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"...carrying Living Water in practical ways..."

In Field Mentoring

A belated Happy Thanksgiving to you all!

We trust you are all having a great fall season as you settle back into the swing of school life and work routines. For us the fall means a trip for me (Chris) to the annual In Field Mentoring week in southern Africa. I usually take one of my children along for a chance to build relationship and for them to watch [Farming God's Way](#) impact African rural communities. This year was Ezra's chance to come along with Dad; he was so excited! He had a really great time making friends and seeing and doing things he's never done before!

Every year a team of Farming God's Way trainers, advocates and friends gets together for what we call In Field Mentoring. These people come from all over the world to hone their training skills through being mentored meanwhile ministering to a local African community. This was our second year in a row to work with [Siyakholwa Development Foundation](#) in [Keiskammahok](#), a community in the homelands of the [Xhosa](#) in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa. I was leading a ministry team of missionaries and nationals from all



My co-leader David training in the Well Watered Garden



Ezra with his friends Immer and Fedor (L) and his friend Lady (R) who befriended him

over the world; we had missionaries representing Namibia, D.R.Congo, Zambia, Malawi, Uganda, America as well as Xhosa and Zulu and South African locals. There were two other teams that were made up of the 55 delegates that came to In Field Mentoring

Our mission is two-fold in In Field Mentoring; we aim to train and mentor our trainers to become great facilitators of workshops as well as reach out to a local farming community with the gospel through a Farming God's Way workshop. This helps our training activities to be relevant and our trainers to work in context with poor agrarian communities in Africa. The week includes everything from crazy skits to technical experiments. Our goal is to convince and compel the community that adopting Farming God's Way practices will change their lives. We also emphasize that **NO** method of farming with change someone's life but only the power of God's Word through the work of the Holy Spirit can bring true transformation. **We had eight people give their lives to**

Christ this year and many more challenged to leave traditional practices of witchcraft and ancestral worship. Please keep us covered in your prayers as I believe we are on the forefront of the spiritual battle here in Africa because we directly confront the dependency syndrome, witchcraft and ancestral worship which are key areas that Satan is holding people captive in on this continent. You can read more about our trip on our blog at <http://sperlingsinafrica.blogspot.com/2016/10/farming-gods-way-outreach-in-upper-xgulu.html>

Family News

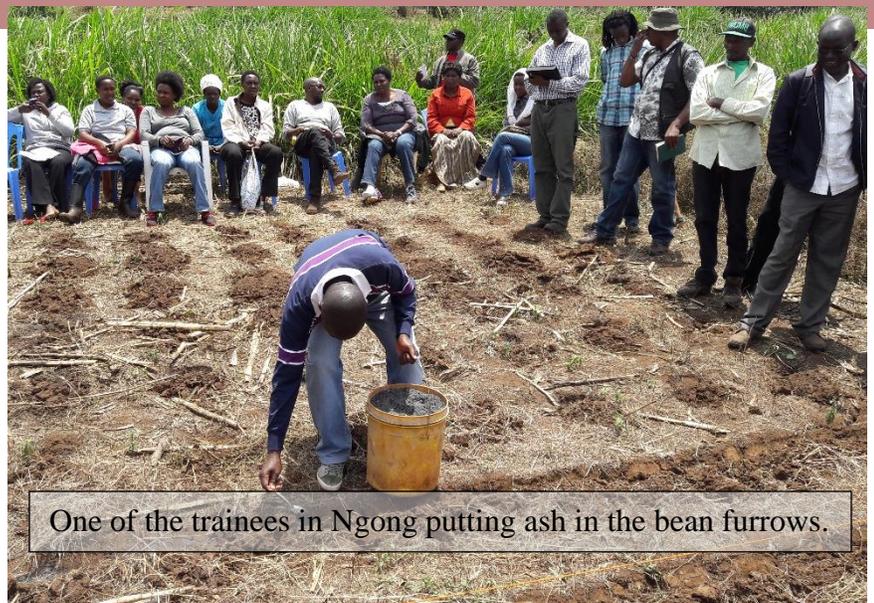
The school year has started and the kids are busy with their distance learning courses. Kenny, Albert and Isaiah are pretty much mostly doing on-line based curriculum and Ezra and Anna are doing paper based work. There are quite a few challenges with schooling here as we don't have a tutor to oversee the kids work so this adds to the list of things that Jane and I need to do. Please keep praying for a teacher/tutor for the children. Also the cost of internet is huge – close to \$200 per month as we pay per data usage. There is no good unlimited internet where we are. Some good news is that there is a Canadian teacher here leading a co-op school for primary school children on Wednesdays. She also teaches violin so the kids are able to keep up with their violin lessons!

Jane is still recovering from feeling very ill a few months ago and now has a lingering deep chest cough which she picked up while I was away in South Africa. Please keep her in your prayers as her health continues to drag her down in so many ways. Being chronically ill is no fun! She tries to remain quite active with her children and her small animal business. Many can't believe that she is so sick as she usually looks so good!

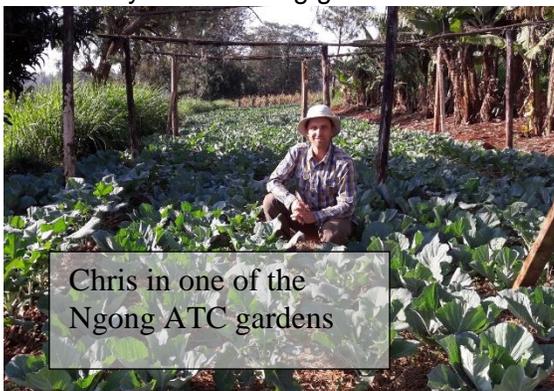
Railway update: many of you have been praying about our home being in the way of the new high speed railway. The good news is that they shrunk the total railway allowance from the proposed 130m down to 60m! This means that only a few meters of our property will be taken. Praise God! Thanks to all of you who prayed for us – our prayers were answered! Please pray for fair compensation us and for our friends and neighbors. Many are losing their whole house and property in this process.

Quick Kenya Trip

A couple weeks before I left for South Africa I received a special request to go to Kenya to train for three days. One of our Kenyan-based accredited trainers had set up a training but was unable to facilitate so Bountiful Grains Trust (they produce the Farming God's Way material) requested that I help out and paid for my flights there. It was a really good time and I found the delegates to be a little more serious and focused than our Ugandan farmers. I think the environment there is a little more harsh (drier on the whole), so farmers need to be more serious to survive. We trained at a Government Agriculture Centre in Ngong that had just got going with Farming God's Way two months prior but already had amazing gardens!



One of the trainees in Ngong putting ash in the bean furrows.



Chris in one of the Ngong ATC gardens

The training went really well with farmers staying late after the official ending time to learn in the garden! Attendance was high (well over 100) and attention was amazing with people staying through the sessions with a fervent interest. I've rarely had such a large group of keen learners.

I am so glad to now be familiar with many of our great farmers and trainers in Kenya. Looking forward to seeing the "seeds" we planted grow there!

Financial needs

- **Finances for our flights home 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;** 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
- **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

PS. We'd LOVE to hear from you. Many people support us, we know that many also pray but I can probably count on one hand the number of people who let us know how they are doing and share their lives too in form of an email or letter! We love our relationships with you all. We'd love to hear from you – especially Christmas cards and letters mean so much here!

E-mail:
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To donate on line go to:
www.sperlingsinafrica.com

In Canada donations
can be sent to:

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