

May 28, 2010

# the sperling jerry can

...carrying living water in practical ways...

## Landslides

Greetings from Uganda! We have had quite a rainy season here in Uganda. It has started to dry up here now in Jinja, but in other parts of Uganda it continues to rain. The rains have been so heavy we have had a lot of mudslides in the hilly areas of Uganda. The largest landslide made world news when a huge deluge of mud and rocks covered three villages on the hillside of Mt Elgon in a place called Buduuda. The slide buried about 400 people and highlighted several problems -- one of them being the stripping of forests and the poor cultivation habits of the inhabitants of the mudslide area. Through Farming God's Way we hope to educate Ugandans on how to cultivate land so as to avoid such problems. It is exciting to have a ministry that ministers to spiritual needs through touching relevant physical needs. We all need to become good stewards of what God has entrusted to us. That is so apparent when we see how poorly people handle private and public lands!



## Farming God's Way Progress

Within the last year Farming God's Way-(FGW) [www.farming-gods-way.org](http://www.farming-gods-way.org) has made great inroads here in Uganda. I have personally been tending my own FGW test plots since I was introduced to FGW almost a year and a half ago and seen what a difference FGW makes! Also, many more NGOs and churches have become familiar with FGW and the great tool that it is for the African Church as a whole. Out of the training that has taken place here in Uganda we have developed a FGW Uganda Forum. The Forum is a group of individuals representing various church groups and NGOs from around Uganda. We have become more focused on rolling out FGW on a broader national level. One of the main steps that needs to take place in order to facilitate this broad implementation is for Uganda to have "Accredited Trainers". The group has asked me to be in charge of national implementation; and, therefore, I have been invited to



go to South Africa to become an accredited trainer. This is very exciting for me! It was also very exciting for me to be able to teach a session with the FGW team that came up from South Africa last week at New Hope Uganda. They had an opportunity to critique my knowledge of FGW and my ability to communicate with the trainees. The whole accreditation process is one of being mentored so it is a relational step as well as an educational step. Once accredited I will be able to travel anywhere in the world and offer FGW with the assurance of the high standards and the heart for the poor that are key in delivering the material.

I (Chris) have also had a chance to be a part of a number of Farming God's Way seminars in our region as well as in Western Uganda in Mbarara. I facilitated the FGW workshop in Mbarara with the aid of the new FGW DVD set which is an amazingly well produced set of three DVD's which have a total of over seven hours of great lessons on them. The DVD series is such a testimony to how the FGW people are committed to doing everything to the Glory of God!

### A Trip to Lesotho

I am planning to attend the "FGW Accreditation Week" in Lesotho from Sept. 18-24<sup>th</sup> of this year. I hope to fly in to Johannesburg and then travel by car from Jo-burg with some of the FGW guys based there. The cost of the flight will be around 700USD and the fuel and food will be about another 200USD. I will be one of about eight mentees who will attend the accreditation "camp". We will tent in the village and travel to a cluster of training sites nearby. As a mentee I will be responsible for having a very keen technical understanding of the material. Even more importantly I will be observed for how I minister to the poor as I teach and deliver the material. A heartfelt concern for the poor is one of FGW's core values. I have been told it will be an intense but excellent time. Please pray for me as I prepare for this time that God will instill in me both a thorough understanding of the material as well as a heart for the poor. Please also consider if you would like to contribute to the trip expenses. The total will be less than 1,000 CAD.

### Our Growing Family

As many of you already know we are expecting our first girl at the beginning of July. Please keep Jane and the baby in your prayers as she goes for a scheduled C-section on July 1<sup>st</sup> in Kampala. The boys will be excited to look after their little sister. Jane already has a big bag packed with girl's stuff awaiting our first daughter's arrival.

### Our Growing Equip

We have recently had a wonderful visit from new Equip missionaries Mark and Michelle Wise. They are from North Carolina, although Michelle is originally a French Canadian from Langley, B.C. They visited Uganda for about two and half weeks and just left last night for the 'States. They are praying about joining us with their twin girls and one son. Mark has experience with a hospice society in NC and they would love to fit in here with our community work. Also, Cindy Benda has returned to join us permanently here in Uganda. She will be doing community health work in the various communities where Equip missionaries are already working. She has years of experience with the US Army, so we welcome her as she will be a great asset. We had a get-together with all the missionaries who are currently serving in Uganda under Equip at our home yesterday -- our biggest number ever -- we were seven Equip missionaries so that was exciting.

### Prayer Needs

Please pray for us as we take FGW to the rural churches in our area.  
Pray for safety in travel and security at our home.  
Pray for our health, especially Jane as she delivers soon.  
Pray for open hearts to God's Word as we share our lives with people.  
Pray for a teacher for the boys (Grade 1 and 3).  
Pray that we will always be ready to share the Hope that is within us.

## Financial Needs

We continue to need more regular supporters. Since the start of the year we have been at about 2/3 of our needed support level. Our monthly support needs include our gross salary, a 15% admin fee for the running of Equip offices, our medical insurance and a set amount for our flights back home to Canada after three years. We also are continuing to raise money for a truck for our rural work with FGW. If you want to contribute to our general support, please send your cheques with a separate note: "for Sperling Support". For contributions to the seminars, the truck and the trip to South Africa please designate on a separate note: "for Sperling Work Fund". *NB we did not make the planned trip to Rwanda/Burundi as Jane was not well at the time and our main house help had left us making leaving Jane at home with the kids for an extended period a bit difficult. Our helper has now returned so we praise God for that!*

Blessings and thanks to all of you for your love and care for us,  
Chris and Jane,  
Andrew, Tugume, Kenny, Albert, Isaiah, and Ezra

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Clockwise from top: Chris training in Mbarara. Jane with Kenny, Isaiah and Ezra and cousins Sione and Lute at Isaiah's b-day party. Chris and Jane with Mark and Michelle Wise.

