

Dear sisters and brothers,

It has been some time since we have been sharing about the mission in Uganda. As many of you know, we did a mission trip to Uganda in November-December 2019. Our dear friends Claudia and Ben joined us, and we had a truly blessed time under the African sky. Thank you all for your prayers. God was leading us powerfully and opened new doors and gave us direction for the future of the work. We are also very grateful that none of us got sick and the Lord protected us from many dangers, especially during the long road trips. We had opportunity to share the gospel with the children and the adults and show God's love by giving practical help. You can read more about these things from our web site. We truly believe that the Lord has a plan for the village of Kamuge and he is calling people from darkness into his light. During our mission trip the Lord opened an amazing new door that we believe will be a blessing to many people in Kamuge. Ben and Petri had



*Mission trip 2019 team from right: Ben, Claudia, Petri,*

researched a farming method called Farming in God's way. This method was born in South Africa where one frustrated farmer was praying to God for help and guidance concerning his fields that had failed to produce harvest year after year. God spoke to his heart and encouraged him to go to the jungle. As he was investigating God's garden, he started having ideas how to farm differently. Farming God's Way has been transforming lives of people all around Africa. Ben and Petri met with facilitators and visited people who had been implementing Farming God's Way. The results were so convincing that we decided to take part in training that was just being organised close to where we were. By a miracle we were also able to organise a two-day training in Kamuge



*60-years old widow proudly showing his successful corn field.*

community centre/church, which we built in 2018. We had altogether over 60 people participating in this training. The facilitator Josh was full of love for Jesus and Ugandan people. As he was teaching about farming, he also preached the gospel and thought the word of God powerfully. He encouraged everyone to repent from all sin and wickedness and so plough the ground of their hearts and live according to God's way in all the areas of their lives. It was a blessing to see how intertwined Farming God's way and the preaching of the gospel are. The workshop was divided into two parts both theory and practical application. We prepared a model garden bed with the help of our facilitator Josh. We have been encouraging all the members of KMI to look after the crops and focus on farming. It is an important tool to



*Petri preparing measuring sticks for Farming God's Way training with KMI members Emma(left) and Little- John (right).*

improve the wellbeing of people in Kamuge and establish the financial sufficiency of this mission. This is one of our important prayer requests as Africa has got a long history of being dependent on the foreign aid. However, we believe that there is power in the word of God to change this mentality and the Holy Spirit can set Ugandan's free to walk in the plans of God for their lives.

During this mission trip Ben and Petri were able to minister in the local church and the Holy Spirit gave them messages to speak that deeply affected the congregation. Pastors came afterwards to testify how important things Petri and Ben had spoken about. This greatly encouraged us to continue to trust in the Lord concerning this mission in Uganda. Katja and Claudia together with members of KMI shared the gospel with the children and distributed t-shirts and soaps to the poor children. It was such a blessing to see the joy and gratefulness as we shared these little gifts. When we held the children's event, we also gave each child a little snack. It was heart breaking



*Practical part of the Farming training at the Mission Centre.*

to see that many children

sitting in front of us listening to the gospel message were sick and hungry. Our prayer is that many of these children would believe the gospel and give their lives to Jesus, who is the only one who can give them eternal hope.



*Corn field sprouting.*

The work is plentiful as we have said so often. Even though there are many missionaries in Uganda, everyone has plenty to do. Village of Kamuge has gone through many dreadful things and even though it is a small village, there are thousands of people living in the village and the surrounding

areas. Our hearts long to see these precious people to be

transformed by the power of the gospel. At the same time, it is our responsibility to share the knowledge and skills that we have been given to enhance the quality of lives of Ugandan people. Petri was planning to return to Uganda at the end of March. We felt it was extremely important to go back and continue the work that was left in a critical stage, especially concerning the farming project. However, corona virus changed these plans completely and only the Lord knows when we are able to touch the African soil again. It brings us great comfort to know that the Lord is looking after his work and it is advancing in the spirit regardless any physical obstacles and nothing can stop the plans of our Almighty God.



*Josh teaching Farming God's Way at the Kamuge Church/community centre that we built in 2018.*

Even though corona virus has affected us all one way or another, the situation in Uganda is very difficult. Statistically Uganda has not have many infections, but as the country has been in lock down, it has affected millions of people financially. Many people have no jobs and therefore are unable to buy food or get medical help. and many people have lost their jobs, are without money and food. John our KMI - representative in Uganda told us how the patients in the hospitals were starving. In Uganda Hospitals do not provide food for the patients, it is

their families'

responsibility to feed them. As the families have been unable to visit

the hospital and many are struggling to make ends meet, patients were left without food. Many of them had only tea to drink and especially nursing mothers were in great distress as they were unable to produce enough milk for their babies. The suffering of people is heart-braking and very real.

When we hear these sad news, we are reminded of how privileged lives we live in the western world. We are used to freedom, safety and abundance and often take it for granted. Those of

you who remember how people in Europe were struggling during the last world war and after it, can relate better to what people in Uganda and other developing countries are going through due to this virus. Many people wake up each day to the reality that is everything but rosy. We as Christians should live in the truth (1 John 1:5-10). This includes speaking the truth, but also living in a reality. We should see the world as it is and not try to deny the suffering, hopelessness and death, that so many people face every day and pretend everything is good and well in this world. Jesus came into the world that was full of suffering and hopelessness. What did he come to do? Did he come to speak positive words, so that people could have a moment of relief from the harsh reality of their lives. No! He came in the truth and brought lasting and real hope for all the nations of the world. Before Jesus suffered the cross, he said to his disciples: "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world (John 16:33)." Jesus reminded his disciples and all of us that we cannot avoid trouble in this world. However, as children of God we can fully trust in the risen Christ, who is above all the powers and principalities that bring affliction to this world. We can be of good cheer and have his peace in our hearts. We have not put our hope in this uncertain world, but in



*We had a privilege to bless these precious children with new T-shirts that children from Katja's workplace had donated.*



*Claudia sharing the gospel in the children's event.*



*Petri speaking at the sudaay service in the local church.*



*The local market which serves as a supermarket. This is where we did our shopping as well.*

Jesus who is preparing a place for us in our Heavenly Father's Kingdom, where there is no more death, tears, sorrow or pain (Rev. 21:4). This is a true message of hope that we as Christians can bring to people who are in the midst of great suffering and affliction. Jesus told us to be his lights in this world. We are not called to shine from a distance, but go amongst the hurting and afflicted. We want to encourage all of you to let your lights shine brightly



*We are supporting this school of 70 children that is operating in the premises of the local church. KMI member Mr Emma is teaching the children.*

during these dark times and bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to those people who are in the circle of your life. We can share the gospel by words or deeds, however the Holy Spirit guides us. Jesus is not looking for perfect Christians. He is looking for men and women, boys and girls, who are willing to say like prophet Isaiah said: "Here am I. Send me (Is.6:8)!" When we approach our Lord and Creator with an open and sincere heart, he is able to mold us to be suitable for tasks he has prepared for us and fills us daily with his Holy Spirit. The question is, have you said these words to Jesus and given him full control to do what he wants with your life?

With Blessings,

Petri and Katja

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### **Prayer requests:**

- People at the Mission Centre and all the members of KMI, that they would have motivation, perseverance and health to continue the farming project and that they would be the light in the whole community.
- The Lord would protect the village of Kamuge from corona virus and that the people in the village would get through this challenging time.
- Wisdom for the future plans and development concerning this mission.

*Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand*

*firm, because the Lord's coming is near. James 5:7-8*