

The Shepherd's Tale

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

Winter 2010

Merry Christmas from the SHIM Family



...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, economic development, women's ministries, and child development.

SHIM is under Global Outreach International.



To learn more, visit
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The SHIM Family: back, from left: Josiah Peterson, Pastor Samson Mumbya, Keeky Karina Smith, Andrew Smith, David Smith, Robert Wafula, Jon Peterson, Bob Peterson, Michelle Peterson, Janae Peterson, Joshua Peterson; front, from left, Gloria Birungi, Faith Nyawere Okoro, Okoro Tefiro - "Papa O," Olive Tefiro - Mama O, Joy Mumbya, Amanda Taylor, Immaculate Oraygi, Geoffrey Oraygi, Jennifer Abenakyo, Julius Twali, Ruth Twali and Andrew Twali.

Photo taken at Elgon Villas near Mbale, eastern Uganda, mid-November 2010.

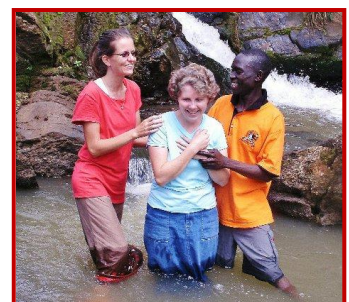
God's Heart Discovered During Staff Retreat

A special time of refreshment, focus and a renewal of vision and passion was experienced by the Shepherd's Heart family members during the annual staff development retreat, held the third week of November.

The week's focus was discovering God's calling for the members as individuals and as a ministry. God's design and purpose for us began to take "shape" as we explored our individual **SHAPES**: Spiritual gifts, Heartbeat, Abilities, Personality and Experiences.

Testimonies toward the end of the week revealed that our caring God had been very

busy in resurrecting hidden gifts, bringing deliverance from fears, and a renewal of His heart and passion for his "lost sheep" of the Buvuma Islands, Uganda.



"Taking the Plunge" - Ruthie was baptized by Karina and Pastor Robert on one of the last days of the retreat. - Photo Courtesy of Janae Peterson

New Hope Dawns on Southern Islands

Three hours south of Lingira Island, further into Lake Victoria, are the islands of Namiti, Kirewe, Luby, and others.

In the late 1990s, YWAM (Youth With A Mission) established a base that featured a medical clinic to serve the needs of the southern island residents. About two years ago, due to unfortunate circumstances, the base and its clinic closed and they fell into disrepair. However, the needs did not go away.

Earlier this year, SHIM was approached by Uganda's YWAM leadership, asking for assistance in reopening the base and its clinic. With God's confirmation and His gracious provision, Shepherd's Heart is planning to



start renovations before the end of the year. We are continuing to seek God for provision of at least two faithful medical personnel, including a midwife.

After holding seminars and crusades in this area, as well as working in the areas of water and sanitation, SHIM is excited about to be part of God's expanding vision in the southern islands. Continued prayer for God's leading and provision is needed as

SHIM moves forward. If you want more information about how you can give and pray for this project, e-mail shim@shimuganda.com.



Photos: A southern island sunrise and children of Namiti with the YWAM base in the background.

Highlights of 2010

The Family Grows — January brought the arrival of new member Ruthie Howard to work with the Child Development program. Shepherd's Heart was thrilled to welcome the Bob Peterson family from Oregon in May. Bob and his wife, Michelle and their four children — Janae, Joshua, Jon and Josiah live in Jinja, but regularly visit the island for ministry. In August, SHIM's newest accountant, Faith Nyawere, joined the family. A new Smith family member "is in the oven" and his or her arrival is expected in early May 2011.

Teams & Visitors — SHIM was happy to host teams and visitors from Oregon, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Wisconsin, Kentucky and from around Uganda throughout 2010. They held seminars, Vacation Bible Schools, visited and taught in the island's primary and secondary schools, demonstrated agricultural techniques, conducted staff training and much more!

Water & Sanitation — The SHIM water and sanitation team has continued sensitization in 24 island camps. Three community water purification systems were given this year.

Discipleship — Six month discipleship courses concluded in Busia and Kyoya, and began in Bwanzi/Kapapli.

Family Ministry — Okoro and Olive, Papa and Mama O, have remained in leadership of Family Ministry and taught

four seminars this year, as well as organized a SHIM staff seminar in November. They have continued house-to-house visitation and counseling in the island camps.

Economic Development — BISCO (Buvuma Island Savings and Credit Cooperative) held a well-attended seminar in Lingira camp, and now boasts more than 50 island members. Twenty-three people have received loans for economic projects.

New Ministries — Shepherd's Heart grew some new "branches" in 2010, such as: The Morning Star Ladies' Study, a weekly Bible study at the secondary school, co-led by Amanda Taylor and Ruthie Howard.

The gift of a Singer treadle sewing machine sprouted a tailoring class, taught by Amanda T. and Ruth Twali, and attended primarily by Muslim women from the nearby camps.

Also having a burden for the mothers and young children of the island camps, Auntie Jennifer, SHIM's cook, began visiting various homes, and has given baby clothes and blankets to more than 40 homes.

In September, SHIM began teaching a computer class to two of the four grades at the secondary school, and will continue and expand the classes in 2011.

Arrival/Release of Container

A shipping container left the U.S. late 2009, filled with items for missionaries and organizations in Uganda. It arrived in March, but it was not until after much prayer and energy, that it was released in June. Sixty boxes of books were unpacked to expand the island library and bless schools in the southern islands with textbooks.

Lingira Living Hope — By God's generous provision, channeled through the hands of benevolent donors, Lingira Living Hope Secondary School has a nearly-completed classroom block and the beginnings of a new football pitch (field). About 30 Senior 4 students also finished/completed their final exams in November.

Agriculture — Sweet and juicy pineapples, sweet corn, crisp green beans, scrumptious pumpkins, bushels of tomatoes and more were harvested from the SHIM gardens in 2010 and some fruits were dried in our new solar dryer.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

As we review the past year, we are amazed by the Lord's leading and all that He has done! We've been able to share His love in new areas and with new people. We've also experienced His love in small, personal ways (like getting kitchen cabinets) and in huge ways, like financial provision for ministry projects.

In all these, we realize that God has used YOU to pray, to encourage, to give ideas and to provide financially. Thank You! We love you all and are really excited about what the Lord has in store for 2011.

Love, Andy, Karina, David and Baby Smith



David Andrew Smith