

SPRING HAS ARRIVED

And with it, the rains

Much of Uganda's economy depends on farming. So, the knowledge of when to expect rainy seasons or the hot and dry seasons is a very important skill. Children learn at an early age to understand the signs around them. At the college, we try to offset the costs of feeding the students by planting maize (corn) and beans each season. The main meal for students (and staff) includes posho (finely ground maize) cooked into a thick bread-like consistency and beans. This year I have requested that the students plant some sunflower seeds. The price for sunflower cooking oil has increased a lot in the last year and growing our own seeds will help us keep costs under control.

Uganda and Covid-19 is an interesting story. While it appears that the nation has experienced a fairly small number of cases and deaths, in a nation where people cannot afford health care, it is really hard to tell what is happening here. So often death in the village are recorded as something other than COVID-19 related. Vaccination efforts are underway using the Astra-Zeneca vaccines. I am checking out the possibility of getting a vaccine since I don't know when I will be able to return to the U.S.

The Ugandan government has been allowing students to come back to school in small numbers. We have had 2 semesters with only one diploma class and one certificate class. Next semester which begins in May we hope to have two diploma classes and two certificate classes. We are required to follow government rules regarding Standard Operating Procedures. One of our staff has the assignment to take the staff member's temperature when they arrive each morning. We call him "Dr." C.T.

During this week of walking with Jesus to the cross, we give thanks that our lives are on this side of the cross. We have the wonderful knowledge that Jesus' death on the cross was not the final story. His resurrection gives life for all who follow him.

Although I am officially retired from St. Philip's Cathedral, this year I am in charge of the three services immediately prior to Easter Sunday. Thursday, we will celebrate the Last Supper and strip the altar. Good Friday we will consider the Seven Last Words and meditate on Jesus hanging on a cross. Then Easter Vigil will be a candlelight service followed by the first Holy Communion of Easter.





My friends, Samuel and Esther, are eagerly awaiting the birth of their second child, a son. Due date is 1 April. Earlier this month we celebrated the birth of Peace, their 3-year-old daughter. We had pizza and a red velvet cake, which was delicious. Of course, as a three-year-old, it's hard to know what she thought!

I am amazed at how quickly the first three months of 2021 has passed by. Because of the work I had to take on when the staff person responsible for handling cash transactions and financial reporting left, it has been very chaotic. God has provided a replacement who I am now training. Though it still seems like I am doing the work of three or four people, I can see a light at the end of the tunnel.

Holiday time with my friend Alison has finally arrived. Next week, we will spend three nights at a hotel in Boma near Lake Victoria. Hopefully, one of the days we will have a picnic on the beach and just sit there watching the water. Alison has been very supportive of me here in Uganda. She's a great friend, and a great person to go on holiday with. Next newsletter I will include pictures.

An exciting development at the college is our increased use of the internet in teaching our students. This semester we have tutors teaching from the U.S., the U.K. and from Kitgum, which is about an hour's drive north of Gulu. We are beginning to utilize the Moodle learning software which has some amazing capabilities to enrich both teaching and learning. One of the issues which has kept us from offering a completely online course is the lack of technology skills and equipment for both tutors and students. We are also hindered by power outages which disrupts the internet signal. I am pleased with the change in the students' attitude toward this approach to teaching. As we grow our technology, we need to add some additional computers, including a server. Please pray with us for the funds needed to equip a fully functioning IT center for the college.

**Please continue to pray with me as we search for my replacement
as Principal here at the college.**



If you would like to support my ministry in Uganda, the fastest way is to make an Online Donation via www.WorldOutreach.org/221 which is my personal page. The system can process USA & International cards. You can also set up automatic monthly Gifts with your credit card if you choose the "Monthly" option. Or simply mail your check to: World Outreach Ministries, PO Box B, Marietta, GA 30061 and designate for Sandra Earixson Fund Code #221.