

BANMAN MISSION UPDATE

UGANDA, AFRICA

FOURTH QUARTER 2015

MISSION

UPDATE



GREETINGS FROM ANDREW, TERRY, JOSHUA & GRACE

Most of the 4th quarter was spent in Canada working, but I arrived home on December 2nd and the family was happy to be reunited after almost 7 months apart. Terry was ready for a well earned rest and I was eager to reconnect with Africa and all the missions under way here. Joshua and Grace had grown so big and were speaking English well by this time. It's amazing how much kids can change in such a short time.

With only one month remaining in the last quarter of 2015, local missions were already waiting for my arrival, so the family set off in the truck on several immediate adventures. You'll hear briefly in this report about the Christmas outreach we partnered in, as well as our missions to the Sango-Bay returnee camp. What a blessing it was to get engaged right away with families and children who needed help.

The most significant change since my return was a modification to the building plans for our new home in Kosovo Kampala. The best laid plans often need tuning don't they, and this move seems to be no exception. We'll focus in this report on what's changed and how we are addressing new realities on the ground.

In the 1st quarter of 2016, we are planning to get back into South Sudan. Our friend and partner Dr. Dan Douglas and I hope to lead a team into the rural community of Wotakujong in March. We will serve this community by doing a medical clinic. This will be a blessing to the people there and provide me with a opportunity to reconnect with the project work planned for this community. It is my hope that in the first half of 2016 we will deliver a Maize grinder and get our first community owned business started.

Also targeted for early 2016 is the build of our new residence and guest rooms in Kosovo. This will take a lot of time and substantial funds so we will be very focused on getting that right. All going well, we will move into Kosovo before the end of March. Please pray that construction costs do not spiral as they are already expected to be far higher than originally planned.

We're thankful for the support we receive both here and from afar. Your financial support keeps our mission moving, your encouragement keeps our spirits high, your prayers pave the road to success.

Thank you all for traveling this road with us !!

Hear, O sons, a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight, for I give you good precepts; do not forsake my teaching.

Proverbs 4:1-2

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Christmas with Kosovo Families

We spent Christmas eve in the slums of Kosovo helping youth deliver Christmas meals to over 200 families. We had a great time and so did the youth of Kosovo.

If you want to read more about this mission, there is an article on our web site (thebanmans.com) called ***Kosovo Christmas Meals***.

As Kosovo will soon be our home, I was observing people and living conditions as we walked around that day. The little girl on the front cover of this report caught my attention because of her facial expression. She seemed to be taking in the scene and questioning what she saw. Her expression seemed contemplative and I wondered what she was thinking.

This girl seemed well cared for, but so many children here live in poor conditions. We saw houses that didn't have four walls and children who may never take a proper bath.

Joined in the picture below by a little boy, I wondered if they were feeling hopeful or if they were unsure about their futures. They had such serious thoughtful faces for children of this age at Christmas.

As Terry and I prepare to move into the Kosovo community, we are reminded by these little faces that hope is not a given ingredient in the lives of the residents of Kosovo. Many of these people need help to transform their lives.

Our purpose is to bring Good News!



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The Sango-Bay Returnee Camp

I have been into Sango-Bay several times since my return to Africa. I was part of a mission there to provide food for Christmas and medical care. I also took a team there who were piloting a water-filter project. It's been nice to have time to walk around the camp and get to know the people better.

As I wandered around their water source one day, I was joined by a number of children who were enjoying having their pictures taken and even just holding my hand.

The little girl pictured here caught my attention because of her dress. Her family clearly can't care for her properly. Her dress was dirty and far too big for her. She was also dirty from head-to-toe.

She was quiet and gentle to be around. Looking at her face in this picture afterward, I see a subtle smile and what could be hope. Unfortunately, I also detect the ignorance that can often accompany children in poor communities.

This little girl has little or no access to



nutrition, education, or healthcare. In short, she has almost no opportunity to succeed.

While it's unclear how best to help families in Sango-Bay, Terry and I will continue to work in the camp, looking for opportunities to improve conditions.

poverty

4 Mission Guest House Update

As you will remember from our 2nd Quarter 2015 report, we planned to build a 3-story building in Kosovo Kampala. The plan was to occupy one floor ourselves and then use the other two floors to host guests. This building would have provided 4 guest rooms as well as areas for the guests to meet and feed themselves.

Upon my return, it became clear that our understanding of the cost of building was inaccurate. Two factors contributed to our miscalculations. Firstly, the US dollar has been strengthening for some time and this has had a significant impact on import costs. The downstream effect was to weaken the Uganda Shilling and drive up the price of all imported goods (tile, taps, roofing, etc). Secondly and perhaps more significantly, the engineer we were working with seriously underestimated costs and communicated inaccurate details to us. Welcome to real life Andrew and Terry!

With the financial realities clearly established, we began analyzing our primary goals and considering our options. This was actually an excellent exercise because it caused us to be very clear about what things were truly important.

The result was that our partners (Deo and Fiona Mwanje) decided to complete a building project outside Kosovo and move their family to that new location. This left us their existing home in Kosovo. With a few improvements and the addition of two good guest rooms, this solution would provide us almost the same capacity as the 3-story building but for a fraction of the cost.

In the floor plan below, you can see this option will provide us with a similar home to the one we have in Mityana today (a little larger even). It will also allow us to host teams. The additional rooms (shown in green) will handle 4 to 6 people and if needed we can temporarily combine our children into one room allowing for additional guests.

This solution will provide our family with a good living situation inside the Kosovo community. It will also allow us to host teams. In fact, we're actually quite pleased that we will be able to get to know guests more fully by having them with us in our home rather than in a completely separate living space.

Our new contractor, a trusted and seasoned individual is now preparing the construction budget, and we will have clear financial estimates before the end of January. While it is completely possible that further modifications to the building solution could occur, we expect to move forward with the renovation project in February.



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How we Determined What Direction to Take?

We think it's important to share with you how we decided on the direction we would take. We started by determining the items we felt were critical components of our move. What were the real goals? Why were we moving to Kosovo and what factors were important to our mission there? We came up with the following table of details which helped us see what things were required and what things were merely desired.

Description	Kosovo Guest House	Non-Kosovo Guest House	Rent Mwanje House	Critical Success Factor
Cost Estimate	200M - 250M	100M - 150M	100M	Y
Close to target area	In Target Area	20 Min Away	In Target Area	Y
Guest Capacity	Excellent (8+)	Excellent (8+)	Adaquate (4-6)	Y
Guest Transport	Walk	Drive	Walk	Y
Working with the Community	Part of it	Outsider	Part of It	Y
Western Comforts	Good	Good	Good	N
Grounds	Good	Poor	Excellent	N
Why are we moving to Kosovo?				
To participate in individual and community transformation				
We wished to live right in community to facilitate easy community involvement				
Work with the church, youth and community				
Help Deo and others to build their own capacity through business				
Use business to build capacity and transform lives in this community				
Continue to build our capacity to follow Jesus				

When we then compared 3 options against the critical success factors, it became clear that our mission to Kosovo was not about the building. Any structure that could provide us a home and host guests would be adequate. Keeping our eye on the ball meant living inside the community so we could become neighbours to locals and interact with them as a member of the community.

In addition, our work establishing businesses would require available funds. If we were to achieve our goals we could not invest all our money in a single building.

It became clear to us that a simple update of the existing house would provide adequate accommodations for both our family and guests. This solution also enables us to remain inside the Kosovo community and doesn't require us to commit all our resources to a single project.



CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS