



“Another parable He spoke to them: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened.’”

Matthew 13:33 NKJV

Friends: May the Lord Jesus Christ bless you and yours in His powerful gospel in this New Year of 2021! In our verse above, Jesus teaches us a truth, which has for a long time, been a great source of comfort and encouragement to me. That is...to us in almost invisible ways, He is working to build His kingdom as it grows, mostly imperceptibly but certainly and surely. Christ’s kingdom will, by His power and desire to be extended to all peoples, reach, and influence every tribe, nation, tongue, and people. Just as leaven influences an entire

loaf in time, so the Lord’s kingdom will be built by His Word and its influence throughout the earth in His good and perfect time and plan! Moreover, because this is true, we are encouraged to sow the seed of the Word plentifully and extensively, knowing that the Lord will fulfill His appointed purposes in this sowing! Our evangelism is the work of sowing the Word, telling everyone we can the Good News, and our discipleship is the work of watering the Word that has sprouted in salvation, so it grows to maturity and fruitfulness.

Once again, in December 2020, we were blessed to bring God’s message of love and salvation to children, youth, and adults in several areas of Uganda through the leadership of our trusted friend, Pastor Alex Minge of Namawongo’s Choice Baptist Church. Our goal this year was to reach 2000 children and youth, but as usually happens in the Lord’s plan, in Uganda more were reached, about 3100 young people and adults. Youth, children, and adults made professions of faith, and the people were encouraged to attend the on-going discipleship meetings in the churches. These Christmas Outreaches were held in various parts of Uganda:

Busia

Mbale

Kibuku

Kampala

Soroti

Dokolo

Kayunga

The young people were blessed with gifts of rice this year, which is so needed in these difficult times of food shortages in Uganda. In socially distanced meetings, the young people were blessed with preaching, a good meal, games, scripture memorization, and the gifts of rice. The virus is not as extensive or its effects as dire in Uganda as it is in the USA (769 cases per million people in Uganda compared to America’s 62,150 cases per million). In Uganda, to date, it is reported that there have been a total of 274 deaths with 35,712 total cases with present active cases at 23,401 and 12,037 people have recovered out of a population of almost 46 million people. Alex feels that safety precautions were kept in place fairly well. The photo above is from last year’s outreach—we hope to share photos from this year’s outreaches in February’s Prayer Letter when these will then be available. Please join us in prayer for the conversion of the people to the Lord. Each church will lead the young people, who come to their churches following the outreaches, in Bible teaching and discipleship materials. We thank special friends Mission To Children who collaborated with us again this year in the Christmas Outreaches and made a significant contribution to our efforts; we are pleased to use MTCs materials in the church meetings for the young people. Please also pray for safety for all who attended and who will attend the scripture teachings.

Overseer, Sam Eibu, of Soroti wrote, “The ministry went well with gifts and more wonderfully the many souls that came to the Lord. Thank you for supporting this ministry.” Thanks to those of you who prayed and gave for these evangelistic outreaches. We praise the Lord Jesus! We give thanks to Him that His kingdom is growing!

KAPPY'S CORNER—Two Thousand Twenty-one

As we enter this New Year I'm reminded of some things I've heard said:

"This has been a very strange year." "What a year this has been."

"Twenty-twenty will be remembered as 'the Year of Coronavirus'."

"This virus just keeps going and going." "When will this roller coaster stop?"

On December twenty-fifth each year Jim and I read Psalm 65. On Christmas 2004 Jim and I had only been in Uganda a little over four months. During that time I had flown alone to America in October to spend my step-dad's last few days with him; while there I visited with Jim's mom. I was gone for thirty-six days. Jim was ill with liver flukes (but we didn't know it yet) and working to set up the ministry. Back in Uganda with Jim on Christmas I jotted, a *psalm for the new year*, in the margin of my Bible beside Psalm 65. We knew the Lord, our confidence, was with us.

It's interesting that our first Christmas in Kampala was spent in a new home and our first Christmas in America, after sixteen years away, was spent in a new home. The biggest difference was Jim and I were alone this last Christmas. We were far away from our Kampala family for the first time in years. The ministry in Uganda was going strong, but it seemed far away. Here at home it was a simple Christmas. Although we were on the same continent with our American family members, a very small enemy kept us from traveling to be with them. To Jim it was like being stuck in an airport. In the margin of Psalm 65, under my notation from sixteen years earlier, I wrote: *Christmas Day 2020—encouragement in the COVID trial (10 months)*. Even with all the challenges, we enjoyed a deeply satisfying peace and joy in the Lord throughout the season.

As we enter the year 2021 many of us are grateful the Lord has kept us here on earth to see the New Year. Many of us have lost loved ones and friends to this virus in the past year. Many of us know someone who was (or is) infected and we pray for their survival. With a new strain making its appearance, and changes daily, many of us are wondering what this year will hold. What will 2021 be remembered for?

I'm reminded of a bridge in Zambia made from the undercarriage of a bus with teetering slabs of concrete covering some of the holes. Jim and I needed to cross that bridge every Sunday. I learned that when I looked down through the gaps in the bridge at the river rushing underneath, I lost my balance, but when I kept my eyes on the land ahead, I could easily walk across. I pray that as we move ahead this year, no matter what the circumstances, we keep our eyes on the One who gives us balance—our never-changing Savior.

"By awesome deeds of righteousness You will answer us,
O God of our salvation,
You who are the confidence of all the ends of the earth,
And of the far-off seas." (Psalm 65:5, NKJV)

Please pray that precious souls will be saved through God's gospel, and may our Lord bless you in His sufficient grace,

Jim and Kappy

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