



THE IRVIN FAMILY

AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST: UGANDA, AFRICA

January 2022

Ephesians 3:8-12 KJV Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you:

I often enjoy learning of the work the Lord is doing in the lives of his people. In essence, sweet fellowship with Christ guarantees the Lord's presence and work. I count it charity to learn of such labors in the lives of so many around the world. Thus, our own prayer letters are a joy to write and an opportunity to tell of the Lord's work here in Uganda.

The outworking of sweet fellowship with Christ encourages more time, more service, more devotion to our Prince of Peace. The weary days and the long nights are overshadowed by pleasant consolation in Jesus Christ. I boast of Christ; I dare not conceal his goodness to my family and myself. May the Lord have mercy on them who would reject such eternal kindness, kindness that is available to all who will have it here and now.

More and more, I find myself rejoicing when amongst those who understand what is needful and therefore choose that good part which shall never be taken. I am continually broken over those who reject what is needed and remain troubled about many things - entangled with the affairs of this world. Life with Jesus is far greater, only to be supplanted by the last trump and our eventual meeting in the air. The clearer this becomes, the more strange my pilgrimage here reveals itself; there is a connection between biblical understanding and estrangement with this world.

Sweet and honorable is the life lived for Jesus. If any doubt, I encourage you "come and see." Experience the Lord, not as a character in a book, but rather the very person who giveth the victory to his own. The sea of life may ebb and flow boisterously, but the wildest gales fail to disturb that spiritual Rock.

January finally marked the end of a lockdown counted amongst the longest and most harsh the world experienced. While certain requirements linger, overall, the lockdown has been lifted, and the Ugandan economy has been set free. Uganda suffered two years of captivity style solitude due to a virus that is now being declared endemic as the common cold or the yearly flu. Let's pray this reality catches on worldwide. Nearly all restrictions have been lifted, but looking back, I must admit they did nothing to stifle our service to Christ. The Lord was good to us, we continued to worship and serve him throughout this time, and he never ceased to work alongside us. We praise the Lord for his protection and his blessing during these unnecessarily difficult times.



January began with the first Tri-Annual Bible Institute of 2022. The aim of this TBI was to teach through the books of James-2 Peter. Brother Keith arranged many participants in this course, five missionaries, as well as a hand full of Ugandans, taught through the chapters assigned them by brother Keith Stensaas. We had a goodly number of men attend, which was surprising as the TBI took place while schools were reopening for the first time in nearly two years. As in any country, children returning to school is a significant event in Uganda that demands much time and money. We praise the Lord; these men were able to overcome such demands and spend the week learning the word of God.

As members of BIMU (our NGO in Uganda), we had our 28th annual meeting in January. These meetings are required to effectively maintain our NGO status in Uganda. We use it as an opportunity to have, in essence, a Bible conference. My family and I were privileged to meet Pastor Adam Thompson from Capital City Baptist Church in Austin, Texas. Our family has heard much about Capital City, and we met many missionaries from that church while on deputation. It is a great church that produces excellent missionaries. We were blessed to have Pastor Adam Thomson come and preach to us. I listen to hours of preaching online, but it is little in comparison to being in church and hearing a faithful man expound God's word.

With the lockdowns lifting and so many people returning to participate in their local economies, our street preaching ministry at the market has been in overdrive. We would pass out around 2000 tracts and 1200 John/Romans booklets at the Masaka market alone in a pre-lockdown month. Since the economies reopening, we have had to double the tracts to 4000 per month; praise the Lord. I will need to order 5000 tracts monthly to meet the demand and stay ahead. We are hardly reaching the thousands of people who attend this market on a Friday night in our current capacity. If we were to double our participation, we would still scarcely place a tract into the hands of the thousands passing by that street corner and market. Our situation here greatly illustrates the harvest is plenteous, but the laborers are few. Please pray with us for laborers.



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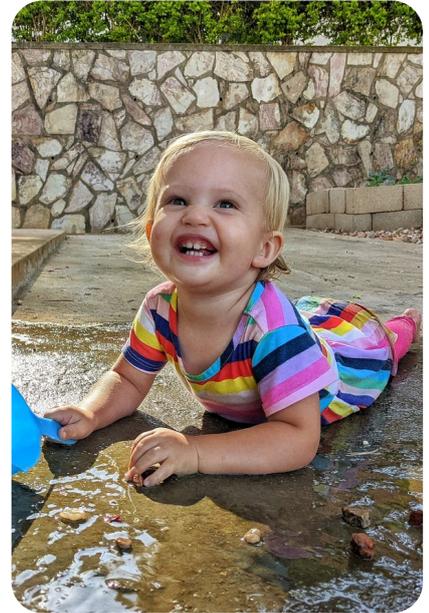
Speaking of laborers, by the time you read this, we will have started the next semester of the Masaka Bible College here at Masaka Independent Baptist Church. Brother Keith is blessing me with the opportunity to teach the History and Preservation of the King James Bible, otherwise known as Bibliology. We are blessed here in Uganda; their national language is English, and many can rely on the perfect word of God - The King James Bible. But many more do not competently read or speak English; therefore, we have the responsibility to provide them an accurate copy of God's word in their local language. Men will be attending the Bible school course on the history of our Bible who will, Lord willing, then follow up that course by beginning translation work on the Luganda Bible. This is a critical time and work here - I am praying desperately the Lord will provide men capable of competently completing this most necessary labor. Through teaching them the history of the King James Bible, they will also learn where their own Luganda Bible came from. The work on the Luganda Bible was completed in the 1890's - it was translated from the 1881 Revised Version, and then the Luganda Bible continued to go downhill from there. The more we teach these men, the more we find atrocious errors in their Bible. Lord willing, we intend to reconcile this problem; please pray with us!

Also, continue to pray for my wonderful wife. Her pregnancy has been tremendously smooth thus far. The projected due date is April 14th, 2022. April 1st, we will rent a place in Kampala for the month; Lord willing, we will have another home, water birth. The Lord has been so good to her through this pregnancy; continue to pray for her health as well as the health of our second child.

There is so much more I would love to tell you; God would I could sit with you and tell you all the wonderful works of our Lord here in Uganda. Maybe that will be our lot at his feet in heaven. I must mention in closing; those of you that support us have been tremendously generous; I write and pray the sweetest of blessings to you for your selfless concern.

May the Lord richly bless your dutiful obedience,

Thomas, Kristin & Bethany Irvin
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