

# Imperishable Seed

## *Uganda*

April 2017

Greetings friends,

It's hard to believe this is the forty-first prayer letter that I have written since my very first one as a "officially approved Long Term Fieldworker Candidate for the Christian Veterinary Mission." So much has happened over the course of these pages. But yet this only represents a small glimpse into what is my life. Sometimes it seems like it's been forever, yet other times just a mere moment in time. This is the last letter I will be composing in Uganda before my furlough. I will be returning the beginning of May to Wisconsin so I can attend my Grandma Arndt's Ninetieth Birthday party. Then I will be traveling around to meet with as many people as I can. I have my return flight to Uganda booked for August 11th. This will allow me some time to settle back into my life before the start of the new year at COVAB.

I have a friend who has graciously offered to help me schedule my time while I'm in the US. So you may get a call from Christina on my behalf as she works on scheduling my time as best as possible. If you want to meet with me, please contact me and I will forward the information to her. Also, thank you to those who have already sent some gift cards to help out with my additional personal expenses when I'm stateside. If you haven't yet and would like to, they can be sent to my sending church: Bethany Evangelical Free Church, Attn: Emily Arndt, 264 N Main Street, Clintonville, WI 54929, 715-823-2770. Suggestions would be for hotel rooms, fuel, food, clothing, dentist, ticket to a day at Lifest, car rental, airfare, etc. To give a glimpse of the task ahead, here is a map of the locations I could potentially visit. Obviously, I can't meet in person with everyone, but will meet as many as I can.



So what is furlough? Is it a vacation? Visit home? The dictionary describes it as a "Leave of absence, especially that granted to a member of the services or a missionary." However, CVM calls this time our Home Assignment. This means we are still on duty and working, just on a leave of absence from our work in our country of service. Moreover, 'home' is a torn concept now that I have lived in Uganda for three and a half years.

I look forward to connecting in person with so many of you who have made these past years of ministry possible. I want to especially thank those of you who have contacted me to let me know that you will be shifting your ministry support elsewhere now that I've become established and your three year commitment has ended. This being said, I hope to boost my support by \$400 per month before I return to my work in Uganda. This is only 20 people committing to \$20 per month! Then I will be back to the level of support I was at during my first year on the field.

So if you don't think your contact information is up to date, especially your email address and phone number, please contact CVM or myself with this information. I will be trying to update everyone during my time in the States via email. And for those I can't visit, I would love to at least connect on the phone.

What am I up to right now as I finish out this term? I am still working at the university (COVAB) and also the animal shelter (USPCA). The work at the USPCA is going really well. We currently have our second group of COVAB fifth-year students joining us for a month-long attachment. Our COVAB department heads are

very excited to see the level to which James and I have brought the USPCA Clinic in such a short time. Our vision is for USPCA to be the model clinic for the students to imagine what is possible with items sourced here in Uganda. That being said, I also hope to raise some support for some veterinary equipment that I'm in the process of pricing. I've already found a supplier for orthopedic supplies hidden away here in Kampala! Good quality, reasonably priced, and accessible! Fortunately, the Short Term vets who came at the end of 2016 also left some monetary donations, so we were able to use those funds to purchase what we needed for basic pinning procedures. And we have the second procedure scheduled for tomorrow. It is very common, sadly, with the closed compounds, for dogs to have their legs run over. If the fracture is too complicated for a plaster-of-Paris cast, amputation is the only other option available at the veterinary clinics here. Therefore, Dr. Josephine is very keen to learn. She is a Ugandan who went to veterinary college in Tanzania, and while in school, she would catch stray cats, spay them, tame them, and rehome them. She did this with her own resources because she wanted practice and she wanted to help out the animals in her area. There is no doubt she has the right passion for the job.

I just recently completed the "Jeremiah Form" for CVM where we look forward to and plan for the next fiscal year. Even though it's over fifteen pages long, I really enjoyed looking ahead to continuing the work God is doing. "*For such a time as this...*" has been very applicable as we are looking at Esther (4:14) in my Thursday morning women's Bible study. This leads me to the closing point, ask me about the two challenging months, including a stolen laptop, numerous police post visits, and a young muslim man who just accepted Christ! Please pray for Ibrahim Matovu. He entered my life in January because of an incident with my guard. Now last week, he was baptized as a Christian! This is huge and he has many challenges facing him. But praise God I have learned so many lessons these past years in the school of hard knocks. I was able to navigate the maze of culture and present Jesus Christ to Ibrahim! I also praise God for the Bible study I lead at my house and the one member who is a former Muslim and was able to also take time with Ibra. This is why I do what I do!!

To God Be the Glory!



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