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

The Long Journey to Canada

Our journey here to Canada was a long one but it was worth the stops on the way! The bus ride from Jinja to [Kijabe](#) was long but very beautiful. We passed the older, bustling lakeside town of [Kisumu](#) and then the beautiful highlands which took us through the “tea town” of [Kericho](#). In Kenya we really enjoyed our time getting to know Craig Sorely and his family as well as his Kenyan colleague Antony Muga and family! Their [Care of Creation Kenya](#) ministry is an amazing part of the Kingdom work in Africa. After a couple cool days in the highlands we left Nairobi for London on an overnight flight and then killed a full day in a very comfortable “rest and relaxation” room



Kericho tea plantations

in Heathrow while we waited for our evening flight to Vancouver. It was so good to be in our “new” home in Abbotsford after many days of travelling!

Happy Canada Day and Happy Anna Day!

We just had a great weekend here in Abbotsford celebrating Anna’s 7th birthday and Canada’s 150th! It was a great time where my sister, April, and her family in addition to my brother, with his kids, came to celebrate the two birthdays! It was 4 years ago that we last celebrated the big day with family here in Canada. To celebrate we had fresh strawberries and waffles with REAL maple syrupd cream! Then we watched the parade in Abbotsford and then closed out the night with fireworks at the Ag Rec Centre! What a fun time with family. The kids were so happy to be together with all their Sperling cousins --a first in over three years! I think we had to quadruple the waffle recipe! We’ve got less than 4 months left to enjoy our time with our friends and family – hope to see you!



The kids enjoying Canada Day breakfast with cousins Niko and Joshie

The Young Lions

One of the keys to getting the Good News of the Kingdom out in Uganda is having more young Ugandans who are excited about sharing Farming God's Way with rural communities all over the country. We have many young men and women excited about teaching Farming God's but they get little mentoring in their local churches due to the focus on



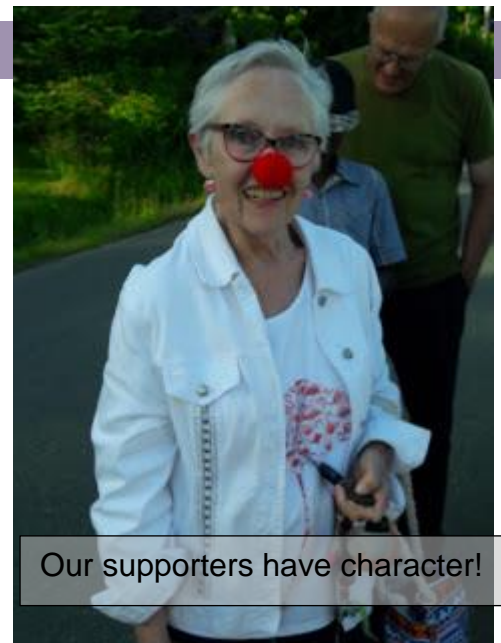
The Young Lions!

the "Prosperity Gospel" and a general weakness in the discipleship within the church culture. In order to mentor these young (or young in Farming God's Way) people we stay in touch with them on the phone or by getting out to meet them in their communities and by hosting events where we can intentionally mentor them. We recently held our second annual "Young Lions Camp" at the end of April near our place in Jinja. The event is highly anticipated by this young group of junior trainers. We don't spend a lot of time talking about farming but spend much more time on discussing servant leadership and purity in ministry. Uganda is well known for its alcoholism and promiscuity; we fight hard to keep these young leaders from these perilous pitfalls by drawing them close to God. **Please pray for these young people to stay pure for the sake of their witness and the glory of God and to work wholeheartedly for the Kingdom. Please lift up the following "Young Lions" in prayer; Asaph, Andrew, Samuel, Stephen, Eddie, Griffin, Emma, Miir, Vincent and Jospeh. Also pray for our leaders and trainers Jerry, Josh, Nelson, Klint, Roslyn, Uzziah and Ben to mention a few...** It's an honour to lead such a diverse and committed group of people from all over the country.

Home Assignment

We're happy to be in Canada for a few months on Home Assignment. We have already done an almost 5000 km speaking tour of BC where we spoke and visited with supporters from places all the way from Vancouver Island to Fort Saint John. I recently wrote a blog post about Home Assignment and here is an excerpt...

"One of the main reasons we come back on Home Assignment is to give a report on our work. We meet with people in formal and informal settings, giving them a personal account of our last three years. People are free to ask questions about any aspect of our work that they like. This provides needed accountability but I think, most importantly, it provides great details for effective prayer by people who labour on their knees on our behalf. Our family will travel close to 10,000km visiting churches, friends and supporters in western Canada this year; this effort to meet supporters in person is part of building a family of people who care deeply about building God's kingdom through the work we do. I know many people are called to work hard and earn money to invest in the Kingdom and they depend on people like us to leverage that money into Kingdom work.



Our supporters have character!

Secondly, the purpose of our Home Assignment is for rest and family time. Our home in Uganda is a very busy place with lots of visitors. We would have it no other way! We also spend a lot of time giving to people spiritually. This means we often get emotionally a bit worn down. We are also under a lot of spiritual attack in Uganda as the enemy does not like his ground being taken from him. In order to recuperate we intentionally try to block off chunks of time here in Canada to have family time that builds us spiritually. The mere fact that there is only our core family members around the dinner table here in Canada is a major benefit to our family's health. Long hours of travelling together and experiencing Canada together are sometimes trying but really do help to build a great bond as we

experience God's goodness to us as a family. When we receive a new member on our support team or stay in the home of a generous family the children all get to see God's faithfulness to us through His people. We will go on walks and hikes together, travel together, grocery shop together, play together, eat together and pray and read God's Word together. We need this time to bond tightly as a family unit. We need this time to build our physical and spiritual strength for the term of work ahead and to recover from the challenges in the term past.

Thirdly, the purpose of our home assignment is to get the children caught up with Canadian education standards. Most missionary families struggle with education options on

the field. Many missionaries have to leave the mission field early because they have run out of options for their children's education. We got behind last year as we had gone a full school year without a volunteer teacher (most missionaries rely on volunteer help around the home to help with child care and/or education) to help with the children's distance learning. Now that we're back in Canada, we will spend time getting the kids back on track with their Canadian education while we are here. This allows them to stay on track with their post-secondary education options here. The level of education in African universities is very low and the system is still stuck in learning by rote and critical thinking is not a skill developed there. This means our children will be looking to finish high school with the Canadian high school system. In order to do this we take time to put them in local schools and meet with local educators.

The last reason (that I'll mention here) that we come to Canada is to widen our financial support base. Our family needs continue to grow with larger teenage appetites and increased costs of educating them. Living costs and airfares continue to climb. In addition, our work continues to grow with a larger scope and more influence both in Uganda and in Africa at large. Unlike most people a missionary can't put in overtime to meet some extra needs or pay for unexpected bills. We rely on the generosity of others to live and work! So, we spend a lot of our time trying to connect with new people so as to widen our support family. Team building is an essential part to our Home Assignment.



On tour: the kids in Peachland near the railway trestle.

Prayer requests and praises!



Please continue to pray with us in the following areas:

- **Please pray** that our travels this fall to Alberta and Saskatchewan will be safe and productive times of connecting with supporters, family and friends. **Praise** God for safe travels during our BC tour!
- **Please pray** for Nikki Dryden who is the wife of our Farming God's Way lead trainer and author Grant Dryden. She has had 6 operations so far this year with gallstones. Please pray for her healing and for God's hand of blessing and healing to be on the Dryden family.
- **Please pray** for wisdom and provision as we look at education options for our children. We are still looking for a teacher or teaching couple to join us and help teach our children and other missionary kids in Jinja. The last year has been very difficult for the kids.
- **Praise** for the provision of a house for us to stay in while in Canada. We are living in the beautiful farming community of Matsqui Flats in an affordable older farm house.
- **Pray** for the National Training Event and National Agriculture Show in Uganda while we are gone to go well and for the Gospel of the Kingdom to be shared clearly with the people that attend these events.
- **Thanks for all your prayers!** They are essential to our life here!

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
- More supporters to reach our monthly target which covers our salary, airfare and ministry expenses.

We're really hoping to see most of you during our time in Canada – and we've already seen many of you!

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

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