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FAITH AT WORK

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

Happy New Year!

We have had a great Christmas back home in Jinja, although we missed three of our boys at our Christmas table. Andrew is finishing up with his Teen Challenge Program in Kampala and Kenny and Albert remained in Canada for their schooling. We had a full table (actually, we had a second table out too) with people who work for us at home and friends from around the area. No turkey this year but we had some nice tasty beef which went well with our matooke, potatoes, rice and groundnut sauce. Julius, one of our farm workers, didn't want to eat the yellow "teeth" so I ate most of the sweet corn myself!



Our Christmas Dinner

We had a "hangout" (video chat) on Google with the boys in Canada and were able to watch them open their gifts that we had left behind for them. They enjoyed a White Christmas with their wonderful host family who are Rich and Nancy Balzer, second cousins on my mom's side. It was a warm day here and we had our traditional soccer game in the yard after our food had digested a bit. Christmas is different here in Uganda than in Canada but I think, since (my)coming in 2000 we've only spent 2004, 2006 and 2013 Christmases in Canada so we have gotten used to our own traditions here. Most of all we are always able to focus on Christ's incarnation and his life and death and resurrection which really give us deep hope and joy. We pray that your new year, with all the new exciting things and all the mundane things and even with the things that we hope won't come our way will be filled with the deep joy of knowing Christ more fully.



Saying goodbye to the boys at YVR ☹️

New schools for everyone!

It's hard to believe that we are here in Uganda without Kenny and Albert. They are soon to be 15 and 14 years old and it hardly seems real that we have left them in Canada with our relatives to go to school. We are very happy with their host family situation and are so pleased they can continue on at MEI as well as attend our home church and their youth group there. Please pray for them and for us as parents and for the rest of the kids - we're used to having them around and are trusting that this is the right step so that God will build into them life skills and develop their talents and relationships during this time for His glory. Leaving them behind was not a goal but it turned out to be the best option and the Lord gave us peace about it. Kenny was given a scholarship through our church and thus we only have Albert's fees to pay for. This is another tremendous blessing we received because of generous people who contribute towards Christian education.

Isaiah will be attending a local missionary homeschool co-op called Kilombera right on the Nile River and Ezra and Anna will be attending a missionary co-op school called Kyika (chyee -ka) right in Jinja. This will be our first time to have all of our school aged kids in schools here in Uganda. The kids are all looking forward to attending their new schools starting in January. Please pray they adjust well to their new learning environments. Our lives will definitely be a lot more scheduled now which will be nice. It will also be great to put some of the frustrations and stresses that come with homeschooling behind us. Thanks for all of you who have prayed for our schooling situation; we're trusting that it will be a bit more settled now.

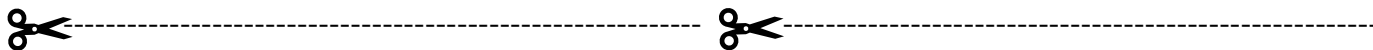


Getting back to work

Thankfully I have been able to ease myself back into work with our first major event not until mid January. I was able to tour a group of pastors around the demo gardens at Amazima. This was a great time of sharing the hope and vision of farming God's way! I think it was an eye-opener for many!

We will have our first workshop at our home church in Jinja from the 11-13 January. We should have around 50 people attending from around Uganda. Other training events will be in January with our farmers groups in Busoga (about an hour east of us) and hopefully we will be in Northern Uganda in February for our second annual northern Uganda training. Meanwhile, I will be visiting our farmers and seeing how they have been doing since we left in May.

One of the major items on my list this year is to help to grow our local training base both in terms of numbers and quality of trainers. This involves time both formally and informally mentoring trainers of all levels. I really enjoy this work as I love teaching and I love teaching people how to teach and I love teaching people how all encompassing. We have two trainers in Uganda who are ready to become accredited trainers. Accreditation is the final process for our best trainers. We try to assess ability, a heart for the poor and a love for building God's kingdom along with the obvious farming skills that we teach when we accredit our trainers. Please pray for Andrew Wandera (Ugandan trainer with Amazima) and Roslyn Kee (Missionary from Northern Ireland). We also have many young guys that we are mentoring in this process. Please pray for them to not only be good trainers but to also have a good Christian witness. Immorality, pride and unfaithfulness with finances are all major hurdles for of your junior trainers. **Please continue to pray** for these brethren; our desire is to see Christ formed in them.



Please continue to pray with us in the following areas:

- **Praise** that we have been in better health since our last couple weeks in Uganda. We were all sick with the flu and Jane even ended up in the hospital twice. Our last couple weeks were not fun with sickness, cold wet weather and lots of packing to do. Thanks to all who prayed for our health. We're much better now. **Praise** God for great flights. We enjoyed our flights with Qatar Airlines – quite a nice airline. All of our luggage made it too so that is great!
- **Please pray** for our nephew Steven Ntambala who is getting married this next month on the 20th. Many of you may know him and would know that he would appreciate a financial contribution towards his introduction and wedding and his future life together with his fiancé Esther. If you would like to do this just contact us by email.
- **Pray for our famers and trainers** with Farming God's Way. Changing the way we farm is one of the most difficult yet fundamental changes that any society can go through. It involves, most importantly changes of the heart and mind, to begin such a journey. Please pray for our trainers and farmers to be people who seek God's glory in all they do.
- **Praise for money for a new vehicle!** We received a large donation from friends in Saskatchewan for our vehicle which basically put us at our target. We will be looking for a vehicle now. Please pray

for this process as buying a good used vehicle in Africa is an adventure and needs wisdom and God's guidance.

- **Pray** for Uganda's political situation as the changes to the constitution are being made to raise the presidential age limit and to increase an election term from five to seven years. Behind these decisions are a desire to stay longer in power and eat from the tax coffers and yet do very little to build our country. We have seen a marked increase in corruption and desperateness among young people to find money. .
- **Thanks for all your prayers!** They are essential to our life here!

Physical needs:

- More supporters to reach our monthly target which covers our salary, airfare and ministry expenses.
- For the first time we have all of our school age children in private schools (or co-ops) which cost much more than the "free" distance learning that we were doing through our local school district. Please consider giving towards our added education costs. Thanks!

May the Lord continue to bless you as you serve Him!

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

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