

May 14, 2008

Greetings from a blessed couple!

We have been so blessed since returning to Uganda. The goodness of God has been evident in every corner of the ministry. He has also blessed us personally so much. It would be hard to explain the many things which fill us with thanksgiving, but we will share just a few. To understand more fully, we suggest you just come pay us a visit! J

It was so wonderful to have Dad and Mom Thomas (Pr John and Marilyn) with us for our first month back in Uganda. We shared earlier about the discipleship and family ministry. The most precious time we shared together was on my (Karina's) birthday. Exactly three years ago Dad, Mom and I packed a lunch and journeyed to a quiet hill on the other side of the island. There we talked and prayed about my future on the islands and a future spouse to share the ministry. This year we again picnicked at the same place, giving thanks and praise to God for all He has done and all He has in store.

We are also thrilled with what God is doing in the churches on Lingira Island. For some time, strife has plagued the churches in Lingira, Kyoya and Katonga camps. Now the churches share "Overnights" (all-night services) bimonthly. One month they pray together in Kyoya and the next one in Lingira. Recently, the former pastor of Katonga officially brought his people to become a part of the Kyoya church. This has opened the door for those of Katonga to fellowship with the brethren. Every week in Kyoya, new people are testifying that they have finally found the life they had sought for vainly in Islam, animism, etc. The Kyoya church which began just 2 years ago with 11 converts is now full, even though the school children are on holiday! I don't know what will happen when the children come back in two weeks!

The Lingira church is also undergoing an amazing transformation. A few months ago, less than a dozen people would come for services. Yet that church used to be full of life and joy with over 100 adults from many tribes cramming themselves in with their children to worship the Lord together. About 2 months back, the overseers asked Pr. Robert Wafula, Vice-president of SHIM, to stand in the gap until a permanent pastor is installed. Through his Spirit-led leadership and initiative, grievances are being sorted out and laypeople have been reinstated to minister to one another. Praise be to God that the church is again full, not just full of bodies, but full of fresh cooperation, love, worship and rejoicing!

Please do continue to pray for Pr. Waboka of Kyoya and Pr. Robert of Lingira. They need much wisdom as they instruct the villagers in the ways of God. Their flocks come from many tribes across Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda. They are most familiar with animism, cursing, lying, and retaliation. Most are illiterate. Many are HIV positive. Nearly all live on \$2/day or less. It is a good beginning ground. Do you remember the great change Christ did in your life when He brought you into His light? Please pray for these new believers.

Let me also share how God has most recently blessed Andy and me. We had been praying and hoping for a place we could "get away" to when we needed rest and privacy, and we are so, so grateful for His wonderful provision. Before leaving Uganda last year, I got acquainted with one

of the dearest couples on earth, Frank and Adelaide Gardner, who became like grandparents to me. When Andy and I returned to Uganda together, they opened their home, as well as their hearts, to us. Today the Gardners returned to US. They have asked us to be staying in their beautiful home whenever we are on mainland. Their compound is like a park. This morning tears filled our eyes as we thanked God for this wonderful place of respite. It even has electricity, a gas stove, hot water and flushing toilets!!!

Much love,
Andy n Keeky

PS- In the next email, we will share the blessing of two new staff members!