



# The Shepherd's Tale

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

Summer 2012

## SHIM Ag Intern "Plants" God's Word in Island Village

**"K**nowing Andy since college and being in Uganda once before, I knew this is where the Lord wanted me," says Rebecca "Becky" Sobkoviak, who recently finished a three-month internship with SHIM on Lingira Island.

Becky's overseas experience was included in a one-year internship with World Hunger Relief, Inc., based in Waco, Texas.

Working under the direction of SHIM's Julius Twali, she focused on "growing some veggies and handling livestock." But those were not the only reasons she came to the island.

Desiring to "share the gospel with the nations," she began attending the weekly prayer meetings in Katonga village, a five-minute walk from SHIM.

"At first, I was not sure how I would fit into this group," she says. "They are all new believers and most of them can't speak English or read in their own language." Any reservations, however, soon dissipated. "It was fun being a part of those meetings and having something that I could go do on my own."

**"T**he Lord put it on my heart one day to share the story of the Passover in Exodus...I explained how the Passover foreshadowed Christ and how His blood covers us. They seemed to be lingering on every word of the story, waiting for more. It struck me to ask if anyone had just heard this story for the first time as I told it and they all raised their hands. I was blown away that a story I have heard so many times was being heard for the first time."

From then on, Becky shared a different Old Testament story each week, drawing out practical application for the new believers. The final story was of Elijah on Mt. Carmel challenging the people of Israel to stop wavering between two opinions and to follow the one true God...The people of Katonga made the connection of this story with their own lives of wavering between witch doctors and following the Lord.

**"W**atching the members of this small group change over just a few months has been a true honor to witness. "I am hopeful to return and return in numbers. Thanks to SHIM for the awesome opportunity to serve here in Uganda!"



*Photos of Becky from top: Hanging out with a local goat; smiling with SHIM members Mama and Papa O; having fun with local village children.*

## The Chronicles of Kusasira

After more than two years of waiting, "Kusasira," SHIM's eight-passenger 90HP "speed boat," finally entered the waters of Lake Victoria in May and has been used to transport SHIM staff and visitors to and from the island in a third of the time of traditional travel in wooden canoes. Most recently, "Kusasira" (which means "Mercy" in Luganda) was also essential in a four-day seminar and evangelistic crusade on Namiti Island, was used to take a premature baby and his mother, as well as a secondary student with head trauma for emergency medical care. *We praise God for the gift and blessing of this boat and how it will be used for mercy ministry on the islands and furthering the Gospel among the Buvuma Islands!*





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

SHIM is under Global Outreach International.



To learn more, visit [www.shimuganda.com](http://www.shimuganda.com)

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## W&S Team Ventures into Deeper Waters



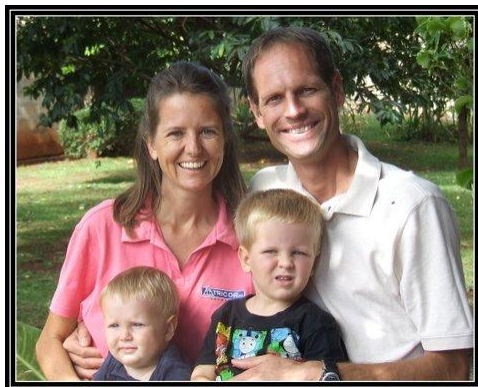
SHIM's W&S Team – Geoffrey Oryagi, Julius Twali, Samson Mumbya, holding a McGwire water purification system near the Kyoya village pit latrine on Lingira Island.

Exploring some of the further reaches of Uganda's Lake Victoria, the SHIM Water & Sanitation team visited Bweema in April, discovering a part of the lake greatly in need of services.

Traveling by boat a number of hours from SHIM's home island of Lingira, the team of Pastor Samson Mumbya, Geoffrey Oryagi and Julius Twali, went to the Bweema sub-county area, to carry out a survey of the villages and some initial sensitization on sanitation and clean water.

Each of the six villages the SHIM team visited had populations of 700-1000 adults, not including numerous children. Yet services appeared to be severely lacking. Only a few pit latrines were spotted, including one latrine supposed to serve about 700 adults. Because of inadequate outhouses, many villagers instead use bushes and rocks. Such open defecation leads to many diseases. Among the six villages visited, only two churches and one primary (elementary) school were seen. Just two health centres exist in the entire sub-county area.

According to team member Julius, the Bweema people "yearned" for more training on sanitation and accessing clean water. A two-week follow-up visit is planned this summer.



**Returning for furlough this year,** the Smith family (Andrew, Karina, David and Jonathan) will be in the U.S. from July-Nov. 2012. To contact them during this time, e-mail [andykeeky@hotmail.com](mailto:andykeeky@hotmail.com) or call 503-728-2581.