

# THE IRVIN FAMILY

AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST: UGANDA, AFRICA



September 2023

*For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established; That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.*

**Romans 1:11-12**

We remain puzzled by the rapid entry and departure of September. The close of Summer and the entry of Fall brings about certain notable days for our family. Kristin's birthday is August 4th. Our 9th wedding anniversary was September 1st. My birthday was September 24th, and our firstborn, Bethany, turned three years old on October 5th. Adrian is the odd one out; his birthday is April 14th. As a family, we do not hold these days in high regard, but they do facilitate time of reflection. My wife and I have been married for nearly ten years, and each year, I develop a deeper appreciation for her presence in my life. She is a tremendous wife and an excellent mother! Furthermore, Bethany is growing rapidly. At times, it seems she has been with us for so long, yet it has only been three years. Thus far, she remains disobedient to my instructions to slow down and stop growing so quickly. I praise the Lord often for my family.

I participated in my last TBI as a missionary in Uganda early in September. Though I intend to return to Uganda often, most notably until the Bible is complete, this was my last opportunity to teach these men as a missionary to Uganda. I have been thankful to Brother Keith for providing me with these opportunities. I enjoy few things in life more than teaching God's word, and I have been grateful for the group of men who faithfully attend the Tri-Annual Bible Institute. In this TBI, we closed out the book of Acts. We taught the past two profitable TBIs through the Book of Acts.

Immediately after TBI, we were blessed with the biblical union of Brother Quinto and Sister Sarah in marriage. These two have been a tremendous blessing to Kristin and me. As individuals, they faithfully demonstrate their resolve to serve the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, this was a blessed union that is often rare today: two people with goodly character who waited to start life together in a biblical manner. We pray the Lord will continue to use them now as a family.



In September, Kristin had her last Biblical Motherhood class. It was a bittersweet assembly of ladies deeply concerned with raising godly families. Kristin immensely enjoyed this time of fellowship and teaching, teaching the ladies of the church how to love their husbands and children. Kristin is working to turn her notes into a booklet that we plan to print and leave for the ladies interested in reviewing the lessons they learned. Any ladies who might be interested in a digital copy, please let us know, and we will make them available. Please continue to pray for the families of Masaka Independent Baptist Church.

Pastor Paul, the Pastor of Masaka Independent Baptist Church, approached me with a few day's notice and asked if I would teach on a touchy subject in God's word: hair. I wasn't sure if he was genuinely interested in my help or setting me up for stoning. But I took the challenge, though the message may not have been what they expected. We spoke nothing of hair length and measurements but rather that nature's instruction and our willingness to heed that instruction reveals some level of the Headship of Christ in our lives. The struggle for ladies in Uganda concerning hair comes partly from their school systems. Overwhelmingly, schools in Uganda are boarding schools and require all male or female students to wear their hair short. Thus, as they grow out of the school systems, the simplicity of the required hairstyle often continues into adult life. But, in the end, the message was received well, and we pray the ladies embrace the glory of their God-given covering.

One of the struggles of living and ministering in a foreign land is maintaining the visa situation. Uganda is no exception, though we have been blessed in Uganda with a long-term NGO status to help with this. Regardless, the system has become so complex and expensive that we have been required to enlist the assistance of legal counsel. In the three years we have been in Uganda, the visa situation has increased in complexity and expense. For our part, we were in a difficult spot. The BIMU NGO was set to expire, and the renewal was moving painstakingly slowly. But, regardless, our visas required renewal in September. Praise the Lord; our lawyer got us a ninety-day visitor visa to facilitate our remaining time in the country. Another praise is that the BIMU NGO was finally renewed, and now the BIMU missionaries remaining in the country can renew their visas under the NGO.

Also, in September, we received sad news from Kyazanga. A storm moved through the area, that caused the church to collapse. This would be heartbreaking under any circumstances, but this church newly moved into this building. They worked together as a church to make the bricks, set up the building, and build the roof. We are unsure how they will move forward with rebuilding, but they will certainly need help. Pastor Byamakama is a blessing; this church has been zealous to win souls and minister to their village. If you are interested in helping them, please notify me or missionary Keith Stensaas (I can provide his contact upon request).

As we breeze through September, we are one month closer to our departure date. We will be leaving Uganda on November 6th, 2023. We have one month left to close out our responsibilities here and prepare the work in Uganda that we will continue from the States. Kristin has been packing slowly over time, reducing the function of our home to the bare necessities. We were able to make contact with KLM's cargo services. They shipped some of our items home at a reasonable rate. This will be tremendously helpful as we intend to travel home with as little luggage as possible, which will still be a large amount, but this is expected when moving internationally.

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As we close out our time here, we are in a strait betwixt two. We have invested in and love so many people here in Uganda and are also concerned about the needs of the people at Go Forth Baptist Church in Mississippi. My family and I have been praying for the people at Go Forth, a small congregation with significant needs. As we communicate with them, we learn of the painful medical troubles some struggle with. Please pray that the Lord will provide them with the comfort and answers they need. We are blessed with sweet souls in Mississippi and long to see them!



Thomas, Kristin, Bethany & Adrian Irvin  
Ambassadors for Christ | Uganda, Africa

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