Uganda was a whole other experience, extremely poor people in rural areas with no electricity, no piped water and poorly surfaced roads. Uganda reminded me of Ireland, green and hilly, valleys and glens, and plenty of groves of pine trees and winding roadways.

Even though we were on the equator and it was Autumn, the weather was cool at morning and night, but very hot in the midday. We visited only 10 wells of the 488 wells, all ten were funded by members of our group. That was all we had time for due to long distances and poor roads

All wells are seen as living memorials, for these wells are bringing pure clean water to two of the villages of Uganda; Mubende and Mitziana, the poorest and most Christian. Where wells have been drilled, the death rate is reduced by 50%. The water is tested by specially trained scientists until it is safe to use.

The villagers were with us for the drilling, and you should hear the screams and shouts of laughter and Alleluias!! With the sun shining on the wet sand now in liquid form, it appeared to me as 'liquid gold'. We have pictures of the ten wells and the celebration at each well. We left once the water appeared. It is tough work for the ten men who are working equipment and carrying the poles to be hoisted on to the drill. Each well varies in depth, mine was 90 feet deep and they had to try three times before they found water. We visited several schools where WOL have gifted them with a well. There we saw clearly the difference when people have clean water and benefit from the WASH program which WOL is teaching. WA = Clean Water; S= Sanitation, H= Hygiene.

May the lives of the people of Uganda be enhanced in this new decade 2020!

Sr Joan Hogan chf August 2019