

February 24, 2015

Dear Family and Friends,

People are asking us, “How are you surviving the winter?” Our answer is “by God’s grace”. Temperatures in Ithaca consistently drop below zero (F) and a Syracuse weatherman declared this month is the coldest February on record in Central New York. No kidding! This morning, after listening to a CD of traditional Ugandan music, my body is finally moving again.



National news broadcasts highlighted our bitter weather with pictures and stories of Niagara Falls. Last Friday, I traveled there for a Global Entry interview at the Niagara Falls Immigration Center and I thought of our Ugandan friends. Whenever they visit Ithaca, Niagara Falls is one of their desired destinations. So, I stopped by the US side to take a few pictures for their benefit. It was VERY cold and the brutal wind chill almost froze two busloads of tourists from China. With water rushing at full force and the mist’s residue on surrounding trees, I sensed the majestic power of God’s creation and the beauty of the day. But I suggest that if you want to visit Niagara Falls, do it in the summer!



About two hundred feet from the Falls stands a lamp post and its picture reminds Joyce and me of *The Chronicles of Narnia*. In *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*, C.S. Lewis described Narnia as living under the spell of the White Witch. In fact, he writes, “it was always winter, but never Christmas.” However, as Lewis brilliantly describes, the icy grip on Narnia was fading because of Aslan’s emerging presence in the land. Aslan, the lion like Christ figure, ultimately overthrew the Witch’s grip through his substitutionary death and return to life. Lewis declared that Aslan’s redemptive work was accomplished because of a

“deeper magic from before the dawn of time” – We know it as God’s grace!

We have the great privilege of telling others about Jesus Christ. This gospel message affirms that the cold and isolation of our sin is being replaced through the power and warmth of Christ’s atonement. In Christ, the majesty of God’s redemptive power brings the joy of Christmas and the beginning of spring in our lives. Newness of life pops up in places where there was no life at all. It is this good news that transforms lives and nations. It is this good news that we desire to proclaim through *Partnerships For Training Pastors*.



These thoughts keep rushing through our minds at the end of this frigid February. Thank you for praying for our family and for your continued support in a variety of wonderful ways. As we move into March, please join Joyce and me in praying for the following *Partnerships* requests.

- **Pray for the pastors and leaders of the Masaka churches as they apply truths discovered in our January training sessions. Ask the Lord to keep the gospel fresh in their hearts and minds.**
- **Pray for the ongoing development of the *Christ in the Old Testament Course* to be taught in Zambia and Uganda in April and May. Pray for receptive hearts and minds in all that attend.**
- **Please keep logistical issues in your prayers as preparations are made for future training sessions.**
 - **Pray for Jeremy and Bethany Colvin, of *Choshen Farm* ministry, as they organize the details of the late April conference in Fimpulu, Zambia.**
 - **Pray for Kampala Baptist Church and their vision for training ministry across Uganda.**
 - **Pray for Daudi Nkuggwa as he interacts with Uganda’s Oyam regional church leaders in advance of our April 29-30 training sessions.**
- **Pray for the continuing development of discipleship resources that will assist the growth of Christ-followers. These resources include group study materials and pastoral resources.**

In the warmth of Christ’s love,

Dave & Joyce

Explore www.partnershipsfortraining.org for an expanded picture of the ministry!