

BANMAN MISSION UPDATE
MITYANA UGANDA
FIRST QUARTER 2015

MISSION UPDATE



GREETINGS FROM ANDREW AND TERRY

We have had a varied first quarter. We have had many guests and Terry was in Canada for almost a month leaving me with the kids (HELP!). I have learned and will not forget how amazing Terry is at loving and raising children. She is an indispensable member of our team here and I was pressed hard to do without her.

As we prepared this report, we realized that this quarter was less about our missions and more about helping others. This is not bad as one of our primary mission goals is to help others achieve their missions. We help people here in Mityana, people in Rakai and South Sudan, and more and more we are helping people from first-world countries to mission here in Africa.

Terry and I spent some time for this report considering how our mission was going. We don't want to bash ourselves when things don't seem to look how we think they should, but we also don't want to ignore areas we need to improve. We may include these types of self-analysis from time to time in order to present a true picture of life on the ground here.

One notable new situation is that we began a home-group at our house with several local pastors. This group is intended as a precursor to some additional groups, likely with youth. Using the home-group format, we hope to be able to speak into the lives and circumstances of many people here in Mityana.

As Terry spoke to churches in Canada she quoted from John (see verse below). This is a fitting scripture for Terry and I as we endeavour to be "followers of Jesus". As we continue to follow Him in 2015, we hope to see personal growth and success in our mission. We wish the same for you!

Again Jesus spoke to them saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.

John 8:12

2

Marriage Training Workshops

While Terry is a full time mom and is often unable to join me, I am enjoying leading marriage workshops in the Rakai district.

In February I was invited to work with a large group of pastors, leaders, and married couples. There were to be 25 to 30 couples in total but thankfully it ended up being about half that number.

This was a very different group than the last workshop. They were very interactive in spite of the large number of people and we spent a lot of time discussing village customs and how they might be viewed in light of Biblical teaching.

As an example; In one custom, the wife is required to wake her husband if she needs to leave their bed at night. The group discussed why this might be required from a custom perspective. After some discussion about Jesus heart of love, we all agreed that the custom itself was neither good nor bad, it was the motive that determined this.

If for instance the custom was implemented to control the wife and the husband was suspicious of her reasons for getting up, then this was a bad custom that would not serve the marriage well. If however the custom was implemented to protect the wife from dangers at night and the husbands motive was out of love, then this was a good custom and would benefit the marriage.

It was very interesting to spend time talking through many similar situations. The groups were very interesting. We only got through about 1/4 of the detail I had prepared but the main message was delivered and received very well. In case you are wondering what that main message is, the Bible teaches clearly that man and woman are equal, they simply have different roles. As we live together in our correct roles, our marriages thrive.

As an outcome of this workshop, I have been invited to do another workshop at an Anglican church deeper in the bush in Rakai as well as join a church in the north. I am excited to be doing this work.

**Marriage
Training**



3

People Come and People Go

January was a whirl-wind of activity through others. Our son and daughter in-law came to stay and built a playground toy for the children at 100% Hope. It was exciting to take James and Katie on trips to South Sudan and to Rakai to learn about life here in Africa and meet the people. We are pleased that they will now be able to relate better to the work we are doing in these areas.

James and Katie funded and built a playground toy while they were here. A good solid device that more than 100 children have access to. This will stimulate play and give the kids fun exercise.



In addition to having our kids here, John Wason spent some time with us and put on several Action Theater workshops for local youth in Mityana as well as youth in Kosovo Kampala.

John's talent in drama were put to good use here and we enjoyed watching the youth engage with him.

In March Terry returned home to Victoria, BC, Canada to visit family and friends. She also spoke at churches and brought a message about our work and purpose here in Africa.

While away, I took on Terry's duties as a mom while still continuing many of my own missions roles. It was a challenging month for us both.

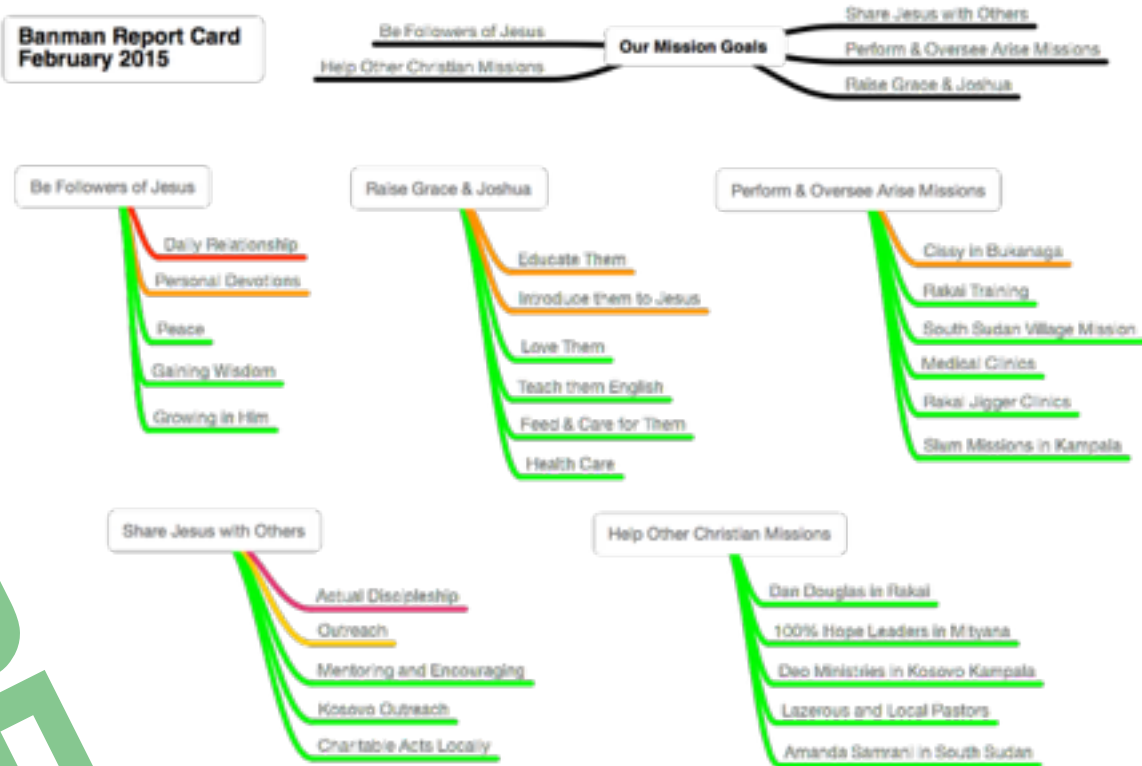
One outcome of 3 weeks of being a single parent is the likelihood that neither Terry nor I will be home to Canada for a while now. Our collective work here (parenting and missions) is just too much for one person. We will consider travel again once the kids are older I think.

Toward the end of March, 23 youth and 2 leaders from YWAM in Jinja arrived. These were the youth John Wason was teaching and their performances were well received all over Mityana. They performed dramas on the streets, in churches and at schools and I was able to support them logistically and also by driving them to their performances.

migrations

4

Mission Report Card



REALITY CHECK

While it is not realistic to measure our success by a simple checklist, Terry and I felt it was time to get a snapshot of how we are doing. To this end we created the report card above and graded our own performance using colours (red, amber, green).

We are doing well in many of the tactical areas as you might notice, but this simple analysis does illustrate that we need to focus more on our relationship with Jesus and our application of our faith in relationships around us.

Clearly it is far more simple to book up the calendar with missional work than it is to sit still and focus on Jesus. But we definitely meet Jesus as we serve others so work is key to our growth too. Truly this snapshot is just that, a snapshot. It will not tell the complete story but it is interesting to monitor our priorities.

I wonder if we will ever feel we are close enough to Jesus? The day we say everything is perfect I expect someone to set my feet back on course!