

The Shepherd's Tale

A newsletter of Shepherd's Heart International Ministry (SHIM)

Summer 2010

"Count your blessings, name them one by one..."

Counting Our Blessings as We Recall God's Faithfulness During the Last Three Years



...was founded in early 2007. It is based on Lingira Island, one of about 50 islands in the Buvuma Island chain on Lake Victoria in southern Uganda.

SHIM is working for the transformation of hearts and lives of the islanders, through the power of God's love and His Spirit.

SHIM's ministry branches include evangelism and discipleship, family ministry, agriculture, educational development, water and sanitation, women's ministries, and child development.

SHIM is under Global Outreach International.



To learn more, visit www.shimuganda.com

or e-mail shim@shimuganda.com

Shepherd's Heart International Ministry,
P.O. Box 295
Jinja, Uganda

Financial Address:
Global Outreach International (GO),
P.O. Box 1,
Tupelo, MS 38802
GO Phone: 662 884-4615
GO E-mail:
go@globaloutreach.org



Upper photo: The SHIM property in March 2007, shortly after it was purchased. Lower photo: The SHIM island base today: a garden in the foreground, the Smith home to the right and the administrative building in the background.

This summer, Shepherd's Heart has been reflecting on God's goodness over the last three years.

Three years ago, on July 28, 2007, a significant moment took place in the history of SHIM.

Andrew, a visitor at that time, asked "Keeky" Karina Thomas to be his bride, high atop a hill overlooking the islands. From that point Andy became an important member of the SHIM family and helped to usher in a season of growth in SHIM.

On the anniversary of that special morning, Andy and Karina took time to recount and thank God for the many blessings He has poured out on their lives and the ministry of Shepherd's Heart during the last three years.

We would like to share a few of those blessings (as much as space will allow), with you our family, friends and supporters. May you be encouraged and blessed to see God's hand and heart clearly on the island and beyond.

Family Ministry Flourishes.....



Okoro and Olive's family ministry began 27 years ago on Jan. 1, 1983 when the two were united in marriage. They successfully raised six children.

So, when they share with the couples and families of Uganda, they speak from personal experience.

The Okoros oversee the Family Ministry portion of SHIM, and regularly visit and counsel in homes in the three main camps of the island. They have also led family ministry seminars, both on the islands and on the mainland, including recently at a church in a slum in Kampala, Uganda's capital city.

The Okoros are open to sharing their messages about family wherever God leads them - in Uganda and beyond.

As they have seen their own family grow and flourish, the Os are also seeing the fruit of their ministry as couples are reunited and families are restored.

(Photo: Papa and Mama O speak during the engagement party/introduction of their oldest son, Ben, in July 2010.)

Bearing Fruit in the Gardens and Seeing Pineapple and People Grow

Bananas, pineapple, papaya, greens, sweet potatoes, kerekede, peppers, squash and more have been harvested from the gardens planted on SHIM's eight acres on the island.

But, in the visionary focus of our agriculture man, Twali Julius, who joined SHIM in May 2008, the gardens are intended to bear more than just fruit to feed those of SHIM.

Encouraging the islanders to invest in and use the island's natural resources, the SHIM's gardens are being used as visual demonstrations and as "learning centers" to teach new ways of "digging." Julius employs the people of the island,



Inset – Julius with his wife, Ruth, and son, Andrew, 10 mo. old. Large photo – Julius and Andrew inspect one of SHIM's 4000 pineapple plants.

helping to give them an income, and also teaching them along the way. Providing for those in need, is also a goal

of Twali's. Kerekede and moringa can both be used for medicinal purposes and so improving the nutritional health of the islanders is to be a "fruit" of SHIM's yields. To allow for the preservation of the food, in a place where fridges and freezers are rare, SHIM recently acquired a solar dryer. Pineapple, mango, papaya, banana chips, kerekede and moringa can all be preserved in the dryer, for the benefit of SHIM and its friends worldwide.

To expand his knowledge, and in turn help others, Julius is presently pursuing a bachelor's degree in agriculture.

Welcoming New Members to the Shepherd's Heart Family

As SHIM has grown, it has also added to the family. We want you to meet some of our newest members:



Amanda Taylor, from Keeky's hometown of Clatskanie, Oregon, visited Uganda in 2008, before officially joining SHIM in Feb. 2009. Amanda runs the media ministry, co-teaches a girls' Bible study,

teaches a women's craft group and assists with hospitality at the island base.

David Andrew Smith, the son of Andy and Keeky, was



born June 11, 2009 in Kampala, Uganda. He is in charge of bringing much joy and sunshine to the SHIM family and to all who visit the ministry.

Andrew, the son of Julius and Ruth Twali, see above article, was born Oct. 14, 2009, and is also a bundle of joy, who brings smiles and delight to others.



Ruthie Howard, also from Oregon, returned to Uganda for a second time in

January 2010 to work primarily with SHIM's Child Development (a holistic child sponsorship program). She also helps with hospitality, co-leads a girls' Bible study and assists with communication.



It was with much excitement that Shepherd's Heart welcomed the Peterson family – Bob, Michelle,

Janae, Joshua, Jon and Josiah to the fold in May 2010. Pastor Bob served as Andy's senior pastor in Dufur, Oregon, before he and his family felt called to Uganda.



SHIM's newest member is Faith, who is assuming the position of SHIM's new accountant. Faith, the second daughter of Papa and Mama O, holds a degree in computer science.



We are thankful for the gifts that each one has brought to SHIM and are blessed to be serving alongside of them here in Uganda!

Thankful for the GO Home Office

As we at SHIM count our blessings during the last three years, we cannot help but also be thankful for the Global Outreach International (GOI) home office, based in Tupelo, Mississippi.

SHIM operates under the umbrella of GOI. But, the home office is more than just a covering for the ministry here. The GO staff manages all finances that come to SHIM through their office, handles our mailing lists, sends out our newsletters, pays our insurance and other upkeep costs, keeps us updated about our fellow missionaries around the world, and so much more.

In short, we would not be here, nor operating as we do on the "frontlines," without the faithful work of those at GOI. A faith-based organization, GOI takes nothing from the financial support we receive – passing 100% of the monies on to the ministry here.

If you would like to support those who support us, perhaps you would consider a financial gift to the home office. If you feel so led, the Global Outreach mailing address is on page 1. Thank you!