



June 2014

## Givan's at Goli

### PLANTING/GROWING/HARVESTING



***"I (Paul) planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth." 1 Cor. 3:6, 7***

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your prayers and e-mails over the past few months. It is hard to believe that we began this adventure last October with a forced return home for a few weeks by Raymond due to our daughter's illness! This has been a challenging time when we have had to deal with a lot of

bureaucracy and even the purchase of a vehicle has taken its toll! The work in the health centre and peripheral clinics is going quite well with both blessings and challenges.

A typical week: Rise at or before 6.30am, ward rounds begin at 8am until 11am, breaking for Morning Prayers at 8.30am. After completion of the Round there is Outpatient Clinic until about 1pm. At 2.30pm: check-up on sick patients and new admissions, carry out other procedures including Ultrasound scans. Late afternoons are variable; on Mondays and Fridays: Alur language lessons. Raymond attends choir practice on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 5pm – 6pm. We have been learning and singing some Getty and Townsend and Robin Mark pieces.

Jackie is involved in peripheral clinic work on Thursdays, teaches two Korean primary school children English once a week along with two Korean young men. She also teaches knitting at the local Women's Centre twice weekly.

We are responsible for five peripheral clinics and attend one of these each Thursday. These clinics are sometimes over 50 miles away along steep, dusty or muddy roads depending on weather conditions! Saturdays are also often taken up with ward rounds, Compassion International Clinics or committee meetings. There are six Compassion Clinics which are visited twice yearly and at each screening clinic there can be up to 300 children to examine. There are always opportunities to preach at each clinic and this is shared with other members of staff.

In all our activities there are many opportunities to speak with patients privately from different religious backgrounds including Protestant, Roman Catholic and Muslim about faith in Jesus Christ as the only means of salvation. We had the opportunity a few months ago to share with a young bodaboda (motorbike taxi driver) in Kampala and to give him a bible in his own language (Luganda). We arranged for him to meet up with another missionary who is based in Kampala for bible studies.

### **Planting**

This is wet season and not to be out done by our Ugandan friends we have planted a garden – Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, beans, and maize! It has also been a time to plant spiritually. We hold a bible study in our house on Tuesday nights with mostly health centre staff attending (all male) and two young Korean men join us as well. We have been studying the life of Joseph. This has been very enlightening due to the dysfunctional and polygamous nature of his family and how Joseph came through this to give great service for his people and to God.

### **Growing**

Our vegetable garden is making good progress; we have needed to weed it to allow the products of our efforts to see the sun! This is not dissimilar to the spiritual issues we face. Uganda is classed as a Christian country yet there is an absence of any real depth on a day to day basis in terms of the production of fruit. Petty crime is endemic with widespread corruption present at every level of society. The depth of spirituality is variable and the need for expository preaching is plain. Many superstitious practices need to be exposed to the light of God's word including works as a means of salvation, witchcraft, sinful and immoral practices.

### **Harvest**

There are two growing seasons in North Western Uganda, the land is mostly very fertile and no fertilisers are needed to aid growth. Our garden will not be ready to harvest for another three months so we will not reap the rewards of our efforts! But, no doubt harvest will come and the maize, potatoes and beans will yield a good return. The same is true of the efforts on a spiritual level. God's word goes forth daily and people come to trust in Jesus for their eternal salvation and begin to grow spiritually producing fruit.

### **Praise**

- At last we have our own transport.
- That we have received Jackie's passport and dependent's pass.
- For blessings in sharing our faith with others.
- That staff salaries have been paid despite the relatively low utilisation of the health centre.
- For continued good health and safety on the road.



### **Prayer**

- For help in terms of making real friendships, we are isolated and very lonely at times.
- For improved fellowship with fellow believers and missionaries.
- That work will re-start to complete repairs/decoration of our assigned house at Goli.
- That the celebration of our daughter's wedding in July will be a joyous occasion.
- Issues relating to Raymond's registration in the UK have caused concern. Pray for a resolution.
- That there will be meaningful discussions on how to go forward in the health centre in aspiring to a higher (Health Centre 4) status.

If you receive this letter by post and would be happy to get it by e-mail this would be appreciated. Either e-mail us, **raymondgivan@aol.com** or contact your local Crosslinks office (addresses below).

Partners in Christ,

Raymond and Jackie Givan

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**Please contact your local Crosslinks office to change your contact details**

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