



January & February 2024

We've officially been in the US for more than seven weeks now. It's crazy how fast the time has flown! It has been (and continues to be) a wonderful, chaotic whirlwind. We have been incredibly blessed by so many of you; you love us well! Over and over again, we've been asked if we're taking time for our family and for rest. Our concern is often "Are we doing enough?" but your concern has been for us. We have felt lifted up by your prayers; encouraged by your good questions about Uganda and concern for us; and grateful for the opportunities we've had, especially for good medical and academic care for our children.

The Lord continues to provide for our needs, even before we ask of Him. We hope you have seen the same things for your family this year. As 2024 begins, may our hearts and homes be turned toward Him in worship, praise, and gratefulness.

Many of you have asked about our on-going visa difficulties. As of writing this, we continue to wait. We have heard that we are on a priority list for the immigration office when they begin ruling again after their Christmas and New Year break. They may already be back in session - we haven't heard anything for a while. We are still hopeful that we will know sometime this month or next. We will keep you all posted. Thank you for your prayers and encouragement as we walk this road for the second time.

Spotlight on Ministry: South Sudanese Refugee Camps

In past newsletters, we've given you some teasers about this, but now let us take the opportunity to share about this exciting connection between Ambassador Institute (AI), LEAF in Finland and how it pertains to the South Sudanese refugee camps.

Our good friends Taisto and Anna moved from Finland to Gulu, Uganda almost two years ago with the sole purpose of bringing Lutheran theological training to their churches in the refugee camps. LEAF (Lutheran Evangelical Association of Finland) began with work in South Sudan but because of the growing safety risks present there, they moved their mission to Uganda and now focus on the South Sudanese refugees.

Brent and Taisto became friends, and Taisto visited Brent's Monday market class a few times. Impressed with the curriculum and not feeling a need to "reinvent the wheel" to create his own curriculum, Taisto agreed that AI is the right fit for the leaders of the Lutheran churches in the camps.

So... About once a quarter all of the leaders of the camps come together for a full week for a set of intensive training sessions where they walk through a whole term at a time. The church leaders then turn around and teach their church members the lessons. Brent has had the opportunity to open these week-long meetings twice and the second time our whole family got to go (pictured below). What a special time with these leaders who are committed to the Lord, to their churches, and to growing in their faith!

This is one of the most exciting things happening for us in Uganda! We love to partner with like-minded believers and ministries for the glory of God. Please join us in praying for Taisto, Anna, and the leaders of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of South Sudan & Sudan (ELCSS/S).

In Christ,

Brent, Emily, Amaleah, Sarala, Isaiah & Amari Raan
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Please pray for...

- * Another person or family to join us in the ministry here in northern Uganda. *The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few...*
 - * Taisto, Anna, LEAF, and the leaders of the ELCSS/S. Pray that God's word would go forth in unique and tangible ways into these often-hard places.
 - * For Brent as he travels to Ugandan in the month of March and for our family as we stay behind and continue with all the therapies and medical appointments. Brent will be very busy while in Uganda! And continue to keep Brent's work permit in prayer.
 - * For the continued translation of the AI curriculum into Acholi. Year Two is largely translated but awaiting some editing. And then there are still the Romans and the Free & Living Congregations books after that.
 - * For our team, Nate & Rhoda Jore and Michael Rokenbrodt, as we all continue to seek the Lord's direction and for opportunities in our communities for church planting and Bible training. The Jores and Michael are currently all in the US. The Jores have made the difficult decision to keep their family here in the US. Please pray especially for them as they prepare for their new life here.
 - * That we never get so busy or distracted that we lose sight of the reason for our faith and for being in Uganda - the Gospel & Jesus' finished work on the cross!
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Gifts can be sent to:

AFLC World Mission
3110 E Medicine Lake Blvd
Plymouth, MN 55441



*Please include a note indicating the gift is for "Raan family."