



# THE IRVIN FAMILY

AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST: UGANDA, AFRICA

October 2022

*For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.*

*Isaiah 57:15*

Brethren, we salute in the name of the Lord Jesus.

I find it interesting the word *eternity* is only found once in the word of God. Even more interesting, it is the habitation of God himself. As the world enters the straights of economic turmoil and political inability, the God who inhabiteth eternity will be our refuge. Of course, he should be our refuge despite the signs of the times, but that is another subject altogether. With such turmoils comes a lack of typical comforts, for which the world will learn to again do without or find some other means. For now, the world's wealthiest countries will be reminded what it's like to freeze in winter, a lesson that will surely test them to the core of their climate change ideologies. Nonsense of this sort is fun for the idle hands of the Western World as long as their plenty is plentiful.

Life without God in a cold and cruel world will expose secular philosophies' potential fortitude. As for us, who trust in the Lord, we will continue to hope in the *high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity*. I pray we holdfast through this rapidly coming onslaught in the wisdom and blessing of God. This present evil world has nothing to offer but cold fires that fill rooms with smoke on every side. Empty promises, false hopes, and unfulfilled dreams are all the world has to offer. But we *sorrow not, even as others who have no hope*. Our hope is blessed, and though we sorrow in this life, our pilgrimage has a blessed destination - Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amid this turmoil, one of my greatest joys is that *my children walk in truth*. October 5th was Bethany's birthday when she turned two years old. It is hard to imagine she is only two; it seems she has been so long time with us. We are continually amazed by her growth and maturity. In two years, she has learned and can sing dozens of hymns such as *Man Of Sorrows*, *When I Survey*, and *Be Thou My Vision*. She can quote dozens of Bible verses in full, including the entire chapter of Psalm 23. She loves going to church and does well sitting through services. Her personality is warm, caring, and loving, and she can be very funny. A recent conversation between her and her mother went like this: *Kristin: "Bethany, where is your hair-bow?" Bethany: "In the paths of righteousness."* She brings tremendous joy to our lives; we thank the Lord for such a wonderful child. Please continue to pray for her as we do our best to *train her up in the ways she should go*.



Considering turmoil and incompetence often brings us to various government agencies and individuals. Bethany was born in a cabin in the Tennessee woods; subsequently, we had her passport, birth certificate, and Social Security card less than one month after her birth. Adrian is almost seven months old and does not have any of those documents. The only existing record of his birth is hospital documents and a Ugandan birth certificate. For several months I have been trying to contact someone at the US Embassy in Kampala for assistance, but my messages and phone calls have fallen on deaf ears. I finally found instructions online for reporting the birth of a child abroad. The instructions included an email address to send the necessary documents. I gathered all the required info, scanned them, and emailed them to the Kampala Embassy. For three weeks, we heard nothing back, though each week, I sent a friendly reminder informing them I was still "patiently" waiting for their response. Praise the Lord, on October 31st, I finally received an email with a scheduled interview appointment. We are somewhat deterred that the interview appointment is scheduled for January 9th, 2023. If something were to happen between now and then, causing us to need to leave the country, we could not do so. Adrian has no passport, and we have no means of traveling with him internationally; please pray that this task will be accomplished as timely as possible.

But, the turmoil continues, this time in a strange direction. Particular turmoil exists that can only be characteristic of Africa. Someone wanted to send a message to our local church in Masaka or our Pastor. The scene we stumbled upon did not come with an accompanying note of explanation. It appears in the night hours, someone came onto the church property and dismembered our Pastor's goats. His wife found their bodies mingled in the strangest of ways. The only thing missing from the goats was their blood; everything else appeared to be present in the unsightly scene. We have no idea who would have done such a thing or why. Please pray for the continued safety of our town church and its members.

The deepest of turmoils are still confronted by Bible preaching. Our admonition is the closer we appear to approach the end times, the more we should assemble ourselves together around the word of God. I have taught the men's Sunday School class at church for more than one year. Three young Bible School students have been attending faithfully and have grown tremendously in God's word. I have now included them in the Sunday School teaching rotation. We are teaching through the book of Matthew. They need the opportunity to study and present God's word in a teaching format to God's people. Thus far, they are doing a tremendous job; please pray for them as they serve the Lord in this capacity.

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Uganda celebrated its Independence Day in October. Pastor Paul gave me the privilege of preaching the main service that Sunday. With visitors present, we gave the people a vivid view of the Author of Eternal salvation. Leave it to *the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity* to author eternal salvation. Afterward, the church spent time together in sweet fellowship.

Lately, I have been both impressed and saddened by the fact that our church operates well independently of the missionaries. We have the honor of introducing them to scriptural ministries in service to Christ, but the men and women here pick it up with joy and run with it on their own. They take ownership of the ministries and serve the Lord Jesus. Souls are being saved, and Christ is lifted up for lost souls in Uganda to look to him. The greatest joy of it all is seeing the core group who come faithfully, but now we are seeing others who have been more reluctant to join us come out and stand up for Jesus. Please pray that more church members will get involved in service to Christ here in Masaka.



From the door knocking and street preaching, we consistently see families come to church. We regularly have visitors who tell us they were given a tract at the market ministry. The doorknocking continues in a careful and orderly fashion. We have maps to follow that allow us to clearly see where we have been and where we need to go next. Everyone needs a witness from the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise God, we have men here dedicated to making sure that happens.

One of those men is brother Gross, and he is also a translator working on the Luganda Bible. Gross is proving to be an excellent young man; I am often impressed by his faithfulness to his translation work and his love for soul-winning. He is in charge of the doorknocking ministry and is one of the main preachers when we go street preaching. He has an excellent attitude and loves the Lord. My life and work here are made easier by having someone who can receive instructions and carry them out to the full. He has about two years left in Bible School (the pandemic delayed him by one year), and we are excited to see what the Lord will do with him in the future.

We thank you so much for taking the time to read our letters. We also greatly desire your continued prayers for our family and ministry.

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