



CANADA
equip
FAITH AT WORK

the sperling jerry can

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

P.O. Box 683
Duncan, BC V9L 3Y1
Canada
Ph: 828-738-3891
Fax: 828-738-3946
March 6, 2017

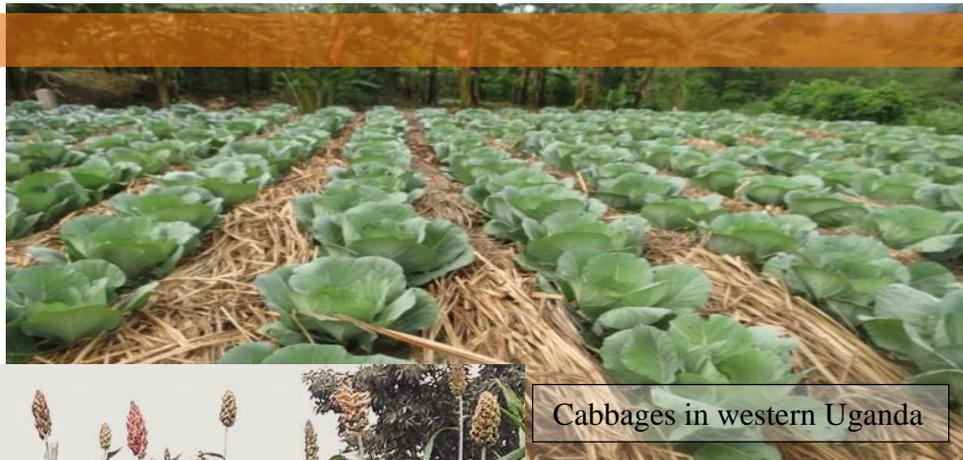
Easter – a season of new beginnings

A happy Easter Season to all of you, our dear friends and family!

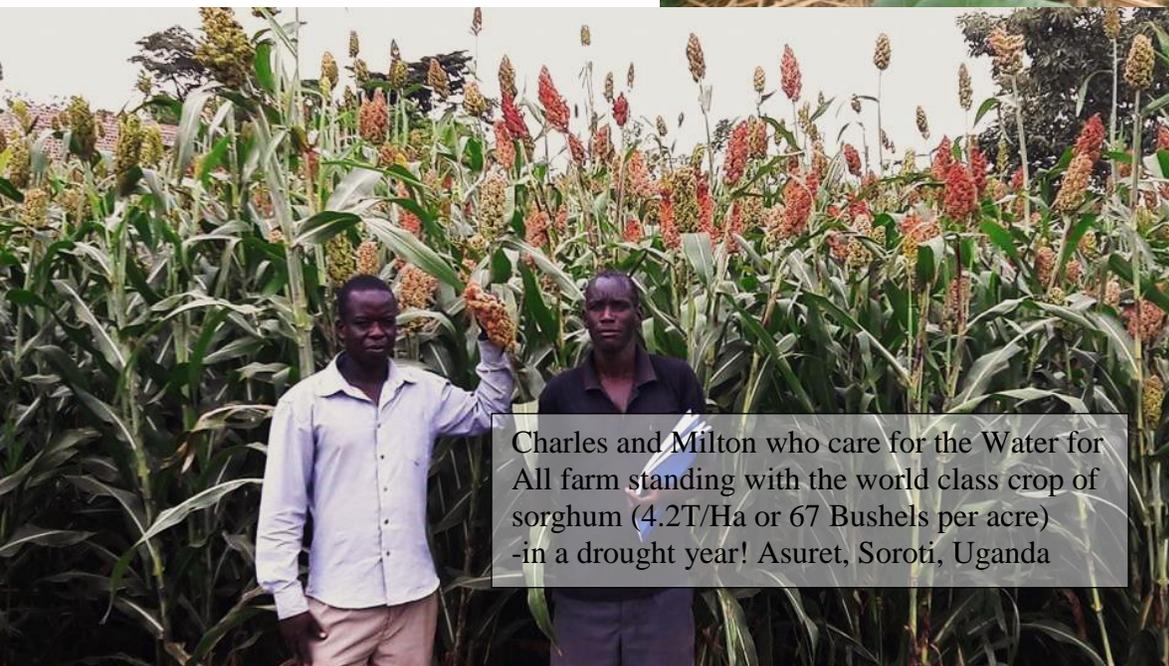
Easter means so much in Canada as it is combined with the newness of life we see in the fresh scents and colours of Spring. Here in Uganda Easter also parallels the oncoming of the rain in a new growing season. It brings to mind the chorus of a song by Smalltown Poets called [A New Beginning](#); “Life in Christ is now and always a new beginning; by your mercy You renew me ... as we put the old away we begin in Christ today”. We’ve had a difficult year in Uganda with prolonged drought and many [people suffering greatly because of hunger](#). **Please pray with us that this year will indeed be a new beginning of good rains but even more than that -- a year of putting away the old habits and putting on the new habits of Christ likeness both for us and for the many farmers we work with. Indeed, we need Christ to shine on us with His mercy and grace!**

Shining like the dawn

[Isaiah 58](#) tells us that when we follow God’s ways we will be like a well watered garden and our night will shine like the noonday sun! That was certainly the case this last year! Our faithful farmers, scattered all over Uganda, have had gardens that look like they were “watered” (they were only watered by the scant rain) meanwhile their



Cabbages in western Uganda



Charles and Milton who care for the Water for All farm standing with the world class crop of sorghum (4.2T/Ha or 67 Bushels per acre) -in a drought year! Asuret, Soroti, Uganda

neighbors who have not yet turned to Farming God’s Way are still suffering with failed crops and drought. Our farmers in western Uganda had 5kg (12lbs) cabbages and our friends in the east had bumper crops of sorghum! Meanwhile, their neighbors suffered greatly with failed crops. God’s ways were shining through! We praise God for his goodness to the farmers who are seeking to follow God’s ways in their fields.

We're coming to Canada

Our flights are booked! We're arriving in Canada for home assignment on May 8th! It will be a long journey which will start in Jinja with a 11-hour bus ride to Kijjabe where we will visit fellow missionaries Craig and Tracy Sorely for a couple days. They run an amazing ministry called [Care of Creation Kenya](#). They do teaching on Farming God's Way as well as creation stewardship and care. We'll stay with them at Moffat Bible College where they are based. From there we will then take the hour-long ride to Nairobi for our night flight to London. In London, we will have a 12 hour lay-over until we leave later in the afternoon for Vancouver. We will travel with the evening sun over the arctic and arrive about 9 hours later on Monday evening around 6pm at YVR.

We will be based in Abbotsford for our 6-month home assignment. We will do about a month long tour of BC in June and then another 6 week road trip to Saskatchewan and North Dakota in September/October. We are so excited to visit so many of you after a three year term here! We'll be making time to visit as many of you as possible. Please use our email or Facebook to contact us while we are in Canada.

We are thrilled that our friends, the Okuruts, have lent us their vehicle for our time in Canada while they are serving in El Salvador. However, we don't yet have a place to call home during our time in Canada. If you know of a house that needs taking care of while someone is on vacation – or a short-term rental of a 3-4-bedroom house, please contact us or our friend Mary Balzer (marybalzer@hotmail.com) who is helping us to get settled a bit in Canada.



Our family photo (Ezra was off with his friends so he can have his own picture)

Great opportunities ahead

When we return to Uganda in November we are hoping that a number of opportunities to share the message of Farming God's Way will come to fruition. I recently met with the Head of Agriculture Department at [Uganda Christian University](#). It looks like we will have one class a week with all of their first year Agriculture Students and likely be able to host interns for their second and third year students. I'm also hoping to go into the eastern part of Congo later this year. I have connections with ministry opportunities both in South Kivu and North Kivu Provinces. **Please pray for these opportunities and that the doors will open widely if it is God's will to pursue these.** Touching the young people with the Gospel of the Kingdom at UCU will be amazing! Taking this message of hope into the DRC will also be a great advance for the Kingdom. Pray with us about these opportunities please.

Another exciting item on the horizon is that we have many young trainers that we are mentoring. In January I was able to host a two day intensive workshop where I had time training four up-and-coming trainers in an intensive environment. It is exhilarating to see the diversity in the senior and junior trainers in the Farming God's Way Uganda training network. Along these lines, we will be holding our second annual Young Lions Camp for mentoring our trainers in godly character and good training habits. Please pray that God will work in the hearts of these men and women so that His Kingdom will go forth under the oversight of loving, kind and mature people. Last year I organized the camp but this year I told the "young lions" it was their chance to lead the event –looking forward to seeing their initiative as they run this year's event.

Capable Hands

While I'm away the Farming God's Way work will continue in the capable hands of my good friend and fellow missionary Klint Ostermann as well as a diverse group of people from all over Uganda who form the Farming God's Way Steering Committee. These great people use this powerful tool in their own farms and their own ministries and

have a heart to see Ugandans learn to live God's way! I'm privileged to leave behind a competent and experienced team. They will put together our kiosk and demo garden at the National Ag Show and will also host our National Annual Training event in Kampala. I'm blessed to have a very capable team around me but will miss them! Please pray that God will use them greatly during the months we are gone. Our Equip work will also be in great hands with our deputy director, Jeremy Boone at the helm.



Prayer requests and praises!

Please continue to pray with us in the following areas:

- **Please pray** for our farmers that we have trained all over Uganda to put into practice what they've learned even though it makes them often appear different and weird! Pray for courage and diligence. Many of our people are called names and abused for implementing Farming God's Way.
- **Please pray** for Jane's dad who has been sick for several years now with an unexplained disease which often leaves him anaemic. He is often in the Hospital getting blood transfusion. He is called Fenikansi.
- **Praise** God for the recent start of the rains! Pray that this will be a good season and the drought will disappear and that those who need food will receive food for today and knowledge to negate the effects of drought. In the future.
- **Praise** God for the provision of a vehicle for our time in Canada.
- **Please pray** for the provision of a house for us to stay in while in Canada. We are happy to house sit in the Abbotsford area.
- Thanks for all your prayers! They are essential to our life here! Send us your email if you would like more regularly updates.

Physical needs:

- We need a new-to-us vehicle for our work in Uganda. I'm managing to keep our Isuzu going but it seems weekly now that something is in need of repair. It's driven around 300,000km in the last 10 years here in Uganda and hit way too many potholes. We're looking for a 4WD. van or Landcruiser that can fit our family. Budget 15-20,000CAD
- We need a place to stay in while in Canada around the Abbotsford area. Any leads – give us a shout!

We love you all and just want to say **a BIG thanks** for all of your prayers and gifts which keep us going spiritually and physically! We are really looking forward to the chance to see as many of you as possible in the coming months!

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

E-mail:
sperling_equip@yahoo.ca

To donate on line go to:
www.sperlingsinafrica.com

In the US donations can be sent to:

Equip, Inc.
PO Box 1126,
Marion, N.C.
USA, 28752-1126

Attach a note "Sperling support"

In Canada donations can be sent to:

Equip Canada
PO Box 683
Duncan, B.C.
V9L 3Y1

Attach a note "Sperling support"



Our newest farmer group in Bukenze, Eastern Uganda