

BANMAN MISSION UPDATE  
MITYANA UGANDA  
FOURTH QUARTER 2014

---

MISSION

UPDATE



---

## GREETINGS FROM ANDREW, TERRY, JOSHUA & GRACE

Terry and I have covered a lot of ground recently. We have covered literal ground by driving from the Tanzania border all the way into South Sudan multiple times. But more importantly we have covered a lot of personal ground through our work here and through the addition of Joshua and Grace to our family.

There is no doubt that we have felt tired many times. Rest has not always been easy to find. While it may be tempting to scold us about this, the events that we are involved in are so meaningful and **life** is being found in the midst of being tired. In fact, I think there may be something specific that happens internally by persevering through tiring times. Jesus is our leader and our strength!

We have shared several times that God has given us two important priorities. We are to learn more of the local language (Luganda) and to dive into our Bibles in a meaningful way (like our lives depend on it).

Learning Luganda is slow but it's coming. We started formal lessons but life forced us to rethink the academic path for the present. While we are not totally failing in this area, we do hope to do better in the coming months. We continue to grow our vocabulary in order to operate here, but fall far short of being able to converse with locals or listen to conversations and understand. We believe that this is important so we will continue to pursue it.

Thankfully Terry and I have found many reasons to be in our Bibles on a regular basis. We have searched there for answers as we walk out this adventure, and we examined what the Bible teaches in order to do ministry. I see God's hand leading us to and through His word. No, we are not yet spiritual giants, but daily life here in Africa forces us to scripture for wisdom and direction.

We have a lot to share in this report. I hope it communicates fully the important components of our journey this past few months.

Thanks for traveling with us ...

**Blessed be the LORD, my rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle; He is my steadfast love and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield and he in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples under me. - Psalm 144:1-2**

**The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, and delivers them. - Psalm 34:7**

## 2 Marriage Ministry

As an old married couple, Terry and I had hoped there would be an opportunity made to share with people here the rewards of a good marriage and what the Bible teaches about marriage. There is no doubt that the most meaningful and rewarding relationship outside Jesus should be our marriages.

A few months back we began engaging with communities and churches in the Rakai district. This provided us with our first opportunity to teach on the topic of marriage. We were invited into the area to teach 15 pastors and church leaders on this topic.

While we didn't feel fully ready for this call, we also felt we had 33 years of marriage, our Bibles, and many online studies and teachings so we had all we needed to step up to this mission.

We did two sessions with these people. Ugandan's are quite used to teacher centric learning but we

really wanted this group to be interactive. The first session was excellent and fairly interactive. The second was less interactive, perhaps because there were many new faces. Regardless, the sessions went well and the feedback has been good.

We have been invited to continue our work in Rakai by hosting gender specific sessions. While we are unsure of the content for these sessions, we will try to step up and address the need.

In addition to the continued sessions with pastors and leaders, we have been invited to several churches to replicate these teachings for their congregations.

We really hope to see this ministry grow. We have discussed the work with partners here in Mityana as well as with our friends at Word of Life church in the Kosovo, Kampala. We expect to lead groups in this area in 2015 and hope God will bless that work.



# 3 Wotakujong Village Mission

To spite tribal conflict complicating our journey to South Sudan, Terry and I were able to reach Wotakujong village with a team in October.

We spent time with local children, delivered educational supplies, and had meaningful discussions with leaders about their goals and how we might engage with them further.

As you likely know, South Sudan has been at war for decades. This new government has a huge task to meet the needs of its people and infrastructure is being established very slowly. If communities want to thrive, they must act for themselves and seek ways to provide incomes and infrastructure for their communities.

Leaders in Wotakujong wish to distinguish themselves from other villages and see education as one vehicle for this to occur. By establishing a school, they hope initially to benefit their own children. But Wotakujong leaders also see this as an opportunity to attract business into their community.

People in Wotakujong seem very self motivated and we have witnessed evidence of local work parties who are preparing land and materials for school construction. As a community, they have set aside land for school facilities and are in the process of relocating at least one family off that land to facilitate their plans. Also, a number of piles of rocks had been gathered to form the basis of building foundations (see image to right). While this community has few resources, they seem to be taking every step possible to move their goals along regardless of external assistance.

Our discussions with leaders determined that two basic tools would assist the community toward its goals. Using the “teach a man to fish” principle, we have



determined to walk with this community and help provide them with these tools in the coming year. These tools will not provide villagers with any specific solution but will put a means to their goals within their own reach.

The tools are a corn grinder and a brick-making machine. Each tool will be provided and implemented as separate events accompanied by a business plan cooperatively designed by village leaders, local micro-business consultants, and ourselves. We are blessed to have friends in South Sudan and in Uganda who are able to assist us with this process.

While we are introducing this goal today, this is expected to be a year-long project. We look forward to relating more detail as progress is made.

South Sudan



# 4 The Jigger Diggers

Since my first visit to the Rakai district, Terry and I have lead two teams back into those hills to care for the children there. Each clinic spanned two days and served about 80 children.

We were hosted by Dr. Dan Douglas who provides medical care to these communities and also mentors 26 pastors in the area. Dan has become a good partner and has also helped us connect with local pastors to provide marriage training.

At these clinics with the children, team members would wash the kids feet and then examine them for signs of Jiggers. We would then dig out any Jiggers found with a pin or razor-blade. Once clean, open sores would be covered and in serious cases antibiotics provided to ensure infection did not occur. Finally, we provided shoes for each child to reduce the potential of additional disease.

In some very serious cases where children were being neglected, the team would bathe the children and provide new clothes so they could stay clean and warm.

What the team has since realized is the we need to do some followup education with the parents and teachers in these communities to ensure they understand how to prevent Jigger infections.

Terry and I hope to identify the correct team members for this new mission and to plan one or more missions back to Rakai to provide health education. Once the team and the plan are prepared, a mission will be mounted back to Rakai.



**Jiggers  
Burrow  
into Kid's  
Feet  
Laying  
Eggs and  
Causing  
Pain**



# 5 Enlarge Your Tent, Strengthen your Tent Pegs!

Terry and I made a united decision to foster two small children who had been abandoned and were suffering from malnutrition. Just making this decision was an adventure for both Terry and I. Being parents at 50+ will be even more of an adventure for sure. It is amazing to see Jesus work in us as well as through us. You will hear our stories in the next few pages, but first, please let me introduce to you Joshua and Grace.

## **Grace Mukisa (Grace Blessing)**

Grace's story is very compelling. She was seriously malnourished when she was surrendered to Ugandan authorities in May of this year. Grace was not going to survive if she didn't get immediate and ongoing medical and dietary care. At 2 years of age Grace was just skin and bones. She weighed 4kg and was the sort of stick figure you might see on a paid TV advertisement for African famine relief.

Grace was cared for locally at children's home operated by a US family. They fed her a teaspoon of fortified milk every 15 minute for days until her little stomach could begin to accept an actual meal again.

Grace spent approximately 6 months in care at the children's home before coming to be with us. She still has a long way to go but her body is now responding to the good nutrition and catching up with the growth it had postponed.

While Grace doesn't yet walk, she makes up for that by crawling well and having ample personality. She is quick to smile and loves to be played with. She is also very ticklish. Grace is fairly clear about wants or needs and has a challenging temper at times. She is beautiful and we are thrilled to be part of her story.

## **Joshua Dembe (Joshua Peace)**

Joshua was not surrendered by his Jaja (grandmother) until November. He was also very small but not in life threatening condition. When he arrived at our home, he was 4 1/2 years old and wearing a size "12 months" underwear.

Joshua is cooperative and communicative. He speaks Luganda very well and is quickly learning English. He enjoys working and traveling with Dada. His favourite time is bath-time with Mama followed by some wrestling on the couch with Dada.

Joshua has displayed a few undesirable behaviours we may find relate to his previous home setting, but seems to accept correction readily.

Both kids are fitting into their new home well. They are relaxed and cooperative with us. They are drinking in love and attention like sponges. While there are challenges, it has been a reasonably easy transition.

JOSHUA & GRACE

# 6 The Adventure - Through Terry's Eyes

Psalm 37:4 says, "Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart."

There it is again, do something and get something in return. Putting God first is a condition stated over and over again throughout the Bible. But even when we do, does He always give us the desires of our hearts? Nope. A hard truth for those who truly believe their desire is from God. 2 Corinthians 12:8-10 gives us some insight as to why, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." For some it may be our own desire, not a God-given one. For others, it's not a matter of 'no' but 'wait'. Even Abraham had a long wait to see his son Isaac.

The desire of my heart was for more children but God had firmly shut the door on having more of our own. Several times He closed adoption doors as well. In fact, I was sure my answer was in the 'no' category even though we had such an overwhelming 'yes' answer to our prayers about adoption when we first looked into it (another story). I figured I just got it wrong and tried to bury my feelings.

Life and circumstances change and we are no exception. We felt we needed to devote more of our lives to Jesus' work so we moved to Africa. This triggered my desire for children once more. We would be working with lots of children so why not, that fits. Perhaps this was what He had in mind all along. Being a mother to hundreds of motherless children sounded perfect.

I discovered it's not that easy getting to know and be in relationship with kids in many places, so I focused on a small orphanage within walking distance of our home. Not only could I love and cuddle the little ones there, but also get to know and support Angie, the woman that set up and runs the home.

This is where I met Grace. Nearly starved to death, Grace was making a comeback. So tiny but fighting for life every day. Her story and winning smile triggered everything I had tried to deny. Did I have the strength to try this again? What would Andrew think and say when I told him I wanted to pursue looking after Grace.



THE HEARTS DESIRE



When I approached Angie about the possibilities, I was told the chances of fostering her were slim, and by the way Grace has a brother! Wow, not one but two! That was more to think about.

After talking this through with Andrew, we had a short meeting with Angie to explain that we might be in a position to assist Grace and her brother should the need arise. Then we agreed not to push anything to 'make things happen'. We felt we had opened our door and would now let God open any others.

Weeks went by but I prayed daily for Grace and her brother. I had a hard time knowing how to pray for them and for myself. Do I pray for their father to return? Do I pray for another family to take them? Do I pray they come to us?

My mind went round and round every night until one night I found myself surrendering my desires to Jesus. This was a turning point for me. I was able to release what I was feeling so I could focus on the people involved. I was also able to spend more time with Grace as Andrew had gone to South Sudan to help a friend there.

That's when it happened. Not only did God open doors, He blew them off their hinges!

All I did was ask Angie the name of Grace's brother so I could use it when I prayed. All of a sudden phone calls were being made to

official people and before I knew what had happened, arrangements were being made for us to take Grace and her brother home. Grace's brother was still in a village and had to be brought to the orphanage. I would only meet him for the first time that evening. Things were moving too fast!

One huge issue was that Andrew wasn't even in town but even that was in God's plan. It helped to slow the process for me so that Andrew and I could both get on the same page (Jesus' page!).

When Andrew returned, we finally had a good talk and made the decision to accept Grace and Joshua into our home. Forms had to be filled in triplicate, by hand. Photos needed to be taken. The house needed to be rearranged. This was all accomplished and then Grace and Joshua came to their new home (our home).

There have been many adjustments to life since our two little blessings came to us. It hasn't always been easy and there have been times when I have wondered if we did the right thing given my age and the fact we are in a foreign country. But I can look back over the few weeks this has taken, follow the steps we walked, and see God's hand was on it all.

I also know to be careful in what happens next. The realization of any God-given desires should be enjoyed and appreciated as gifts from our heavenly Father. However, as Peter started to sink when he took his eyes off of Jesus, I must be careful to continue to look to Him for my ultimate fulfillment and joy.

**Fix your  
Eyes on  
Jesus!**





# 7

## The Adventure - Through Andrew's Eyes

The biggest change in our world this quarter has been the introduction of Joshua and Grace into our home. While this was the correct decision to make, the process was exhausting and a little frustrating.

For Terry this part of our journey is a calling. She has a lot of passion for these children and I believe God has spoken directly to her about them. For me on the other hand, I was not predisposed to providing primary care for little ones. I was more than happy to love them from afar through others.

I found myself in another country when Terry was invited to take in these two children. Terry and I knew this situation might arise at some point, but we had agreed not to pursue it in any direct way. If children were to enter our lives, it would have to be an act of God and He would have to open all the doors himself. So while I was 550kms from home, the doors not only opened, they appeared to be flying off the hinges.

Once I got over the initial shock, I decided to look for confirmation. Surely if Terry and I were to take in children, Jesus would speak clearly to us both about it. After some time praying and reading my Bible however, I found I was getting frustrated. I had questions but no useful answers. How could Jesus not want to talk to me about something this important? Terry was hearing from God, why wasn't I? Could we move ahead without confirmation for me? Where we supposed to move ahead?

Let me set the scene for my side of this little adventure. I was working in South

Sudan while all this was going on. It was hot and I had a job to do there creating videos for an NGO. Between video sessions, I would talk with Terry via a really bad Internet connection, then pray and read my Bible. To be completely honest, I was getting really frustrated and even a little mad that Jesus wouldn't answer me.

In this state, I decided to rest and come at the situation when I was fresh. I took a nap and then put on some worship music. One of the songs I listened to again and again was "Come to Me". This song spoke to me about how close Jesus is to us and how I needed to keep my eyes on Him and not be shaken by circumstances. I was shaken; but this was a nicely timed message that calmed my soul.

With some calm and peace inside me, I returned to the Bible for wisdom and this time I found what I needed. I also went back to the document Terry and I wrote to define our Adventure in Africa. Finally I found scripture references that offered the direction I needed.

The important lesson Jesus was teaching me through this situation was that being a follower, a true disciple of His, was not always about feelings or prophetic words. He was teaching me that pure obedience is often required to walk through situations we are not predisposed to undertake. His written word has all the direction we need and He will guide us as we obey His word.

Joshua and Grace were obediently taken into our home on November 11, 2014. They are great kids and more a part of our family each day. My thanks to Jesus for His lessons!

**Obedience is  
the Adventure**

Love my people (specially the little ones and the defenceless)  
James 1:27 - Psalms 9:18 - Proverbs 31:8-9

Follow me and not yourself. I will show you the way as we go.  
James 4:13-17 - 2Cor 5:6-10 - Matt 28:18-20

# 8

## Daily Exercise Makes Us Fit!

Terry and I are being challenged by a number of events and circumstances here. We often have to look to God in these situations for help. We don't believe this is the world trying to derail us. We think it's just everyday life here in Africa. In fact, it may be the hand of Jesus Himself directing us along the journey. It's not a heavy burden we carry, it's exciting to recognize changes in our attitudes and perspectives as we deal with daily situations. We are encouraged to see Jesus is teaching us and we are learning to walk with Him.

We have made and will make more mistakes. We also know that as we take regular steps of faith, He meets and directs us. We believe He is training us, here and now.

Yes, we still need to read our Bibles more. And yes we should pray more. And there are certain to be many other flaws in our walk. But one thing which seems certain is that we are experiencing Jesus as we do life here in His service.

As we prepare to teach ... He is there. As we serve in the slums ... He is there. As we build relationships and help others ... He is right there.

He is building us and we are thankful for it! To spite any of our OWN weaknesses, He will not leave His work undone in us!

*Enlarge the place of your tent, and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out; do not hold back; lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes.*

*Isaiah 54:2*

*... by His power He will make all His good purpose, and the work of faith, complete.*

*2 Thessalonians 1:11*

*Go therefore and make disciples ... And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*

*Matthew 28:18*

The Bible is filled with direction for us all to actually be followers of Jesus. This is a core mission purpose for Terry and I here in Africa, and all missionaries I'm sure.

While spiritual fruit may or may not be evident to others at this stage, Terry and I are pleased to see spiritual growth inside. We recognize fruit comes through exercising tools like faith and obedience.

We look forward to watching our faith grow stronger and seeing obedience become a character trait rather than a notable response to some current event.

SPRINT  
WORKOUT

# 9

## Where to from Here?

Of course being the eternal planner, I must forecast our expectations for the coming months. As I do this I am reminded of recent steps with Jesus and how we are to **follow** in **obedience**. Also, we may not see the complete picture so this forecast is not detailed and comes with an obvious disclaimer (James 4:13-15). Still, here goes ...

Terry and I are one team, however our roles may be diverging a little for a season.

### Terry

We expect Terry will stay very focused on the children in the coming months by calling and by necessity. While they will eventually be able to join us on most trips, they need to stabilize in our home for a time and Grace is very little for long trips. Additionally, the children cannot go some places with us. They cannot leave the country for instance, so taking them with us to South Sudan is not an option. As the key player with the children, Terry will make the children a priority.

Terry will also be involved in any ministry work she can. We will continue to do Rakai trips together and many of the other local missions we are involved in. As the children settle more and more, Terry will become less home bound and more involved in outside missions again.

### Andrew

While the travel is often tiring, the missions we have been involved in over the past months have been very rewarding. Since purchasing the truck 5 months ago, we have driven almost 12000km covering Uganda end-to-end a number of times.

I will continue to reach out and help other ministries near and far. We will not be starting up any specific ministry of our own here (a Bible school, an orphanage, etc). We feel our role is to help people and other ministries. This principle will continue to drive much of the missions work we do.

Current missions that are expected to continue include:

- Various works with locals
- Marriage Training
- Wotakujong South Sudan

Missions that are likely to begin in the coming months:

- Rakai Health Education
- Family-Based Children's Homes
- Slum Micro Loans
- Village Outreach
- Slum Internet Cafe Project
- CHE TOT1 Training ([CHE](#))

Together, Terry and I will focus on core missions at home and away. We will slowly introduce the children to travel and missions until they are a normal part of our adventure. They will not only get to see Jesus at work, but will also be introduced to much more Ugandan culture than they might have witnessed living in a village.

WHAT'S NEXT