

## Maine2Mityana Mission

Rev. Chuck & Beth Bradshaw  
Ash Wednesday \* March 5, 2014

Note to readers of our updates and prayer requests. The content of this letter is very similar to an article we submitted to the March parish newsletter of the Church of Our Father, *Water from the Rock*.

*“While the opportunity is there, I preach the Gospel with all my might, and my conscience is clear before God that I have not sided with the present government which is utterly self-seeking. I have been threatened many times. Whenever I have the opportunity I have told the president the things the churches disapprove of. God is my witness.” Archbishop Janani Luwum (1922-77)*

Dear Saints,

Sunday, February 16, was a significant day for us. Christians all over the world, whatever their differences, were on their knees praying for the Prince of Peace to turn the hearts and minds of South Sudan’s leaders and people from hatred to peace. It was also the anniversary of the martyrdom of Uganda’s Archbishop Janani Luwum, who was killed in 1977 for speaking the truth during the regime of Idi Amin.



Archbishop Luwum

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:1-2)*

At the end of January, one of the College’s Tutors (instructors) accepted an appointment in neighboring Central Buganda Diocese. Several vanloads of students and Mityana friends, including Beth, accompanied him in convoy to his new parish, and then to a thanksgiving for new ministry service. About 5 minutes into the service, Beth was informed that she would be the preacher. Fortunately, she had about 30 minutes to prepare her sermon, and the Scriptures she had read in her morning devotions were fresh in her mind.

In early February, we led morning devotions for a gathering of the directors of Compassion International projects in this Diocese. The theme was “being an advocate for children.” Who are we, we wondered, to tell these faithful men and women about advocacy for children? The children in the Compassion projects live with soul-crushing poverty and abuse at home. But through the children, Compassion’s work is transforming whole families and villages.



Musicians at Archbishop Luwum College

We were visited in early February by Carol and Clark Smith. Their ministry is called E412 (Ephesians 4:12, “... to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...”). As adjunct missionaries for SAMS, they have travelled often to South America, Asia, and Africa—Uganda more than any other place—to encourage missionaries and augment their work. Carol and Clark spent a Monday teaching students and staff at the College, and leading a healing service, and Tuesday gave a series of teachings for students and diocesan clergy. Then, joined by Rev. Moses Bushendich, the Archbishop’s chaplain, we accompanied them to northern Uganda, as team members for a similar conference at the Archbishop Janani Luwum Theological College in Gulu.

Northern Uganda—different tribal cultures, different language (our meager Luganda was of no use), and different music. But, like our students in Mityana, these students break into spontaneous praise and dancing at the slightest encouragement. Without being able to join in singing the words, we were nourished by the music—almost a Bluegrass sound.



**Gulu: Theologian-Musicians**

Until 2010, northern Uganda was a war zone. Although things have officially “returned to normal,” everyone there is still feeling the effects of civil war, compounded by government neglect. Signs of poverty are even more evident than in Mityana. Money for road construction has obviously not been used to build any roads. The district suffers chronic shortages of products that have to be manufactured and shipped. All of the students had either been terrorized by Joseph Kony and the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), or had been soldiers in the LRA. In addition to teaching about the person and work of the Holy Spirit, we prayed with students for the healing of memories and consciences, and for the grace to give and receive forgiveness.

This trip was an opportunity to meet Chuck’s counterpart in Gulu, an American named Sandra Earixson, who has been in Uganda about 10 years and was recently ordained a priest in the Anglican Church of Uganda.

Being the “out of town experts” is easy; it’s more of a challenge to do this kind of ministry among people who know you. As we reflect on the Smith’s ministry in Mityana and our experience in Gulu, it occurs to us that any believing Christian could do what we did. Any of the students in Gulu could have gone to Mityana and provided the same teaching and ministry. This isn’t a matter of secret knowledge. It is public information, openly taught in the Bible. It’s a matter of believing what Scripture teaches, taking a risk, and letting the Holy Spirit use you.



**The E412 team in Gulu**

We give thanks to the Lord for providing all that we need; for you, our intercessors and financial supporters; for being welcomed into Lulagala parish and for Chuck’s opportunities to be a parish priest for one day a week; for good medical attention when we needed it; for Beth’s translator, Kenneth; and for a brief soaking rain last Sunday, after 3 months of drought.

Please pray for our health and stamina; for wisdom in negotiating the cultural transition; opportunities to form closer relationships with the students at Bishop Lutaaya Theological College and prepare them well for local church leadership; for the students to value the education they are receiving; for financial provision and moral support for these students’ families; for wisdom in the stewardship of money and things; for a holy Lent; and for more rain.

Faithfully,

*Chuck*

and

*Beth*