

March 1, 2008

Greetings to y'all from Tupelo, Mississippi!

We are attending the Missions Orientation Training for Global Outreach International. It has been so informative and insightful as we are learning ways to be more effective as ministers of Christ. We are really excited to be joining this new missions organization!

Since our wedding, we have been preparing to return to Uganda on March 10th. Meanwhile, God has been working in amazing ways, both here and in Uganda. We are eager to share them with you!

Just before Valentine's Day, Andy was asked to give a motivational speech at a fundraiser for "The Last Days of Jesus" production put on each year in The Dalles. (He has been involved in the production for many years. Most recently, he played the part of Jesus.) The fundraiser was actually a desert auction. We were offered one of the cakes to be auctioned for Shepherd's Heart International Ministry (SHIM) in Uganda.

Our desire was to put the money given towards purchasing a solar system for Lingira Living Hope Secondary School (LLHSS) on the island. This would give the children and teachers needed light to study at night, would provide light to the early morning and late evening church services at the school, and would provide a source for us to charge our batteries. The system costs nearly \$3000 in all. Most of the deserts were being auctioned for \$50 - \$100. However, God worked in an incredible way and we received all the money needed to buy the stateside components of the system (about \$2700)!

We have one more tidbit of exciting information from the stateside, but I will give it to you after this great letter from Pastor Robert, in which he details the newest news from SHIM in Uganda! We are so grateful for our Ugandan team!

Dear Beloved of the Lord!

Praise God! I really thank Him for keeping you. Despite the many things I have to think of (that is Lingira Living Hope Secondary School, Shepherd's Heart International Ministry, and Church) I am doing well.

I also want to thank God for his provision and to thank you for such deep love you have for God's work in Uganda and particularly on the Island. I am also very grateful to God for the provision of money to purchase a solar panel. This is an answer to our prayers.

Last Saturday we had a Board Of Governor's meeting for LLHSS. It was really good. We decided that teacher Okello is to act as the Head teacher, Fred will be his deputy, and Solomon will be the Director of studies ( DOS ). Teacher Solomon has decided to stay with his bride on the Island. On Sunday the church and the school made them a welcome party. Indeed we thank God for Solomon; especially for the heart he has for the work of God on the Island.

All the former S.4s (graduating class) passed their national exams. They were 8 in number. The school has some serious needs. The school has not enough desks, accommodation nor beds so as

to create space for the growing number of hostellers. We are still expecting more new students to join in every class.

With SHIM this week we are visiting all the water project sites. Next week we will be doing follow up to all the places where we did evangelism in July with the visitors. (Remember, Keeky, this was the mission which came with your miracle (Andy).

Construction on the site of SHIM is still going as we find ways of pitching up tents for the SHIM staff to move to our site and create more space for teachers and students.

Let us keep praying for the church on the Island. There is a lot of confusion in the Leaders of churches. This has caused a lot of difficulties in the work of God on the islands. Actually the problem I see is not with the people we are serving, but is with us who are called to be servants. We have forgotten that for one to be a servant he must completely put away the ideal of becoming a boss. Yet as the leaders of today we are working for position rather than function. If I am not mistaken this similar issue is happening in most of the churches also on the mainland. We need to pray about this because we need exemplary leaders if we are to see communities transformed for God's glory.

Leadership is hard but when you depend on the Lord's direction it's easy. Thank you for your prayers for me, the ministry, and especially, SHIM and the LLHSS Staff. May God reward you for your commitment. Please forgive me where I seem to complain a lot. I am just a human who needs help and wisdom every second. I am not good in anything, but His goodness helps me serve.

Pastor Wafula Robert, SHIM

As it has been our vision to “transform the island communities” through excellence in discipleship, education, etc, we are excited to hear that the whole graduating class passed their exams. We have a special opportunity for someone who would like to reward our top scoring student with a scholarship. For \$100/month, Annet would be able to pursue her dream of becoming a nurse. Annet, a Rwandan, is the oldest of 6 children. Her father has died. Annet has been very faithful in serving the church and her family, and will be a tremendous servant of the Lord. If God puts Annet on your heart, and you would be interested in helping sponsor her, please e-mail us at [andykeeky@hotmail.com](mailto:andykeeky@hotmail.com).

Now for our “tidbit”: What is 2 inches long, has wiggling arms and legs, a beating heart and a warm, comfy bed? It is Baby Smith!! We don't expect to see this youngster until September 25th because our Creator is still weaving each intricate muscle and neuron together (Ps 139:13-17)!

God bless you all,  
Andy, Keeky and ????

PS. We will be sending quarterly newsletters by mail once we return to Uganda. If we do not have your current mailing address, would you please email it to us. Thank you.