



The Shepherd's Tale

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



December 2013

"And I will give you shepherds after My own heart..."

After nearly 20 years of pastoral ministry in the U.S., the Lord gave the Peterson family a "new flock" when they moved to Uganda in May 2010. As well as joining the Shepherd's Heart family in its focus on the islands, Pastor Bob and his family minister in Jinja through counseling and leadership at Acacia Community Church.

I (Andy) was so excited when God called the Petersons to join us here in Uganda! Pastor Bob was my senior pastor at Dufur Christian Church for 8 years, but he was much more than my "boss"- he was my mentor, advisor, and close friend.

Since coming to Uganda, the Peterson family has been an integral part of the SHIM family, and I can honestly say have kept the Smith family alive and well on the mission field! It is impossible to communicate how special it has been for us to have such close friends nearby to share our joys and struggles... and to sometimes sit us down and tell us, "SLOW DOWN!" Or the countless times they have picked us up at the shore, or taken our kids to give us a few hours alone, or sent over a special meal to keep us healthy.... Karina and I are constantly aware and deeply grateful to God for sending us



The Peterson family, from back left, Michelle, Joshua, Pastor Bob, front, Josiah, Jonathan, Janae.

our own personal care team in the Peterson family. From Bob's counsel and ministry support to Michelle's cooking, baking, and friendship, to their children sacrificing to be our kids' best friends and role models, we are extremely grateful.

For the last several years Pastor Bob has written most of the curriculum and taught with me, Samson, and Robert in the Pastors' Training Program. As well as homeschooling her children, Michelle oversees SHIM's finances, supplies clothes for island newborns, and opens their home to host visitors and SHIM's monthly prayer days.

To add to all their important ministries here in Uganda, this spring Pastor Bob will be taking over as Academic Dean at Alpha Omega Seminary, outside Jinja. The Petersons will continue to be involved with Shepherd's Heart and the island ministries, especially between school terms.

The Peterson's financial support is currently below what they need to continue to live and serve here. If you feel led to support this amazing family, please send your gifts to Global Outreach International, earmarked for Bob and Michelle Peterson. You can also donate online at: www.globaloutreach.org/missionaries.html



...founded in early 2007, is based on Lingira Island, one of 52 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 is under Global Outreach Int'l.

Visit www.shimuganda.com or e-mail shim@shimuganda.com for more information.

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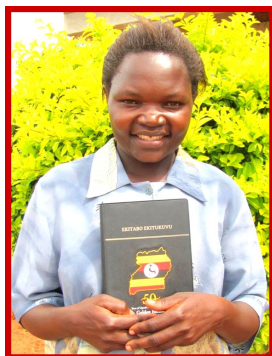
Using storytelling as his foundation, Pastor Bob faithfully and skillfully teaches the Word of God in pastors' training.

Looking for the “perfect” gift this Christmas?

A gift that has endured through hundreds of generations and is priceless no matter the economy is the precious Word of God - the Holy Bible.

Many on the islands are unable to afford to buy their own copy of the Bible, even though they cost as little as \$10. Since 2010 SHIM's “Bible Project” has placed hundreds of copies of English and Luganda Bibles in the hands of students and others who have memorized the 66 books of the Bible to receive their own copy.

Maybe you are searching for just the right gift for someone who seems to “have everything” or you want to help make an eternal difference



Regina of Katonga village holding her new Bible.

on the islands. For only \$10, SHIM can purchase an English or a Luganda Bible and make it available to the local Ugandans, who are literally hungry for the Word of God.

To give for Bibles, send donations via Global Outreach and designate that they are for the “Bible Project” and the account of “Ruthie Howard,” the project overseer. If you want to give the gift in honor or memory of someone special, please just let us know by sending an e-mail to shim@shimuganda.com.

Such a gift is an investment in eternity!



Equipping young minds with the Word of God - A few of the many island secondary students who memorized for and received Bibles this year.



Smiles All Around - New goat owners, Wodeya, far left, and Oliva, third from right, were presented with their goats in October. Also shown are Oryagi Geofrey, second from left, Twali Julius, head of SHIM's agricultural department, and Johnathan and Karina Smith. In the photo to right, one of the new kids is shown just a few minutes old. See story below for more on the “goat project.”



Can God Use Goats for His Kingdom?

Yes! God can definitely use goats, or any part of His creation for His kingdom! Read on to find out how SHIM is using dairy goats to glorify God on the islands.

For some time, SHIM has been investing in a dairy goat project—buying quality goats from eastern Uganda, establishing a “nice” home for them on our land, and welcoming new little kids with great joy! With the aim of building up the island goat population, especially in terms of milk production, goats were given this fall to select individuals who met the criteria for keeping the goats at their homes in the villages. The first baby does of this initial generation of goats are then given back to SHIM to in turn be entrusted to another island owner.

The island goats and their milk have generally been poor, due to in-breeding, poor feeding and poor care. Milk is usually watered down with lake water to make it stretch and thus bring in more money.

Hand-in-hand with the teaching of good stewardship principles, SHIM's goat project seeks to improve the local goat population and provide a source of income for struggling families.

Knowing that Christ desires to impact all of life—including physical welfare, Shepherd's Heart seeks to empower the local people and point them to Christ—the Giver and Sustainer of all of life!

Want to see the latest news & photos from the island?

Then please “like” and follow the Shepherd's Heart International Ministry Facebook page to keep posted on all of the “island happenings.” :)