever possible.

EDUCATION

Supporting schools, scholarships, vocational training, literacy, educational resources, and opportunities to develop God-given abilities.

CHRISTIAN MINISTRY AND DISCIPLESHIP

Strengthening the Church through discipleship, Christian education, pastoral encouragement, leadership development, prayer, and ministry partnership.

Areas of Ministry

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Medical, dental, nutritional, disability, mental-health, and community-health initiatives as opportunities and resources allow.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Agriculture, clean water, sanitation, vocational development, economic opportunity, small-business initiatives, and other sustainable efforts.

PARTNERSHIP AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Relationships with local churches, schools, community leaders, nonprofit organizations, professionals, governmental agencies, families, and others committed to seeing communities flourish.

We Believe in Working Together

RECLAIM does not believe meaningful ministry flows in only one direction.

We do not envision America as the place that has the answers and East Africa as the place that has the needs.

Every community has both strengths and needs.

People in Uganda and Kenya bring knowledge, relationships, cultural understanding, leadership, creativity, professional ability, faith, resilience, and a lifetime of experience within their communities.

Partners and volunteers from elsewhere may bring additional relationships, resources, expertise, experience, encouragement, and perspective.

Something powerful can happen when those strengths come together.

Our local leadership in Uganda and Kenya is not simply present to carry out plans developed somewhere else. We want them helping identify needs, recognize opportunities, shape priorities, develop solutions, and lead the work within their communities.

Likewise, we want those who come alongside RECLAIM to bring what they know. Ask questions. Share ideas. Offer expertise. See possibilities. And listen.

The goal is not for one side to have all the answers. It is to discover what becomes possible when we walk together.

Where Could You Fit?

"I care about this—but I'm not sure what I could actually do."

That's okay. You don't have to arrive with an answer.

One of the reasons we begin with conversation is because people sometimes possess abilities or experiences they never thought of as something that could be used in ministry.

A teacher may help strengthen an educational program. A mechanic may help with vehicles or teach practical skills. A nurse, physician, therapist, or other healthcare professional may contribute to a health initiative. A farmer may have knowledge useful to an agricultural project. A contractor or tradesperson may contribute to a facility or infrastructure project.

A business owner may help think through sustainability, employment, or vocational development. A pastor may encourage another pastor. Someone experienced in administration, accounting, technology, communications, fundraising, photography, logistics, or nonprofit leadership may strengthen the ministry in ways that are not immediately visible.

And some of the most valuable people may simply bring willing hands, compassion, encouragement, prayer, and a desire to serve wherever there is a genuine need.

"What has God placed in my hands, and where might it be useful?"

Ways to Become Involved

Short-Term Mission Teams

Skills-Based Service

Church Involvement

Behind-the-Scenes Service

Advocacy and Connection

Prayer

What About Going to East Africa?

For some people, involvement eventually leads to Uganda or Kenya.

A short-term mission experience can provide an opportunity to serve. But we believe it can offer something equally important: understanding.

There is a difference between reading about a community and sitting in someone's home. There is a difference between seeing a photograph of a school and meeting its teachers and children. There is a difference between hearing about the challenges facing a local ministry leader and sitting across from that person, listening to both the difficulties they face and the vision God has placed in their heart.

There is a difference between knowing about someone and knowing them.

For that reason, we believe a mission trip should be more than a collection of projects.



It should create opportunities for:

Service.

Relationship.

Listening.

Learning.

Encouragement.

Shared ministry.

You may travel expecting to discover how you can help and return home realizing how much the people you met gave to you.

And sometimes simply being there allows something unexpected to happen.

A teacher meets another teacher. A pastor develops a friendship with another pastor. A professional recognizes an opportunity that no one else had seen. A church begins imagining a long-term relationship with another ministry. A conversation becomes an idea. An idea becomes a partnership. A partnership becomes something that continues long after the travelers have returned home.

That is one reason we value going—not simply because of what can be accomplished during a trip, but because of what can begin through a relationship.

You Don't Have to Have It Figured Out

Maybe you already know exactly how you would like to serve. Maybe you don't. Maybe East Africa has been on your heart for years. Maybe this is the first time you have ever seriously considered international ministry. Maybe you want to go. Maybe you want to help from home. Maybe your church is exploring partnership. Maybe you're simply curious.

Curiosity is enough to begin a conversation.

At this stage, we aren't asking you to make a commitment. We would simply like to know what stirred your interest and learn a little about you. And we would like you to have the opportunity to learn more about us.

Let's Have a Conversation

If something you've read here has stirred your interest, the next step is simple: Talk with us.

Tell us what caught your attention. Tell us about your interests, experience, profession, church, skills, or things you simply enjoy doing. Tell us what God has been stirring in your heart. Ask questions.

You may discover an obvious place to become involved. We may discover something together that neither of us had considered before. Or you may simply learn more about RECLAIM and decide that serving in this way isn't where God is leading you right now. That's okay too.

We want involvement with RECLAIM to grow from relationship, shared vision, and genuine calling—not pressure.

Want to Learn More?

The next step is EXPLORE.

- › What does a RECLAIM mission trip actually look like?
- › What kinds of volunteer and service opportunities might be available?
- › How long might I serve? What might a trip cost?
- › What happens before I travel? What kind of preparation is involved?
- › Do I need particular skills or experience?
- › What would be involved if my church wanted to participate?

Come explore the possibilities with us.