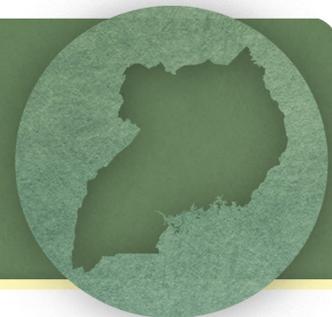




— Thomas & Kristin —  
**IRVIN**  
PREACHING THE GOSPEL IN UGANDA



January 2021

1 Thessalonians 3:3 KJV

That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto.

This wretched virus is a perpetual thorn in the side. I do pray we someday see this mythical “curve” lessened, dissipated, or eradicated. Regardless, all is well in God’s mercy. Afflictions in life remind us of the tribulation one must face entering the kingdom of God (Acts 14:22). But we are well prepared; in Christ Jesus, we are endowed with the whole armour of God. And not only so, but we glory through tribulations also, knowing precisely what tribulation worketh in our lives. A softer generation of servants may see tribulation and affliction as direction lacking the Lord’s blessing. Yet the scriptures saith “happy are ye” if ye be reproached or if ye suffer. Kristin, Bethany, and I are not dissuaded, but we are further resolved to make our way to Uganda.



Of course, I fully expected to write this letter beneath the beauty of an African sunset. I suppose, for now, the cold Tennessee weather must suffice. The pressure mounting around our departure for Uganda was tremendous, but we pressed hard and fervent toward that mark. As you have prayed with us, I gave many concerns and situations that could have caused our departure to go wrong. I honestly did not consider testing positive for the Coronavirus to be one of them. It honestly never crossed our minds; we thought government intervention, election difficulties (both in Uganda and the U.S.), not getting test results back in time for flights, even false positives, but not contracting the Coronavirus. Kristin and I have come into contact with the virus multiple times over the past year, and somehow each time, we seemed to be the only couple to escape its grip. We began to think we couldn’t get the virus. Upon testing for our exit flights to Uganda, we tested at two different facilities, in two different states, under two different

organizations. Both came back positive for Kristin and me. The doctors we worked with had Christian backgrounds; they were so excited to learn of our move to Uganda, it grieved them to have to deliver the bad news.

I did discuss with the doctor what they thought would be a reasonable time for rescheduling our flights. The doctor is convinced that forty-five days would be a safe time frame. It seems that some twenty-five percent of people can still test positive for up to three months after having had the virus, even though it is no longer active in their bodies; what a frustrating turn of events to deal with if it were so for us. In light of this, we have rescheduled for February 18th; this is an ambitious date in light of the possibilities, but please pray with us that we can test negative promptly. We will have a preliminary test performed on Monday, February 8th; this date is exactly two weeks after we initially tested positive. If we test negative at this point, we will proceed with our flights scheduled for February 18th. If we are still positive, we will prayerfully consider moving the date out further, as necessary.

We are recovering well from all symptoms and progressing quickly. Other than the typical annoyances that come with flu symptoms, we have not had any severe conditions. The Lord has been good to us through it all. Please pray with us, first that we can test negative on February 8th, second that nothing would hinder our flights on February 18th. Thank you so much for your love and concern for us; God bless.

Thomas and Kristin Irvin

