

CANADA  
**equip**  
FAITH AT WORK

# the sperling jerry can

P.O. Box 683  
Duncan, BC V9L 3Y1  
Canada  
Ph: 828-738-3891  
Fax: 828-738-3946  
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*"...carrying Living Water in practical ways..."*

## Merry Christmas!

Merry Christmas everyone!

We're looking forward to this wonderful season when we celebrate God becoming man and entering our broken world to restore our relationship with him. This love story never gets old; it only becomes newer each year as we realize how deep and wide Christ's work of salvation is! The past while I have been thinking a bit about how Christ died for me so that it could be possible that I could die to my selfish desires and live for Him. Only in His strength, with His direction, can I deny myself. Fighting my selfish desires is a constant battle and one that the world knows little about. The wonderful gifts of marriage, family and community can only be fully enjoyed as we learn to die to our selfish desires and live for the good of others in a close relationship with Christ. Jesus was the expert at dying to Himself and submitting to His Father's ways.

On this matter Philippians 2:4 says... (from the Amplified Version)

*"Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also the interests of others. Having this same attitude in yourselves that was in Christ Jesus (look at Him as your example in selfless humility), who although He existed in the form and unchanging essence of God (as One with Him, possessing the fullness of all the divine attributes – the entire nature of deity), did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped or asserted (as if He did not already possess it, or was afraid of losing it) but emptied Himself (without renouncing or diminishing his deity, but only temporarily giving up the expression of divine equality and His rightful dignity) by assuming the form of a bondservant, being made in the likeness of men (He became completely human but was without sin, being fully God and fully man). ...he humbled Himself (still further) by becoming obedient (to the Father) to the point of death, even death on a cross."*

December will be a very busy month but most of our activity will have little to do with Christmas. From December 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> We will be hosting a Farming God's Way Workshop here in Jinja for the third year in a row. This training in Jinja has become our second national training and is at a great time, leaving the attendees with over two months to prepare for the next growing season in March. Last year we had a round a 100 delegates – this year may be much the same!



Ruth with her amazing maize – probably the biggest in her whole village!

## Farmer Follow-up!

A large part of my work is to follow-up organizations, farms and farmers to see how they are making out with implementing Farming God's Way. I often hop in my car for a few days and visit strategic training points around Uganda. Last year I did both a western Uganda trip and a northern Uganda trip. This last

month I took it easy on my Isuzu and got on the phone, making dozens of phone calls to people who we trained in July at the National Training. I was able to contact most of the 80 attendees who filled in follow-up forms (that was out of over 100 delegates). I was very pleased that over half of the people I talked with had implemented Farming God's Way to one degree or another. This is quite a good percentage seeing that farmers are normally quite slow to take up new ideas. Most of the people I talked with are very happy with the results stating that their plots are helping them to survive the recent drought here in many parts of Uganda. Many of their neighbors are now eager to learn from them so they, too, can have better crops next year.

I also received a wonderful report from Bukungu where I trained in August. Most farmers abandoned their gardens in the region meanwhile our farmers will be harvesting from their fields where they implemented Farming God's Way. One man gave a testimony in church, with tears flowing, how God had helped him through Farming God's Way.

On Thursday, I took the 60km trip east of our home and went to visit my Wante farmers. I found that again, they are some of the only people in their village to have successful crops – most peoples' beans and maize had failed. Fortunately for most of the people here in eastern Uganda they also have planted cassava and sweet potatoes so they will have something to eat. The other saving factor for these people is that there is a lot of swamp land so the crops in the low-lying areas are not so badly off, although still not doing so well.

## Drought

Please pray for Uganda as much of the nation is experiencing drought. It has started raining again but the damage is done and many are suffering from hunger and some people have already died as a result. Pray that people will get the help they need and then also make the changes they need to make to allow them to preserve their environment –overgrazing, monocropping and poor resource management are the order of the day in most of Uganda. This, obviously needs to change. Also, pray that people would repent and turn from their wicked ways so that God can heal their land. Drought has both spiritual and physiological aspects to it!

In such situations we believe our role is primarily to teach good farming practices and turn people from their sin so that drought can be avoided and the resulting productive farms can be used to build God's Kingdom. Please pray for those in relief work to be wise and generous in their approach.



## Family

Thanks for your continued prayer and love that you show towards our family. Jane and I have been feeling the effects of a bad cold which went to our chests. One night Jane had a bad coughing attack and I messaged friends to quickly pray and she was feeling better quickly. Thanks for all of you who pray – we do live on prayers! The children are well but are not having an easy time with our school situation. Without a tutor the kids don't get all the help they need and the older ones have to tutor the young ones (when I can't) so you can guess it's not always a pretty sight here! Please keep praying for a teacher for the kids. Jane is busy organizing her brother, Augustine's wedding so she is quite stressed with all of that. She loves him dearly and want so see things go well!

We will miss you all during this Christmas time and wish we could come and visit you and have some winter fun! Perhaps this will happen next year. With some of the issues here being resolved (like the railway allowance) and my work permit expiring in May, it looks like we will be coming for home assignment in May some time.

We will be looking for a place to stay for low or no rent in the Abbotsford area and an 8-passenger vehicle to use during our time in Canada. I will be busy with Equip work and will not take on a full-time job so we would like to keep our expenses low this time in Canada. Please let us know if you can give us leads on a house or van around Abbotsford.

## Financial needs

- **Finances for our flights to Canada for home assignment next year.** Airfare, a vehicle and housing are major needs. Please let us know if you have a lead on an 8 passenger vehicle and a place to stay for little or no cost in the Abbotsford area. The earlier we can plan for these items the better!
- **Finances for a newer vehicle for here in Uganda;** our current vehicle is becoming old (22 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 (there is about 75% import tax on used vehicles here which obviously makes them very expensive).
- **Finances 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
- **We need more monthly supporters; we have been having to take cuts to our paycheck now for about 6 months.**
- *\*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:

Many of these prayer requests remain the same month to month because they are **SO KEY** to our lives here. Please commit these regularly to the Lord.

- 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 **God will give us hearts 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. He's struggling to stay in school with poor choices currently
- **Pray** for a teacher to join us soon to take the kids through the next year of Distance Learning.
- **Pray** for provision for the work God has called us to. Our support levels have been down for a while!
- **Praise** for the slow but steady adoption of Farming God's Way around Kamuli and Wante and many other parts of Uganda.
- **Praise** for the railway only taking only a very small portion of the land! We should be able to travel back to Canada without worrying about land issues when we are gone.
- Thanks for all your prayers! They are essential to our life here! Send us your email if you would like more regularly updates.

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

E-mail:  
[sperling\\_equip@yahoo.ca](mailto:sperling_equip@yahoo.ca)

To donate on line go to:  
[www.sperlingsinafrica.com](http://www.sperlingsinafrica.com)

In Canada donations  
can be sent to:

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

Attach a note "Sperling support"

In the US donations can be  
sent to:

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

Attach a note "Sperling support"



Pizza Hut in Uganda! Whaaaat? This was a treat for the kids the day we went to immigration for new student passes. #pizzadestroyers



Anna and Alin being goofy!



Mom and Dad escape for an evening out!