

As I'm sitting here writing, enjoying the cool Kampala breeze, listening to the exotic sounds of some of the most exquisite birds I've ever seen (and also the cow below the balcony in the neighbor's back yard), the whole city has just suddenly erupted into ecstatic celebration. People are laughing, singing, screaming in the streets. Drums are beating wildly over the hills. Whistles are blowing. Dogs are now barking and howling – it **almost** sounds like an LSU game in Tiger Stadium! I am thinking Uganda must have just defeated Niger in a playoff "futbol" game. Yep, just heard the score: 3-1 Uganda. Bet there's gonna be a party tonight on the streets of Kampala!

We arrived here in Kampala, the capitol city of Uganda, the 28th of August. We are staying at the AIM (Africa Inland Mission) guest house until the 14th of September when we will go to Mbarara, the city where we will live. We are presently going through an orientation program set up by AIM where we learn (hopefully) enough practical things (local greetings, how public transportation works, how the government works, etc.) to be somewhat functional. When we arrive in Mbarara, AIM has arranged for us to stay with a Ugandan family for a week to see how a Ugandan family lives and functions. On October 3, we return to Kampala and then go on to Nairobi, Kenya for another month of training. During this time we will get to see Mary and Charis who will be on mid-term break (more on them later). We then return to Kampala for another week or so of language acquisition. This should get us through the 2nd week of November. Hopefully at this point the crates we shipped from home will have arrived and we can head to Mbarara and move into a home.

We got the girls into school (Rift Valley Academy in Kijabe, Kenya) on the 27th of August. They seem to have adjusted just fine. Charis was homesick for a little while just after we left but seems to be doing better. At least the text messages have diminished. Her dorm parents have a web page for the parents to keep up with their kids and we saw a picture of Charis laughing and enjoying her new friends. I really think they will be blessed by being there. The school is located on a high ridge overlooking the Great Rift Valley, at an elevation of about 7800 feet. The view is beautiful. If you care to email the girls their addresses are mboyett09@kijabe.net and cboyett11@kijabe.net. They would enjoy hearing from home. Of course you could always use Facebook – that is, if you are really cool and have a Facebook page!

Last night we went to a "back to school" gathering for the students at Westminster Theological College and Seminary in Kampala. It was a pleasure to spend time with the students. They were from all over east Africa. There were men from Sudan, Congo, Rwanda, and Uganda. I suppose that most of them were Presbyterian, and like all good Presbyterians, when it came time to sing, they pulled out their big drums and guitars and they danced and sang to the Lord with all their heart and strength. Now, lest anyone think that this dancing and celebrating was just simply a cultural thing, which would be tempting, you should have heard their stories. As I sat with some of them it didn't take long before I became emotionally dazed listening to what the Lord has brought them through. Among these students were two brothers from Rwanda. As they were escaping into the bush from the madness of the killing (see the movie Hotel Rwanda) together with their parents and siblings, they alone survived. A young man from Congo, along with his parents and siblings, was kidnapped (some of his story is too monstrous to repeat or think of ever again). He, too, is the only survivor. All three young men had to watch as their family members were killed off – mother, father, brothers, sisters. Others were from Sudan and northern Uganda

where Muslim persecution is constant and at times intense. These all sang, and they danced, and they laughed, and they rejoiced with very great joy – and it was good.

Susan and I want to thank all of you for your prayers, encouragement, and help during the final months before we departed. The Lord's grace was abundantly supplied to us through the hands of His people. Our being here is certainly a miracle, but a miracle that God performed through the ordinary acts of His people. Certainly the kindness and generosity lavished upon us is extraordinary, especially from the perspective of the watching world. But, for those who are not of this world, whose daily lives are directed by the indwelling Spirit of Christ, the acts of extravagant generosity and kindness that were shown to us are, by the grace of God, just the ordinary actions of ordinary Christians. I think it is beautifully described by Jesus in Matthew 25:

Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, "Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? And when did we see You a stranger and welcome You, or naked and clothe You? And when did we see You sick or in prison and visit You?" And the King will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to Me."

Now that the pace has leveled out and we can look back, it is breathtaking to see how the sanctifying Spirit of Jesus weaves into the tapestry of the ordinary, mundane living of Christ's people a generosity that truly fulfills Jesus' instructions to "not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing" (Matthew 6:3). Many of you probably don't realize, like Susan and I do, what a miracle it is that we are here and how profoundly the Lord has used everyone of you in our lives. Through your ordinary living and loving and struggle to live faithfully day by day the Lord's purposes continue forward and the gospel continues to produce its everlasting fruit. I suppose that is the Lord's design. We thank all of you for your devotion to Jesus and your desire to see Him "receive the reward of His suffering." He will indeed. We are deeply grateful for your partnership. We are profoundly aware of the fact that we are sent by you and we will attempt, by the strength that God provides, to be good stewards of the gospel.

Prayer concerns:

1. I'm a half deaf redneck from Mississippi who needs to learn as much of an alien language as possible. I cannot distinguish all the sounds nor can I make my tongue cooperate when I try to pronounce the strange combinations of letters – especially the "R" (nashemererwa kukureeba). Greetings are important and we want to learn. My memory doesn't work so well either. Susan seems to not struggle with it quite like I have to.
2. We are looking for a vehicle. We have a limited budget to work with so the selection is very, well . . . limited. The dollar is weak and this also impacts what we have to work with (so do the taxes – close to 30% of the price). We are asking the Lord to bring us along side just the right vehicle – one that will not be a maintenance nightmare.
3. Amy, our oldest daughter, will be moving to Baton Rouge to start a new job. Pray that things go smoothly, that she can remain enthusiastic, and meet some Christian friends that will encourage her. We desire so much for the Lord to bless her.
4. Daniel and Cindy at Belhaven College and in their jobs. Mary and Charis at RVA.
5. Safety on the roads. Uganda has one of the highest fatality rates on the road in Africa.

6. What few things we brought over in a crate should arrive in Uganda while we are in Kenya. This is a complication that could be difficult.
7. Sanity while we are living out of suitcases the next few months.
8. Joy in the midst of constant change and dislocation. Peace that the children are safely taken care of by our Sovereign Father.
9. Deeper joy and confidence in the Lord's sovereign goodness, as well as ever increasing delight in intercessory prayer.

Housekeeping:

Some of you have expressed confusion about whether MTW will send a notice for monthly pledges. My understanding is that when you send the first check they will send you a receipt and on the bottom portion of that receipt will be information for your next month's gift with our account information on it. So, the answer to the question that some of you have asked is this: when you send the first check, they will send you a receipt and the proper information for the next month's gift. This will not happen when you send in the pledge card alone, only when you send the first check. Checks are made payable to: Mission To The World; P.O. Box 116284, Atlanta, GA 30368-6284. Our account number is 010735 which should be written in the memo section of the check.

We will try to be diligent in sending out regular letters. The next two months will be difficult as we will not have established residence and will be traveling between Uganda and Kenya. The internet may be hard to access. But we will try to stay in touch.

Mike and Susan Boyett

P.S. We are thinking that this may be the best email address to use since we can download all the mail at once and work offline on our responses. If you do not use this address, please use the G-mail address which is: mike.susan.boyett@gmail.com. The AOL address is too difficult to pull up. You need a good Russian novel to read while you wait!