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that have nice things and nice homes. In the same place there will be someone who is living in a mud hut and spends time being a witchdoctor. There are people who own mansions and nice cars in the same area where human sacrifices for religious purposes are still a real occurrence. None of it makes sense to me, how do some of these people act like there is nothing wrong here? This, and many more reasons, is why CII is in Uganda helping as many children as they can.

Notes on Returning From My Volunteer Trip

After getting back from a mission trip, apparently it is normal for normal to not feel normal. Got it? I thought I did, but not really. Pastor Phil had warned me and tried to mentally prepare me for what would happen and he did a great job, but it's very different when you're actually experience it.

Have you ever looked in a mirror that was completely steamed over? You can recognize yourself because you're used to seeing it, logically your face should be in the mirror if you are in front of it, but at the same time you can't really tell who it is or see distinctive features. That is the best way I can fit words together to describe what home felt like when I got back. It's still a little foggy every once in a while and I sometimes still get angry when I realize how much stuff I have that I have no need for.

Even though I have only been on this one trip so far, the one piece of advice I can give to someone talking to a friend or family member that recently returned from a mission trip: Don't ask them if it was fun, phrasing it like talking about a vacation. In my own experience

that question was frustrating and hard to answer; instead ask about what they did to help, about the people and the culture, what kind of things still need to be done to help people where they had been. These questions have substance, they provide an outlet for the traveler to vent about what problems the people are facing and what their whole purpose of the mission trip was.

This was an amazing experience and I hope to do it next year too. If there is ever an opportunity to go on a volunteer trip, go for it.

If you would like to help or learn more about Child Initiative International you can visit at: www.CIIIntl.org If you have any questions you can direct them to: <https://www.facebook.com/Ciintl>



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