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

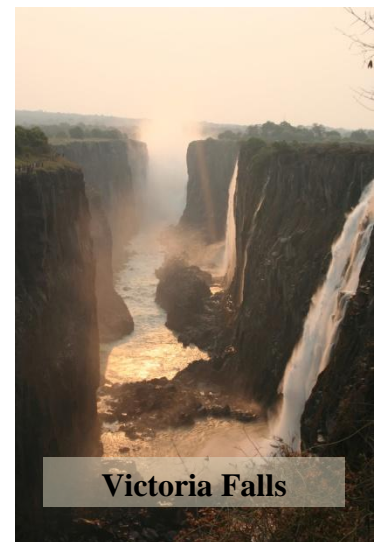
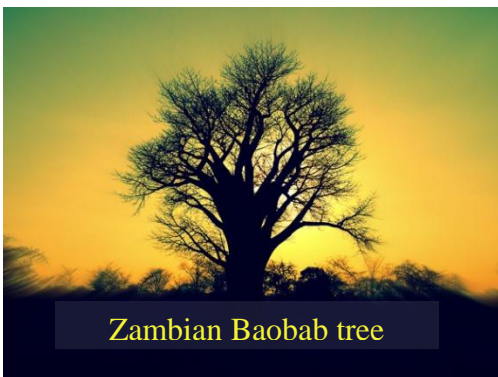
## African Christmas

. By the time you are reading this letter you will most likely have decided that it's time to put the Christmas music on and maybe even decorate the tree. We will be remembering the wonderful time we had with family last year and looking forward, amazingly, to Christmas with family again! My parents are coming for Christmas! This will be their fourth trip to Uganda and we are so thankful that they are willing and able to come and see us!

Our Christmas season will be busy with our good friend Dan Settler marrying another one of our good friends Judith Ampaire here in Uganda on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Dan is a member of my parents' church back in Saskatchewan and they have been spiritual parents to him so this will be an exciting day for our family. My sister April is coming out to be Judith's matron and I am going to be Dan's best man!



## Zambia



In September I attended my fourth Farming God's Way In Field Mentoring event. The previous gatherings of the Farming God's Way family that I had attended were in beautiful Lesotho. This time we were camped right on the beautiful deep gorge (200 meters!) of the amazing [Zambezi River](#) on the [Rapid 14 Campsite](#) of [Overland Missions](#). In 2012 I started a family tradition by taking Kenny to In Field mentoring. This time I took Albert to Zambia and we had great time getting to know the Farming God's Way family and making friends with many of the enthusiastic missionaries on the Overland Base. Albert had an

awesome time hiking down to the Zambezi a couple times, going to one of the natural wonders of the world, Victoria Falls, and spending time at a Lion and Leopard reserve near our camp.

My role during the week was to act as a group leader for one of the three training groups that were sent into the community to deliver the message of freedom presented with the Farming God's Way material. Grant, our chief trainer, had me leading the group in preparation for the first ever Uganda In Field Mentoring event coming up in February 2015. Leading the group wasn't a lot of work but meant keeping our team focused, creative and spiritually tuned as we taught a group of willing and eager local farmers. We were privileged to have Jonathan Bremner (SA) come through as one of our newest Accredited Trainers in our group. Farming God's Way uses these mentoring events to assess our trainers' skills and heart in a real training setting. Becoming an accredited trainer is a long and rigorous process culminating in acting as lead trainer on an In Field Mentoring ministry team. We praise God for such a family of committed labourers!

## Sad good-byes

We have had a number of family and friends pass away in the recent months. My Grandma Willems went to be with the lord just this last week after a short but difficult battle with pancreatic cancer. She was my last surviving grandparent – an era has sadly come to an end! We also lost a former schoolmate of Jane's (and Student of mine), Dan Kaijja pass away. In addition we had a friend of hours, Irene succumb to her long battle with AIDS (over 30 years!). I also lost a good friend when my mechanic friend, James, died under very suspicious circumstance. Also, one of our great young future Farming God's Way trainers, Sybrand was tragically killed in a head on car accident leaving behind a finace and parents that he dearly loved. Another trainer, Pius, from Kenya lost his young daughter to sickness a couple weeks ago too. We are praying for these people's friends and family who are left behind. If you can join us as we pray for comfort but also for people to take seriously Christ's call to leave behind the old life and come to Him for forgiveness and a new life that points others to their Creator.

## Farmers Helping Farmers

I am happy to let you know that the [Farmers Helping Farmers](#) initiative has adopted it's first farmer group about 40km east of Jinja. I will start meeting with community leaders to plan the training activities and to organize the farmers for follow-up monitoring. If you are interested in contributing to this project please select the "Farmers Helping Farmers option" on the "donate" page for our family on the [Equip website](#). We will be partnering with missionaries Jacob and Lana Witmer who work in Iganga.

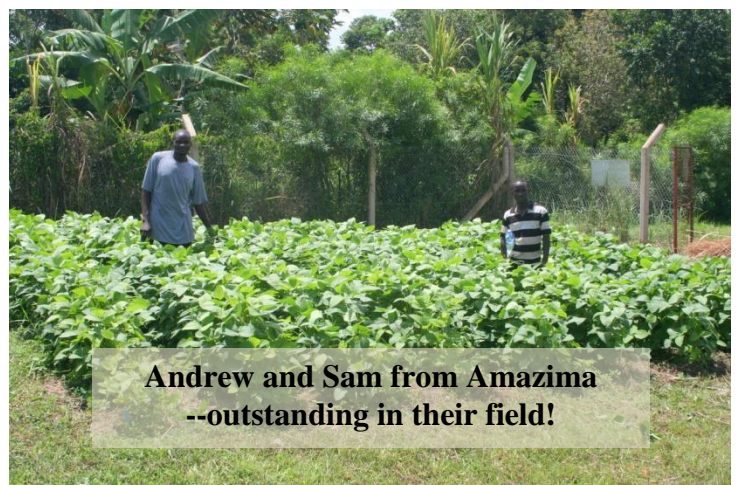


**farmers helping farmers**

## The Promised land

Our work with the Farming God's Way (FGW) mission tool is ever increasing in scope and influence. Slowly but surely, as famers learn how to apply the life-changing principles of FGW, they realize the freedom in Christ and the blessings that they can not only receive but also, and more importantly be a part of giving.

Recently I was able to help our friends at [Amazima Ministries](#) to host a very successful Field Day. Field Days here near Jinja give people from all over the central and eastern region an



**Andrew and Sam from Amazima  
--outstanding in their field!**

opportunity to come and to come and see what putting Farming God's Way into practice looks like. I like to think of the Field Day as a bit like a trip into the "promised land" where people can see the reality of the blessings that God has planned for them. Of course, seeing the great crops and great blessings doesn't always meet a response of faith and trust. Remember that only 2 out of 12 spies could see that the blessings could be attained by triumphing over the giants of the land. The few of the giants of adopting FGW are: giving up witchcraft and ancestral worship, putting into practice faithful weeding and diligent mulching, changing from carelessness to carefulness and sowing faithfully and with joy.

We find that people who attend workshops as well as field days have a much better understanding of what they need to do to attain the high standards needed to be a successful farmer.

## Farming God's Way Activities

Chris has spent time organizing for the upcoming **In Field Mentoring** which will be a major week-long gathering of the FGW Uganda family just outside Jinja in February next year. It will be a time of sharpening our training skills and strengthening our relationships with each-other.

This next week Chris will be visiting famers and trainers in the Teso and Lango sub-regions of Eastern and Northern Uganda. Joshua Kakande, our first Accredited trainer from Uganda, will be joining me for this quick trip of assessment and encouragement. Please pray for our safety and that we would be an encouragement to those we visit.



**Beans at Amazima Farm**

Chris will also be hosting about **three workshops** in the [Busoga](#) region over the coming months of December and January. These events will also be used to help Chris observe some of our up and coming trainers so that their skills can be honed and improved.

One of the more exciting developments is a recent relationship formed between **Uganda Christian University** (ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in Uganda) Development Studies Faculty and Farming God's Way trainers Karl Buchholz and myself. I was able to give three classes on an introduction to Farming God's Way as well the students (about 40) were able to attend the Field Day at Amazima. There are a number of very excited young people who, we pray, could really help to

be great catalysts of change in rural Uganda by using this powerful tool.

## Prison Ministry

Jane continues to minister in the large Jinja prison, Kirinya, alongside a team from YWAM headed by our friends Dan and Judith (the couple getting married soon). The prisoners have their own fellowship where Jane and the team have opportunity to share God's Word and encourage and pray for the prisoners. We thank the Lord for our wonderful Life Group who gave a large sum of money so that these prisoners could have a large meal for Christmas as well as have some of their basic needs, like soap, met. These men and women live in very difficult conditions and do not receive the justice or care that is often needed. Please pray that Jane and the team will share wisely and kindly with these men and women. FYI there are no pictures allowed in the prison so it will not be possible to show you pictures of our friends there.

## Financial needs

- Ongoing expenses like our salary and ministry costs which are mostly related to travel. We need more monthly supporters to reach our monthly goals that cover salary, airfare to and from the field, medical plan and ministry expenses.
- Money for a vehicle to replace our current vehicle which is becoming old (21 years) and beat up from all the years of banging around Ugandan roads. (\$10-15,000)
- Finances for a small plot of land (2 acres) to act as a nearby training site for training local farmers. (about \$5,000-10,000)

Praise God for one all of the support we receive that makes the work we do possible! Thanks for your faithful giving!!

## Prayer Needs

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 builds His Kingdom.
- Pray for our **safety and health** with our crazy roads and the many tropical diseases around. Jane has been quite sick lately with a long term infection and is just recovering now.
- Pray for us to find a **young lady to help teach** our children this coming term.
- 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.
- Prayer for good house help as the girls we have had for a while left us only a week of being back. We have a couple girls here who are promising... we'll see!
- Prayer for the successful and quick renewal of our NGO (Equip Uganda) here so that our work permits can be renewed properly. We have visitor visa extensions.
- 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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