



The Applegate Family

Tony, Kristy, Eliana, Elijah, Elexis, Elysse, Ellora

Serving God in Uganda, East Africa

January -
March 2011

Dear Partners in Ministry,

“I’m pressing on the upward way. New heights I’m gaining every day. Still praying as I onward bound; Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.” Great song, great prayer, great direction! With God’s help and guidance, 2011 will find us far more along the path of spiritual growth and grounded steadfast in Jesus Christ, our “Solid Rock.” Now

that we are almost settled back in Uganda, we hope to get our prayer letters sent out on a more regular schedule. Thank you for your patience.

FAMILY: As we think of all the things that have already taken place in 2011, we realize once again just how quickly time passes. Our situation has changed drastically in the few short weeks since January 1, 2011. We returned to Uganda early in January. Our entourage consisted of our family (7 people); a wonderful Christian lady named Sandra Coffee, who believes the Lord wants her to serve with our family for at least six months; and Luke Hermann, a young man from one of our supporting churches in the Kansas City area. We had a total of 41 pieces of checked luggage and around 18 carry-on bags.



When we got to the airport, everyone in line and behind the counter were looking at us, trying to figure out why we had so much luggage. When we explained that we were returning to Uganda as missionaries and would be spending the next 5 years helping start churches and schools and helping orphans, the counter agents became a little more understanding. They still could not understand, though, why we would take our small children away from grandparents and into such a medically hostile environment.

A quick summary of events: Ticket agent mixed up boarding passes, leaving mine out and duplicating Luke’s. Upon reaching Security, the problem was realized, and I became separated from the family, and they had to go through Security without me until I secured my boarding pass. We were scheduled for only an hour between flights in London, and our plane was late, which meant we did not make our connecting flight. The Lord was gracious, though, and provided for our hotel rooms, meal vouchers, and transportation to and from the airport. We got some much-needed rest before continuing on to Uganda the next day. Half of the luggage made it on our flight; the rest of it came in over the weekend, so we had to make another trip to the airport to get it (3 hours from where we live). We praise the Lord for Luke’s and Sandy’s help during the trip.

While we were in London, Kristy told me, “If I didn’t know better, I would think I have a kidney stone.” A few days after we arrived in Uganda, Kristy was doubled over in pain much of the day. That night, she passed a 5mm stone. Medically speaking, she probably should not have been able to pass a stone that size, but we thank the Lord for His goodness in allowing her to do so.

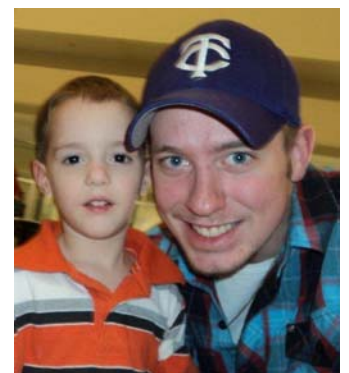
Before we left the States, Elexis told Grandma, “We’re going to *Uganda* for a little while.” A few days after we arrived, she told Grandma on the phone, “We’re in *Uganda*, and we are going to be here for a *very* long time!” It’s probably good that the children don’t realize just how long it will likely be before they see their grandparents again! The Lord is good, though, and we praise Him for the opportunity to serve Him with our children.

PRAISES

- Safety as we returned to Uganda
- The elections for president were peaceful.
- The school and dining hall in Kyotera are almost finished.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Wisdom in choosing personnel for JJ’s and Pastor Diton’s ministries.
- Keith Stensaas and family as they travel back to America for furlough



Elijah and Luke

The Lord also blessed in providing a vehicle for us at a reasonable price.

UGANDA MINISTRY: The past two months have been filled with adjusting back into Ugandan life. We give a special thank-you to Keith and Sally Stensaas for allowing our two families plus Sandy to co-exist during this time of transition. It takes much patience for 16 people to live under the same roof together for 2 months. Kristy, with Sally's help, is learning how to cook for a large group, which will be very helpful with all the mission teams we will be hosting this year. With their family and ours, we prepare food for 11 children and 5 adults. (Luke is staying with some other missionaries.) The Stensaas family plans to leave for furlough in early March, and we plan to live in their house while they are gone, paying the rent and utilities and other expenses. That will keep their house for them without their having to pay the expenses...and will give us an opportunity to take our time locating a house for our family to live when the Stensaas family returns to Uganda next year.



Grace Christian School in Kyotera is a little behind schedule on the completion of its new school building, but we are excited to see it nearing completion. The foundation is being laid for the dining hall and should be completed before the start of the 2nd school term in May. Pastor Diton has begun to hold two services on Sunday because of the number of people attending services. We are also excited to see a new church forming in Kisuubi, a small village close to Kyotera, where we grow our food.

There was some sadness at Grace Christian School in Masaka. Saali and Hamidu have chosen that Grace Orphan Boarding is not the right place for them. JJ and I discussed this possibility when we began the orphan ministry, yet it still is difficult to lose anyone to the world. Two young men, Moses and Jimmy, have filled the void. School started well with 42 students at this location.

Mbira Baptist Church is brimming with excitement and enthusiasm. When visiting the church, something took place which I have never seen in a church in Uganda. At the end of the service, JJ announced a gift exchange. People began to give each other gifts like it was Christmas. JJ told me that at the beginning of each month, names are drawn. Each person has to find out a need for the person whose name he drew. At the end of the month the needed item is then given. What a joy to see a Ugandan church giving out of what little they have! Pastor JJ is doing a fantastic job of teaching what it truly means to love one another. On visitation, JJ took me to meet an older man he has been witnessing to. This man was one of very few still attending the local Anglican Church. The majority of attendees have been saved and now attend Mbira Baptist Church. Since the old man helped build the Anglican church with his own hands, it is difficult for him to leave. As we talked,



I could tell he could see a difference in the lives of his friends who have been saved. God is working on his heart. It will not be long until he accepts Christ.

Photos (Above): Ojera graduates Bible College
Right & Left: Lukaya Wedding



Contact Information

E-mail: tony@theapplegates.net ; kris@theapplegates.net Web: www.theapplegates.net

Stateside Contact & Ministry Address: Tony & Kristy Applegate; % Sue Cawthron; 3790 County Road 6340; West Plains, MO 65775; Phone: 417-257-7791

Mission Board: BIMl; P O Box 9215; Chattanooga, TN 37412 Phone: 1-423-344-5050 www.BIMl.org

Support: Tax-deductible contributions for the Applegates can be sent to BIMl and marked "Account # 1295/ Applegates."