



His Very Own

(Uganda)

Since being in Uganda, Rachel and I have picked a theme verse for each year. Sometimes we pick them based on something that we have been learning from God over the last year, or sometimes we pick a verse that reflects a concept that we want to spend more time focusing on for the next year. For the year 2015, we have been considering Hebrews 10:23.

“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.”

In fact, Rachel found a company that prints banners and designed one that says “He is faithful” and since January it has been strung across the top of one wall in our living room. Every time you sit on the couch and look up at it, there is a reminder of the purpose for our lives, the purpose of our work. The Bible reminds us many times that our God is faithful to us, even in our unfaithfulness. 1 Corinthians 1:9 reminds us again of that indisputable fact when it says that “God is faithful, who has called you, into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”

That passage also gives us a glimpse of the hope that we have, which is the opportunity to be in fellowship with Jesus Christ our Lord. We also know that this hope is an “anchor for the soul, firm and secure” (Hebrews 6:19). Nothing could be more encouraging than knowing that fact.

Living in Uganda, living anywhere for that matter, provides plenty of opportunities for distraction from giving our undivided attention to this hope. Picking this passage as our theme verse for this year has encouraged us to *hold unswervingly* to this hope – the hope that we profess in Jesus Christ – to ensure that this is always central to everything that we do. Really, this hope should be the driving force behind everything that we do.

The way that we have chosen to *hold unswervingly to the hope we profess* is to focus our time and efforts on discipleship. Discipleship is the process of creating and growing new and developing disciples of Jesus. Discipleship is the task entrusted to all believers by Jesus himself.

An observation that we made very quickly after moving to Soroti was a deficit in solid Biblical teaching and understanding among the existing churches – for this reason we struggled for a year without finding a Biblically-based church that we could call home. We now know that God was using that time to prepare us for what He had already planned, and what God plans is always better than we could ever imagine ourselves.

Calvary Chapel – Soroti was planted in August 2013 and we have been a part of this fellowship of believers since that time. In this environment, we have discovered our opportunity to encourage, teach, and to be encouraged and taught by growing and maturing disciples of Jesus – people eager to understand God’s Word and apply it to their lives.

Prayer Requests for our service at Calvary Chapel – Soroti:

- Preaching – whether it is on Sunday morning or Wednesday night, Daniel is teaching in the church on a weekly basis. The style of the church’s preaching is expository – teaching through each and every book and chapter of Bible. We are currently teaching Romans from the New Testament on Sundays and Exodus from the Old Testament on Wednesday nights.

- Children’s Ministry – Rachel not only helps to lead the weekly Sunday school for 100+ children, she coordinates crafts, songs and special games and mentors and advises the 2 children’s teachers.
- Teaching – a group of 10 individuals have committed themselves to 20 weeks of study in our Sunday afternoon discipleship class. Daniel is co-teaching this class on the fundamentals of our Christian faith along with other leaders from the church.
- Marriage Fellowship – together, we have led the monthly fellowship for couples within the church. We meet the 2nd Friday of every month and will be starting the *Crazy Love* curriculum from Francis Chan in August.
- Men’s and Women’s Fellowships – Daniel has been the interim coordinator for the church’s men’s group which meets on every other Tuesday evening. Rachel is also currently providing extra support for the leader of the women’s fellowship during a busy season.
- We work under the care and direction of our senior pastor, Dr. Juventine Emuku. He is a valued spiritual leader for us and his family have become beloved friends. Please pray for him, his family, and his ministry – both in the church and his mission hospital.



Rose, who Rachel has been meeting with weekly for Bible study, is now serving as a Sunday school teacher and was baptized in May (Rose was also seen in our April 2015 prayer letter)

We also pray that you will share in this privilege with us; to profess your hope because we know that He is so faithful to us all.

Sincerely,

D & Rachel

*“..Our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ...gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are His Very Own, eager to do what is good.”
Titus 2:13-14*

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