

Ugandan official to share about orphanage

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

A trio of Eastern Oregon residents are excited about ongoing projects at the Otino Waa Children's Village.

Scott and Kelly Zielke of Hermiston and Judy Weidert of the Athena Christian Church returned to the Ugandan orphanage this summer to deliver supplies and assist with launching a sustainable chicken farm. The project provides food for nourishment and teaching skills in caring for the chickens. Additional eggs will be sold to help sustain the program.

The Zielkes learned about the needs of the village during a mission trip in 2013 with other members of the Stanfield Baptist Church. Weidert also has been to the orphanage previously.

The public is invited to meet Rev. Dickens Anyati, the Ugandan administrator of Otino Waa, during a pair of presentations in Stanfield and Athena. Anyati, a native of Uganda, will speak Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Stanfield Baptist Church, 310 Wheeler Ave., and Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Athena Christian Church, 458 E. Van Buren St.

Anyati will focus on providing an update about the chicken farm project, which received its first fowl in June, Scott Zielke said. Additional chickens were purchased in August after participants in the vacation



Photo contributed by Scott Zielke

Children from Otino Waa Children's Village smile while interacting with area missionaries during a summer trip to Uganda. People can learn more about the orphanage and projects to promote sustainability during presentations Tuesday in Stanfield and Wednesday in Athena.

Bible school at the Hermiston First Christian Church got on board with a "Buy a Chicken" project. The group, Zielke said, collected enough money to purchase 300 chickens, which were \$2 each.

In addition, Anyati will share about the vision for Otino Waa. While the purpose of his trip isn't

fundraising, people that are interested in sponsoring a child at the village can get information on how to do that.

In 2002, Otino Waa founders Bob and Carol Higgins of Bend learned a rebel group called The Lord's Resistance Army had their sights on 78 orphans — planning to abduct them near

Lira, Uganda. Missionaries at the time, the couple were involved with a water project in the country.

The plight of the children tugged on Carol's heartstrings and the couple sprang to action. With the help of local leaders, they were able to rescue the kids and began taking care for their basic needs.

As the year progressed, it became apparent that the children needed longterm care. In 2003, Otino Waa Children's Village was created just outside Lira. Rather than looking for people to adopt the kids, Zielke said the mission of the orphanage is to provide them with tools to survive, thrive and become self-sufficient. The hope is they will become future leaders of their country.

"We're teaching the kids to fish, we're not just giving them fish," Zielke said.

Residents of the orphanage — which now number about 300 — are divided into groups with eight kids. Serving as house moms, widows from the community care for the "family units."

For more information about the local presentations, call the Zielkes at 541-571-8153. For more about the children's village, visit www.otinowaa.org.

Contact Community Editor Tammy Malgesini at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4539

BOARDMAN'S LIMEY PASTOR

Losty is found and the trees are made safe

Yesterday, Losty the lost dog was found. The tiny, once-muddy little dog spent a week living with my permanent residents, Sammy the Dachsund and Mushu the Pekinese, while recovering from his wounds in the wild. Felicia, a local lost dog hunter, had made it her business to find his original home. A local policeman had come to the house and photographed him, hoping to match him with a local dog that had gone missing. The policeman had no luck. But Felicia's "dogged" resilience had traced a whisper and a photo on lost and found pages to a dog that looked like Losty.

The dog had been visiting with his mom from Eugene, who had come to leave the dog with her sons while she flew to Texas. Somehow Losty had escaped, and some strange ancient homing instinct made him travel the quarter mile to the street near me where he was found mud-wrapped and flea-bitten.

It's strange how your heart is captured so quickly and easily by dogs and cats. It was bittersweet to call his family and talk to them. But when the adult son who had been given the role

of temporary caregiver talked to me on the phone he wept over how much he loved and missed his dog. So it felt like God must feel when he sees us get what we love and care for back in our arms. It really is the best feeling to restore a relationship, even between humans and dogs. And when the family came to the door to pick him up, Losty, whose real name is Cujo, became airborne — bouncing up and down like a pogo stick.

Back at the church last week, a work party had been quickly organized when news of typhoons coming to the Oregon coast galvanized us. We knew that the tree limbs leaning over our neighbor's yard needed to be removed before large winds made them misbehave. Randy Yates, our church council president, and Joe Taylor, our treasurer who brought some of his farm workers, Donna, John, Phyllis and Kurt, came to take off the risky branches and trim the trees to safe and manageable size. They did a yeoman's work that day and like a grand machine tamed the trees and made them safe for our neighbors. It was perfect timing before the weekend weather, which would, I

believe, have cracked a roof or two.

Our Sunday was a little light in attendance; the work had taken its toll on some muscles and contorting sinews — and some were suffering from a little sickness with the change of nature's moods as well. Visiting pianist Sarah Carlson came down from Hermiston to play for us. But the intimate presence and a prayerful restfulness filled the church.

I preached that Sunday about persistence — persistence in praying, persistence in wanting. We used the text from Luke about the woman who kept nagging a judge who neither feared God nor man until she got what she wanted, and we used the text from the Old Testament about God struggling with Jacob until Jacob actually made God submit to him and bless him. Strange texts that speak something about the power God has given us in our relationship with him. Our father wants us to struggle for what we want. We are God's children and this is our place to tend and protect. We are sons and daughters of heaven.

Pastor Colin Brown of Boardman's Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on Locust Road.



COLIN BROWN
Faith

Pope canonizes Argentina's 'gaucho priest'

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis canonized Argentina's "gaucho priest" Sunday, bestowing sainthood on the poncho-wearing pastor with whom the first Argentine pope shares many similarities, from a taste for mate tea to a dedication to bringing the ministry to even the most isolated people.

Francis honored Jose Gabriel del Rosario Brochero along with six others in a Mass before a crowd of 80,000 in St. Peter's Square, saying the new saints, "thanks to prayer, had generous and steadfast hearts."

"The saints are men and women who enter fully into the mystery of prayer. Men and women who struggle with prayer, letting the Holy Spirit pray and struggle in them," the pope said.

Also made into saints were two Italian priests, Lodovico Pavoni and Alfonso Maria Fusco, French martyr Salomone Leclercq, French nun Elisabeth of the Trinity, Spanish bishop Manuel Gonzalez Garcia and Mexican layman Jose Sanchez del Rio.

Born in 1849 in the province of Cordoba, Brochero was one of the most famous Catholics in the Argentina of Francis' youth. He died in 1914 after living for years with leprosy that he was said to have contracted from one of his faithful.

Brochero was beatified in 2013, after Pope Benedict XVI signed off on a miracle attributed to his intercession. Francis moved Brochero closer to sainthood soon after being elected pope, and cleared him for sainthood earlier this year.

At the time of Brochero's beatification, Francis wrote a letter to Argentina's bishops praising Brochero for having had the "smell of his sheep."



AP Photo/Andrew Medichini

The tapestry of Argentina's "gaucho priest" Jose Gabriel del Rosario Brochero hangs from the facade of St. Peter's Basilica prior to the start of a Canonization Mass celebrated by Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square, at the Vatican, Sunday. The pope canonized Brochero on Sunday along with six others in one of the final big Masses of his Holy Year of Mercy.

That's a phrase Francis has frequently used to describe his ideal pastor: one who accompanies his flock, walking with them through life's ups and downs.

"He never stayed in the parish office. He got on his mule and went out to find people like a priest of the street — to the point of getting leprosy," Francis wrote.

A papal biographer, Austen Ivereigh, says Brochero exemplifies Francis' idea of a priest.

Among the parallels shared by the two Argentinians is Brochero's spirituality, which is deeply rooted in the Jesuit spiritual exercises dear to Francis. Francis, who like Brochero adores his mate tea, has exhorted

his pastors to travel to far-flung peripheries to minister to the poor, as Brochero did on his trusty mule Malacara.

Argentinians, many waving flags, made the journey themselves to Rome to see Brochero elevated to sainthood, including Argentine President Mauricio Macri and his wife.

"Our saint, he took all that he had off in order to go ahead and in order to help people, in particular the poor ones, especially in the middle of mountains," said Patricia Elena Zabala, from Villa Gobernador Galvez in Argentina. "He went there with a mule. That's why he's represented riding a mule, going along villages and helping people."

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