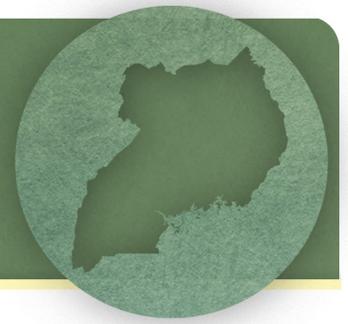




— Thomas & Kristin —
IRVIN
PREACHING THE GOSPEL IN UGANDA



May 2020

Luke 24:30 (KJV) And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them,
he took bread, and blessed *it*, and brake, and gave to them.

There was something remarkably characteristic about the Lord that gave Him away to onlookers. As He walked and talked with these men on the road to Emmaus, they knew Him not. Yet the moment He blessed the food, they knew.

This characteristic of prayer and praise should engulf the lives of them that know Him. This is an unmistakable feature of the Christian life. In times of such turmoil, when the ideologies of malcontents war in our streets, may we not be found in their midst, neither in acceptance of their divisive doctrines. I'm grieved by those that claim the name of Christ, openly sowing discord among the brethren through politics. As Christians, we understand the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. Clearly, the heathen rage and the people imagine a vain thing, but these realities haven't changed the intrinsic value of souls, who are worth the blood of Jesus Christ; let's stay focused.

Remember Covid-19? In our most current distress that seemed so long ago. Yet, the related reactionary consequences still linger. I have hesitated to write this prayer letter due to the fluid nature of the world around us. Kristin and I were scheduled to leave for Uganda, permanently, June 22, 2020. Covid-19, in slow and torturous fashion, made certain that flight was pushed back. After multiple conversations with Delta, they assured us KLM would resume flights to Uganda late June or early July. They had flights available for us on July 3, so we moved to that opening. As the world began to peek out of its doors again and as states reopened, I became more confident the Lord would help us make that flight. We are in a unique situation in that my wife is pregnant with our first child, July will be the seven-month mark of her pregnancy. As such, airlines will not allow women to fly that are beyond seven months pregnant. We could have her temporarily identify as a man, but we have chosen to stick with reality and honesty. This flight in July was crucial to our getting to Uganda and getting settled, otherwise, we would have to stay in the US until after our baby is born (September 29, 2020).

Alas, I received the dreadful message from KLM, flights to Uganda are suspended; they will try again in August. But Delta never canceled their portion of the trip, I was still hopeful. So I began calling Delta twice per day for one week but was unable to get through. I tried calling at different times of the day, they are just overwhelmed at the moment and cannot answer our calls. Kristin and I were driving through Memphis, Tennessee, so we made a detour to the International Airport and spoke with someone at the Delta Airlines desk. The woman there reluctantly helped us. She explained they also have to call and that I should expect her to be on hold for one hour or more. I informed her I have spent hours daily trying to call and cannot get through. I needed her to make that call. After one hour on hold, someone answered and confirmed there will be no flights to Uganda until after August 2. In terms of our desire to get to Uganda and get settled, this is dreadful news. Nonetheless, the Lord knoweth, and the Lord taught us to praise Him for His infinite goodness. With the birth of our child soon approaching, we will not be able to fly to Uganda in August. The most realistic timeframe for us appears to be January. We will establish that plan and do our best to communicate it to you, our supporters, in the coming letters. Thank you so much for your faithfulness, we have lacked nothing during this difficult time. Please pray with us as we work out these details.

Thomas Irvin