



The CONNECTION

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Connecting with Jeff Valdes, Class of 1983

Jeff Valdes attended WHCS (starting in 6th grade) from 1980-1983, along with his younger sister, Wendy. According to Jeff, he was an original “victim” of a young and ambitious new teacher’s first class - Mr. Cardinalli, (Mr. C.). He later attended Lakeridge High School, Oregon State University and Western Seminary in Portland.

Some of his vivid memories at WHCS were the annual Jog-A-Thon and Spaghetti Feed, the flag football team, his Styro-foam planet science project and trying to keep up to date with Mr. C’s *daily* Bible journal. But most of all, he remembers how the teachers went out of their way to connect with the students. In fact, even after losing contact for a period of time, Mr. C responded to his wedding invitation and attended Jeff’s marriage.

Jeff’s reconnection with WHCS came after attending the school’s 50th Anniversary Celebration in 1999. As he and his wife, Erin toured all the new construction, he leaned over to his new bride, smiled and commented that their future children would someday have to attend WHCS if at all possible. Today he says, “We are so blessed to have Ranger, Bella, and Andie (future student in two years) enrolled here and part of this great WHCS family.”

After 15 years as a *full-time* business consultant in Portland and a *part-time* Bible teacher, Jeff’s roles reversed. His experience leading several international, short-term mission trips led him to form Berean Way (bereanway.org) in 2005.

He describes the calling of Berean Way as, “Using the Word of God, we go to the unreached areas

of the world and disciple the uneducated leaders in those areas how to duplicate themselves.” Their foundation is to TEACH (the Word of God); EQUIP (servant leaders); DUPLICATE (duplicating disciples).

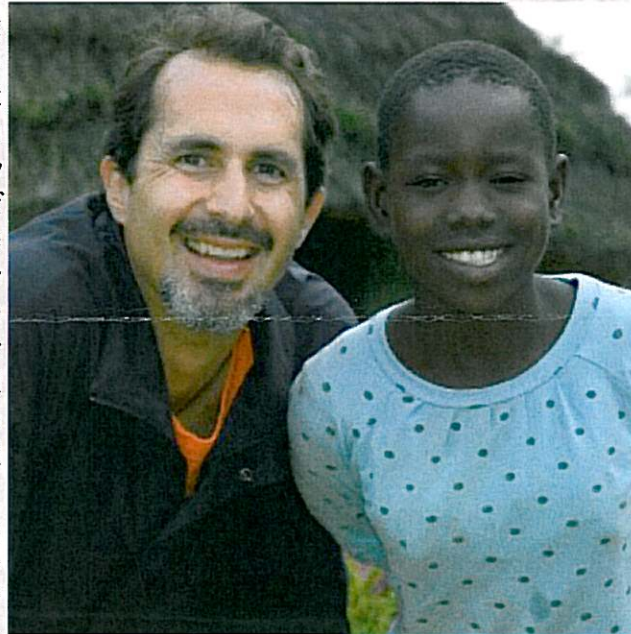
In NE Uganda, they have been brokering peace between the warring Bokora and Pian tribes. Since September 2007, over 6,000 former enemies have formed 39 villages and are coming to live together in peace in the former *no-man’s land*.

Jeff shares some of his experiences: “We arrived for our peace conference, and I was immediately embraced by my old friend Rev. Sam Ngorok. He held me tightly while crying in my ear, ‘thank you for holding to your promise to us and returning with a team of elders.’ Apparently, few people visit the Karamajong, and those who do, make empty promises to bring hope, which only leaves them disappointed and feeling alone in this world.

After spending 3 weeks of training with the tribal elders of both warring groups, another joint peace conference was held in the *no-man’s land*. Food for 500 people was brought in. The Bokora waited for the Pian group to arrive. Normally when they meet, there is bloodshed. But at the sound of the Peace Trumpet, the Pian showed up in great numbers. At the end of the 4 days, all 2,000 participants had eaten, and there was even enough food to give to the army that came to protect them.”

Jeff says that the *Biblical* foundation that was laid by Mr. C, Mr. Porter, Mr. Young and others, has “made a tremendous impact on who I am

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today. Berean Way is impacting countless people around the world for Christ and is a direct result of that Biblical foundation.

The Valdes family is excited that we are a part of the future of WHCS."

Jeff recently shared three days of devotions with the faculty at WHCS. He is currently serving on the 60th Anniversary committee.

