

**Dear Friends and Family,**

**EXCITING NEWS!!**

A story many of you have waited to hear for a long, long time ☺ God is faithful and His time is always the best. *Wait upon Him, and He gives us the desires of our heart.*

This Sunday my pastor Emma made a wonderful announcement in front of Zana church. He explained that there once was a young lady who came to Africa many years ago. In 1996, he and his wife Allen were given a daughter who God called to serve amongst their community in Uganda. He also announced that there was someone in her life that had become very special and because of that, things would soon change.

From out of many seated in church, a young, handsome ☺ man came to the front, got on his knee with a bouquet of flowers and asked her to marry him! She said yes! And the whole church clapped for joy. As Pastor Emma prayed for them, they knew that God had done brought them together to love each other and serve Him together.

Yes, it is true! I am that lady who 10 years ago was touched by God to go. He did it, by His grace. After pastor Emma told our church about the need for teachers in Africa, I remember telling mom, “Mom, I have to go.” She looked me in the eyes that day and knew I was leaving.....

I want to thank you for all of your encouragement through the years. God is faithful, and this story will testify to His goodness. Well.... It's a long story, but I'll try to keep it brief ☺ I met Emmanuel at Heritage in September 2005. He was the French teacher for grades K-12. I'll never forget the first time we met. I had shared the story of my life. After the teacher's meeting, he walked up to me and said, “Nichol, today I am blessed. Your story has blessed my heart. Thank you for sharing with that kind of freedom and joy.” I remember thinking- ‘wow, what a neat guy.’ (with a great smile too ☺) As I saw his joy, and love for the Lord something in my heart told me this man was special.

We became friends and began to serve together with a small group of missionaries who were ministering to Congolese refugees. Our friendship grew and we waited, prayed and sought counsel from family and friends. Now, we have no doubt in our minds that God brought us together to share the good news and serve the poor. We are SO HAPPY!

Let me tell you a little about Emma- he is a Ugandan by birth, born in the southwestern part of Uganda just on the border with Congo. He moved to Congo as a small boy and grew up there with his mother, stepfather and many brothers and sisters. Life was hard, and he suffered in that family. But as he says, “God was good.” And through many hardships, the Lord provided for him. He went through seminary and received a BA in education and French.

Because of the war, he left Congo and eventually settled in Kampala where he worked as a manager in a restaurant downtown. After time, he got a job at Heritage teaching French. Now he is teaching French to primary school-aged children at the International School of Uganda, one of the best schools in Africa.

We are asking you to pray for us to make Christ the center of our relationship, and to follow after Him. We need much patience and understanding- and lots of grace ☺ with such different cultures. We trust the Lord, not ourselves. One thing we know for sure is that we did not do this ourselves, God brought us together and if He did, He is able! Our prayer is that our union would one day be an encouragement to others.

## **HERITAGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL**

We are doing great in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade! 16 kids this year. They keep me busy and I love to see them growing spiritually, and academically. They are now helping me 'plan' my wedding which is so cute. They cannot believe that Mr. Emmanuel is marrying Ms. Nichol! They love him too!

## **ALISO CREEK PCA**

We were so encouraged to have two friends from ACPC come and stay with us for one week. THANK YOU Paul and Rob! And the rest of ACPC for the love you shared with us out here. They encouraged us through visiting the different ministries and seeing first-hand what they've been supporting for the past ten years.

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

- **Grace, humility and purity** during this time of engagement
- **For wisdom** as we make decisions about future plans with MTW, Heritage, ISU
- **For our teen girls at Zana**, they face pressure from boys at school and need strength
- **For the Congolese refugees-** many who even sleep on the streets. We visited a group who had no food or shelter this week. There are 35,000 in Kampala now and we are suffering. Pray for peace in **Congo**
- For the Lord **to provide financially** for the many needs in our life at this time

Once again, thank you for your prayers and support all of these years. We love you!

In Him,  
Nichol