



— Thomas & Kristin —

IRVIN

PREACHING THE GOSPEL IN UGANDA



Romans 1:13 KJV Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.

December 2020

When times are good, men seem to find the wisdom in standing with Christ. And yet, it seems that common wisdom fails when the days turn to evil. Let us remain encouraged by the sweet consolation in Christ Jesus, despite the groanings of creation. We have little doubt most would happily join us in revoking 2020, a year that clearly failed in keeping the terms and conditions of normalcy (at least a familiar sense of normalcy) within a reasonable margin. Despite the troubles and the irregularities of 2020, our commission has not changed. Frustrations of this sort are but temporary setbacks, though some may require long term navigation. Our Lord will never leave us nor forsake us. We view such setbacks with a sense of temporal time limit relevant to the realities of this world. That is, we press on with eternity in mind.

Of course, this does not change the fact Kristin and I were scheduled to leave for Uganda June 2020, but we were let hitherto. Yet we clearly see the Lord still desires to send us to Uganda, His ambassadors presenting heavenly terms and conditions to lost souls. The time of our departure is nigh at hand, we are so eager it's painful! While we wait, my family and I remain in the US doing the work of missions until the time of our departure. We made use of this time by engaging in the following: deputation meetings, preaching church services, preaching in missions conferences, street preaching, public evangelism, tract distribution, assisting local churches, producing podcasts, writing, and in the midst of it all we had our first baby. While our service to the Lord in Uganda was hindered, our service to the Lord was in no way hindered. Uganda reopened the Entebbe airport October 1, 2020, allowing us to finally make realistic plans for our permanent move. The timing was perfect. We couldn't leave until Bethany was born. Her birthdate was October 5, 2020. We purchased tickets the first week of October and began making preparations to leave January 26, 2021. In recent prayer letters I asked God's people to pray with us regarding these flights as well as the unforeseen processes that may be implemented. Your prayers with us are still desperately needed, we have had to change our route once already.

Delta Airlines introduced their new Covid Free Flights (which would make one think people must be absent from these flights). As such, the leg from Atlanta to Amsterdam was selected as part of their test period. Making use of these flights would require Kristin, Bethany (three months old), and I to be tested in the Atlanta airport before boarding our flight to Amsterdam. A second test would be required mid-flight on our way to Amsterdam. Then, a third test would be administered upon arrival in Amsterdam. If all three tests were negative, then we would be loosed from the local requirement of quarantine in Amsterdam.

But, we are not traveling to Amsterdam. This barrage of testing would not help us in Uganda. In fact, we incur all the risk, and receive no benefit. Covid testing has shown to be highly unreliable thereby placing us in danger of a false positive. While I could see the value of these tests when traveling to Amsterdam, in our current dispensation, travelers passing through Amsterdam jeopardize the completion of their trip. Furthermore, I am not clear what the requirements would be for passengers in the immediate vicinity of a person who tested positive. Would they require the entire flight or sections of the flight to quarantine? And at whose expense, how long, and will my family be allowed to stay together during such a period. With hundreds of people on a flight subject to erratic testing, this just seems like a recipe for trouble.

With so much potential for confusion, we re-routed our flights from Memphis – Atlanta – Amsterdam – Entebbe to Memphis – Detroit – Amsterdam – Entebbe. We are requesting those of you who pray faithfully to do so with hyper-focus on this situation. My family and I are beyond ready for life and work in Uganda. We spent much of this week packing. We will be traveling with an abundance of luggage. We'll be required to produce negative Covid tests before departing. Also, there has been unrest in Uganda due to the process of their current presidential elections. Please pray this would be kept to a reasonable minimum. Finally, as American politics further assumes the identity of the third world, please pray the presidential transition or lack thereof in January would not impose any new confusion or restraints on flights.

We have been on the road non-stop since the third week of October. Bethany was barely three weeks old when we began traveling again, now she is closing in on three months old. With all that we have put her through, she has been an excellent traveling companion. We are excited to put 2020 behind us, ready to start the year and our lives on the mission field in Uganda!

Thomas, Kristin, and Bethany Irvin
Ambassadors for Christ: Uganda, Africa



www.plenteousredemption.com • plenteousredemption@gmail.com • 901.428.8460 • facebook.com/plenteousredemption

Sending Church: THE BIBLE Baptist Church • 872 Glenwood Road • DeLand, FL 32720

Mission Board: Baptist International Missions, Inc. • PO Box 9 • Harrison, TN 37341 • 423.344.5050