

Reflections from the Field

June 30th, 2025



Greetings from Wairaka, Uganda! It's such a pleasure to update you! We've heard it said "the days are long but the years are short", and we can see that to be true in our lives. Time sure flies. Our kids are growing, the ministry grows and evolves with the needs in our community, and life hurries on without our permission. This month we celebrated our 21st wedding anniversary! It gave us time to pause and reflect. There is so much to be grateful for and so much we stand back in amazement at what the Lord has done!

I first set foot on African soil in 2002, never thinking I'd be given opportunity to come back again, let alone start a ministry, marry, have children, and live here for now over half my life! This is God's way. If he had told me what I would go through to get to this day, I'd likely never have set off in the first place. So many things have been hard and daunting! But one step, one more, and one more brings us each to the places God has prepared for us, the work he has established for us before we were even born! ***Ephesians 2:10 "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, what we should walk in them!"***

We thank God that he chose us to be together to represent his love to our neighbors. We thank God for the years he has protected and provided for our family to continue on mission for him. This ministry is the Lord's and it always has been. We are clay in his

hands, ready to rise and meet the needs he chooses to use us to meet. Our vision is to make Jesus known by sharing his love and salvation power! We overflow his goodness and blessings! We also thank God for each of you! You receive this update because you've been part of this call, this ministry, and God's bigger picture for reaching the nations with his love one human soul at a time! What a joy and honor to walk this journey in life with you (even from many miles away from most of you)! God is in the details! ***Philippians 1:6, "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."***

We are reminded of small beginnings, rough starts, and the great unknowns that have been a part of our story as well. This brings us to our ministry and outreach today. In this area of Uganda, it is common culture to carry something to the family you are visiting. For example, when you visit a sick friend in the hospital, you bring some juice or a snack for the ailing. When you visit friends you haven't seen for a while, you might bring them bananas from your garden, or a loaf of bread if they live in the village and don't have access to a bakery. The custom is: don't go empty handed. And so, even when someone visits us, they might carry along a bottle of soda for the kids or a chocolate bar from the city they visited before coming to us. This is our culture too! It is a good, kind habit and one that isn't too hard to do. We often share with our community straight from our garden or fruit trees! But the last few months, we've redoubled our efforts in not going empty handed to homes we visit. We don't have a huge budget but a little goes a long way. After all, we have felt the blessing of being given both big and small! We are indeed blessed to be a blessing (that includes whatever we have in the moment).



Starting with what we have is really God's way. It has been all along. The Bible says, ***"The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord orders his steps."*** ***Proverbs 16:9***. What this reminds us, is that as we get moving, God directs our best laid plans. He doesn't order our sitting down, but our steps out in faith! All those years ago, we started with what we

had—8 orphaned children in need of love and support. God grew those plans and now hundreds of kids have gone through that education program. Just before Covid in 2018, God ordered our steps to deal more with the family as a whole instead of sponsorships. In his wisdom, God directed us to better things—the schools in Uganda shut down for over 2 years due to Covid but he'd already redirected us to focus on home visits. The family unit in Uganda has struggled— home visits once again took precedence. Now we see the fruit of older and new relationships budding! We see a way to connect meaningfully and to stand as salt and light in the wide variety of families we visit. We can model the love of Jesus by bringing something when we visit. This small effort and low budget item, is then ordered by the Lord to bring about friendship and connection. It lays down a foundation of compassion and cultural awareness which so often leads to bigger discussions and topics close to the hearts of those we serve. This small gesture might seem redundant and insignificant. It is! That's the point! As we go about our daily affairs, we might think the small things don't matter—but they do! And they are the building blocks of bigger things. Our work is to obey that still small voice, to reach out to others with the compassion Jesus modeled time and time again. Obedience is never insignificant to God, it is the motion he needs to order our lives in service to him and others. It would be impossible to show the way to Jesus without the love and compassion he stands for! ***"Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be expected!" Luke 12:48***





Thank YOU for partnering with us as we reach out to vulnerable families in our rural area and in our city church! We're able to shine the light of Jesus in hard places because we've experienced it ourselves. We have the means to do this, because of the faithful support of so many of you! Thank you for believing in Jesus and for answering this call! We are so thankful that many of you have been answering the need for our monthly support to be boosted in order to stay serving in Uganda. Thank you for the timely gifts! We are still working to raise up about \$500/month more! One time gifts and increased monthly support has come in and we thank God that you, too, have not come empty handed but have given what you can, how the Lord has lead. We know it takes a village to raise up a generation of God-fearing believers. We know that they can't believe in the one they do not know. Thank you for letting us serve in this humble capacity. Even with funding a bit low, we continue with what we have because we know WHO we serve. We get moving because we know the Lord is putting things in order as we get busy about his work! Thank you for being part of this!

Our love and prayers continue for you, even as we continue to ask for your prayers and encouragement as we keep stepping out in faith!





Much love to you from the Walugembe Family!
Peter and Kate (Levi, Aiden and Eliana) Walugembe
