

April
2009

Because you want to know!

- We are Jacob & Michelle Gillard, career missionaries with LCMS World Mission.
- We labor alongside the Lutheran Church Mission in Uganda (LCMU) and are stationed in Kampala, Uganda.
- This newsletter is largely a compilation of blog posts & emails which we send out more frequently.
- Visit our blog at www.ugandaconnection.wordpress.com for more stories.
- If you received this newsletter in the mail you can save a stamp by requesting our newsletters by email. It will arrive as a PDF file which can be read using the free Adobe Reader.
- Thank you for reading!
- Thank you for praying!
- Please let us know how we can pray for you.
- Thank you for your interest in this work!

Prayer Points from the Gillard's

- Thank God that we are settled into our new life and home in Uganda. We've been here 5 full months.
- Thank God with us for generous Ugandan co-workers who are so willing to share their life with us. Many have acted as "cultural informants" by helping us understand our new homeland.
- Pray for health as our tummies adjust to new food.
- Thank God with us for the safe arrival of our co-workers Vicar Shauen & Krista Trump and that our families are meshing well as we do life and ministry together.
- Pray for Amelia and Evangeline to find little girlfriends their age.
- Thank God for a refreshing visit from Jacob's mom, dad, and sister in March.
- Thank God for TEE (Theological Education by Extension) students who are so eager to hear His Word. These 24 men gather for instruction two weekends per month and enjoy learning more about what makes them distinctly Lutheran.



- Pray for Ugandan men who are studying at our partner seminaries in other African countries. Ask God to mold them into servant leaders.
- Pray for 8 baptismal prospects who are expected to be baptized at the congregation here in the capital the Sunday after Easter.
- Ask God to work thru short-term volunteers and teams who are making plans to visit Uganda in the coming months.
- We are thankful for congregations and individuals who continue to support us with sacrificial financial gifts even in these uncertain times. So if that's you, thank God with us for how He's using you! + Jacob & Michelle

May I introduce you to Kevin?

Kevin is a woodworker. We were first led to him when we saw his handiwork on the roadside—sturdy furniture made largely from raw timber. We placed several orders with him as we furnished our new home over the months. I invited him to worship and he later asked for baptism.

We did some pre-baptism bible study but he later called me and asked to meet—there was a problem. He started by saying, "I cannot be baptized this Sunday. My father was a witchdoctor but is now dead. My grandfather is a Christian and is happy for my baptism but he says that I sit on my father's chair

so I must first return to my village and burn my father's fetishes before receiving baptism." (I know this happens to your pastors in America all the time, right?)

Please pray for spiritual and physical protection for Kevin and that the powers of darkness would have no hold on him. Ask the Holy Spirit to reassure him that he is his father's son but he is not his father. Pray that the Lord will provide travel funds so he can soon receive the assurance of salvation thru Christian baptism, along with his school-aged daughter, Immaculate. + Jacob

Settled In

Moving in general is always difficult. Moving to another country with two little girls is an adventure. We are finally settled into a permanent home on the outskirts of Kampala, the capital of Uganda.

Our most daunting challenge in the early days was finding out where to buy our food. We settled on a favorite supermarket where we can buy noodles, milk and rice among other things. The local market is great for all our fresh fruits and vegetables which taste divine. The carrots, pineapples, mangos and tomatoes are our favorite. Then it is off to the butcher for meat.

Relationships are a bit more challenging to create in an urban environment than they are in a village setting. Like all big cities people are very busy making money so they can taking care of their families. We take family walks many mornings and evenings to greet our neighbors. A neighbor recently asked what children my kids have met in our area. I began naming names and they remarked that we knew more people than they did!

Our family of Ugandan Lutherans continue to be helpful and loving as Jacob begins his work teaching basic bible concepts and training leaders. + Michelle

Sounds

Swish, swish, swish...we hear this sound all day long. It is the sound of women and men sweeping walks, patios and streets. For about 20 cents you can purchase a great sweeping broom made from grass. Although there are many other kinds of brooms here, people always use these traditional sweepers. At the edge of a most busy road, you will see city workers sweeping away the dirt and trash. Uganda is quiet a clean country because of these useful tools. Amelia and Evangeline bought their brooms weeks ago. They are often seen sweeping our porch to clear away ants or flowers that have fallen off the bushes and trees in a rainstorm. I use them daily as well. I can't get enough of the peaceful and rhythmic sound of the broom.

As for other sounds you hear...Uganda is an agricultural society. I think that the mooing of cows, cluck of chickens and maa of goats are most prevalent during the day. Song birds, the whir of locust wings, children laughing and the never ending clinking of pots and pans fill the air as well.

In the evening people are often playing pop Ugandan music. This is only muted by the sound of the crickets and squeaking bats flying in the sky.

Everything in Africa is so live because even indoors is like living outdoors. You hear everything like it is right on the other side of the wall. We have vents above each window that are always open. Noise travels so well. Sometimes we hear a chicken that seems to be outside



Ready to Sweep: Gillard gals with Janepher

our door and we look to only discover it is behind the wall behind our house. You hear a pot drop and it seems like it is in our kitchen when really it is from two homes over.

This is really something to adjust to. Let's just say that there is a lot to wake us up at night. And yet it is so peaceful and wonderful to sleep with the air and sounds of Africa surrounding us. + Michelle

Much Thanks & Appreciation

- Like you, we read the headlines and marvel at the global financial melt down. We are awe struck to receive our monthly financial statements and realize that so many of you are giving so sacrificially to support our work even in the midst of economic crisis. We witness first-hand the pressing need for theological training in Uganda and your continued financial support is what keeps us on the field and allows us to provide a vigorous response to this need! Thank you for your gifts that allow us to serve day-in-and-day-out.
- We've shared many electronic updates with those of you who are online but we're sorry to say this is our first printed mailing since hitting the field. Yet we are so, so very thankful for those of you without computer access and we commit ourselves to more regular communication with you in the days to come.
- Our support staff in St. Louis wrote last month to say that our first year of service is fully funded! All additional gifts are now applied to our second year of service. For our first two years we are approximately 80% funded (this includes cash and pledges). We are thrilled! Thank you!

Many Kilometers of Ministry

We've traveled far up-country on several occasions in our first 5 months here. We encounter "under-served" Lutherans in all these far flung places. By "under-served" I mean that there aren't enough leaders to serve them with some basic functions of the Church. The LCMU's 64+ congregations have only one seminary-trained-and-certified pastor in Rev. Charles Bameka and one seminary-trained-and-certified evangelist in Solomon Ayagri. That's a lot of ground for two men to cover in a country slightly larger than the State of Minnesota.

Needless to say, we have many requests for baptisms, confirmations, marriage, the Lord's Supper, etc as we travel. You may recall that Shauen and I are here specifically to facilitate theological leadership training, but we're not ones to take a narrow interpretation of our position description—especially when the LCMU encourages us to help meet the great needs. Who are we to deny the requests of these patient saints?



James & Jacob confirming new Lutherans in Lira

I'm often behind the camera so I thank the Trumps for snapping this photo. The third paragraph of the post at <http://blog.lcmsworldmission.org/2009/02/24/from-shauen-and-krista-trump-in-uganda/> gives a nice summary of events the afternoon it was taken, Thursday, January 29, 2009. I'm standing next to James who does a great job translating, by the way. Pray for him as he's now far from Lira, his family, and congregation and back in classes at Lutheran Theological Seminary in South Africa. + Jacob

Obama Mania

I can't say enough about how significant President Obama's election figures in the psyche of East Africans. And it shows in some interesting ways.

It's easy to make a lot of new friends when you speak enthusiastically about our new president!

Jacob at Obama Inn, Gulu



Keeping in Touch

An airmail letter will cost you 94 cents from the USA. We've received letters and many birthday and Christmas cards—thank you! We've had some problems receiving packages but now we know how it works and can advise you better.

When it comes to packages, plastic bubble bags work infinitely better than paper bubble bags. You'll want to use USPS because it is much cheaper than DHL, Fed Ex, and UPS—but it is slower. The only way to track a package sent USPS is thru the Customs Declaration Form number so please email us that number (usually begins with "CP" or "LC" and ends in "US") right away. For great value check out the USPS flat-rate box.

We (or someone in the LCMU) receive visitors from the USA about every other month so you can always ask us who's coming next and you can mail something to them to hand-carry to us.

Thanks to all of you who send us cards and packages. They are always a treat.



Happy Postal Customers!

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