

the sperling jerry can

“...carrying Living Water in practical ways...”

Teamwork!

It was our privilege to host our first ever team here in Uganda! The connection was through my good [Farming God's Way](#) (FGW) friend Bernard van der Veen from [Stellenbosch](#), South Africa. He came with four energetic university students from his home church, Shofar. They were eager to come to Uganda to support the work going on here.

I'm not too big a fan of a lot of short term missions that end up doing work the locals could do for a fraction of the price. I believe God can and will use what we have if we offer it up to him (remember the boy who gave Jesus his lunch?). So, I asked the team what skills they had to build up the local people and nearby missionaries and we came up with tennis lessons and worship team partnering!

So, we offered morning and evening tennis lessons to the general population in Jinja and also two of the team members joined with our home church here, Acacia Community Church, in building them up and encouraging the local worship team! We had a great week, despite lots of rain, playing on the Jinja clay courts with men and women and children from Jinja. What was really special was to teach tennis to over 50 kids and staff of all ages from Answering for the Children Ministries for their first time. Most kids here only kick around a soccer ball or play netball. We were also able to serve a large local expatriate (Christians and non Christians) home school co-op called Kilombera. In fact, because lots of the tennis equipment brought by the team was donated to Equip Uganda, these kids will keep playing tennis regularly with a Ugandan coach, Peter (white shirt, red shoulders). The team was able to form relationships and experiences that we will be able to build on as we seek to bring people closer to Christ.



The Stellenbosch team with some of our tennis players



Chris explains the FGW resource to farmers

At the Show!

This was the 6th year in a row we have had a kiosk at the [Jinja](#) National Agriculture Show. The kiosk is hosted by a variety of people like us who use the FGW resource. It's a great display of partnership between many ministries and people as we share the costs and time manning the kiosk. This is really a central point of our Farming God's Way year where we generate a lot of new interest in this amazing resource. As a follow-up point, we have our annual National Training event about three weeks after the show so the kiosk serves to draw people into a great training experience. Through the week of July 6-12 we had hundreds of visitors to the kiosk. We were able to tell many people about Kingdom farming and Kingdom living.

Safari Time!

At the end of June we had a lovely trip to Western Uganda. It's been a long time since our family had a proper holiday by ourselves. I know Jane feels so much rest and peace when she is in the scenic pastoral hills of western Uganda so we booked a few nights at a lovely small guest house in [Rushere](#). We also spent time on safari near Queen Elizabeth Game Park as well as a night in [Rukungiri](#) where we visited Jane's former Dorm Parents, Eva and Patrick, (at NAREC in Kampala) from when she was on her Industrial Training (for her catering diploma) as a single lady back in 2001. It was amazing to discover Eva at my FGW training last year – now they are rolling out FGW in their Diocese with the Church of Uganda in Kigezi North. It's so amazing to see how God works and to cross paths with his servants!

We were also able to take April Heki, our kids teacher for the last part of the school year, along with us and have a fun 10 days on the road as a big crazy family! April has now left for her home in the states and we miss her a lot. Which brings us to the next topic...



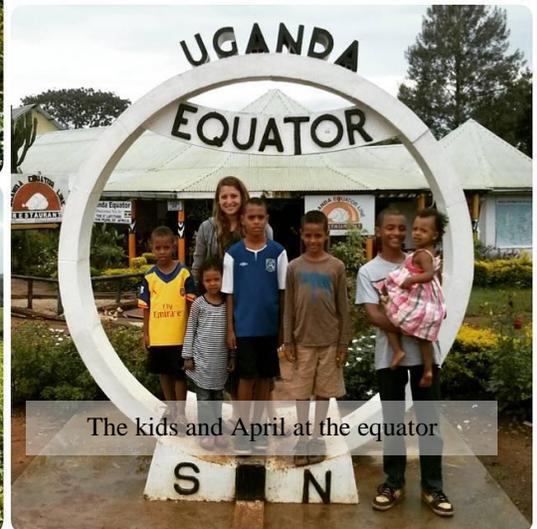
Kenny and Alin at the Equator



Queen Jane



Boys in tea plantation



The kids and April at the equator

We still need a teacher! Are you *that* teacher?

April, the boys wonderful teacher has finished her stint with us and did a remarkable job (along with Jake and Mary Balzer, earlier in the year) of getting the boys on course and onto the next grade. Now we will need another school teacher for next year (or maybe a couple) to teach the boys plus Anna who is now going to enter Kindergarten! That means the kids will be in gr.K,2,4,6 and 8 - are we good spacers or what??

Please use the contact info at the end of this letter to let us know if you or anyone you know is interested. Perks include free room and board which includes your own bathroom and large bedroom along with the much needed complimentary earplugs (jk)! There's even Wifi!

Keep Praying!

We are always in need of more prayers; "unless the Lord builds the house the builders labour in vain." We really want to be sure that we are not working with our own "good ideas" and our own limited energy. Instead we want to build with God's wisdom.

:" 18Guard against self-deception, each of you. If someone among you thinks he is wise in this age, let him become foolish so that he can become wise. 19For the wisdom of this age is foolishness with God. As it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness." 20And again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile." " 1 Corinthians 3:18-20

We also need continued prayers for health (Jane is often unwell), safety as we travel our crazy roads and peace and security as we enter into a season of election rallies and elections here in Uganda with the actual election date being early next year.

Financial Needs:

- Finances for Chris' international travel with his work on the Farming God's Way Stewardship Team (1 trip planned for September) **\$1,500 total**
- Ongoing expenses like our salary and ministry costs (mostly related to rural travel and internet costs). **E-mail us for a full report of how our money is raised and used.**
- Money for a newer vehicle; our current vehicle is becoming old (21 years), small for us (it seats 7 -- we need 10 seats now) and beat up from all the years of banging around the Ugandan roads. **Cost:\$20,000** (here's a picture of what we're looking for):
- Money for a small plot of land (2 acres) to act as a nearby training site for training local farmers and a money making venture to have some sustainable income here. **Cost:\$10,000**
- Finances for new work permits and visas. Our Equip Uganda NGO status has been renewed so we are now in the final stages of getting new work permits, dependant's passes and student's passes **(~\$1000/year)**

**To contribute to the Sperling's needs please see the addresses and links at the end of the letter*



Prayer requests and praises!

Please continue to pray with us in the following areas:

- Pray for **effectiveness** in our ministry; that many will come to know Christ and become His disciple in a manner that glorifies God and His Kingdom.
- Pray for our **safety and health** with our crazy roads and the many tropical diseases around.
- Pray that **our hearts will be ready** for God to work anew in and through us in Uganda.
- Pray that **God will give us heart's willing to give sacrificially** to those He calls us to.
- Pray for **Andrew** to make the right choices right now so that he will walk in God's ways and not the ways of the world which he finds so attractive. Pray for Tugume also away at boarding school
- **Pray** for good house help. We have two new maids who have replaced the previous ones. It's so hard to keep domestic workers here! It's even harder to find good ones yet we rely on them so much!
- Pray for provision for the work God has called us to.
- Thanks for all your prayers! They are essential to our life here!

Love from Chris and Jane, Andrew, Tugume, Kenny, Albert, Isaiah, Ezra, Anna and Alin

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