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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **WALUGEMBE WORLD NEWS** May 20, 2022 | | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | In the month since we last wrote a formal update the rains came gloriously and watered crops and land. The dust levels are way down, the village is green with new life. And yet, for the last 10 days, no rain. It’s a vulnerable place to be. If it doesn’t rain again, all the crops will be lost. It feels like we are all holding our breath together and waiting for that dark cloud to come our way and the strong winds to blow the much needed life-giving rain water over our space!  *Vulnerable together*. Such a beautiful way to look at the way we do ministry!  The truth is, our family won’t starve if our bananas and cassava plants die.  We plant our garden to be a part of the community.  We plant to help feed others as well as our own family. But for many of our neighbors, disaster is looming the longer it doesn’t rain. And so we make visits to each other. We ask about the goats, the chickens, the crops. We look at the sky together and wonder as one people when the clouds will “beat down their rain.”  Living among the people we serve and have come to love is a vulnerable space.  Earning enough rapport to be accepted and even included is no small feat. It’s not the relief provided through the food baskets that knits us into the community. It’s the visits, the conversations—it’s the hard stuff. Relationships are formed quickly when we are suffering together and still showing up.  This month and last we have been treating for bilharzia, even as our new water filter system has been set up (the parasites have a long life span and need multiple treatments spaced apart). Just two days ago we took this month’s strong treatment and are still reeling from the side effects (perhaps the parasite die-off). Last month was even worse though. We needed help. Too dizzy to walk, we all stayed in. BUT we have a farm and animals to care for! It was all we could manage. Out of our need (not out of our gifts) came help and relationship. | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | **Salongo bringing a sack of fresh cut grass and Eliana dragging up the jackfruit leaves for the goats. Such a help!** | | | |  | | --- | | For years we have known “the goat man”.  He herds his goats in the hills behind our house and comes around to wave and greet.  After some time of us living here, he’d come a little closer and we’d have simple conversations about the goats and the weather.  When our goats would have an issue, we’d consult with him on his nearly daily drop bys. When his nanny goat gave birth, we walked to his house to hold the new babies and *ooh* and *ahh*!  When ours gave birth I ran to the fence with the new twins kids and exclaimed as he left his own herd to come see the new life in our family!  Such a kind man was he, that I found myself looking forward to his visits. We all did! His broken English, my broken Luganda, lots of laughing and mistakes and grace made for a perfect neighborly friendship. The (human) kids would call to me that “The ‘goat man’ or ‘your best friend’ is in the hills mama!  Come see! “ Sure enough he would wander our way, his tattered clothes and big smile letting us know it was indeed him! He’d always say, “You are welcome!” to begin and end our conversations which we all kind of giggled about.  Then we got sick. And we needed help. And guess who rose to the occasion…. the goat man—(Salongo is his name) —this simple and kind man we met over a fence and because of goats!  He eagerly stepped in and started cutting grass and leaves for our growing herd. In fact, even though we are getting better—he hasn’t stopped.  Each day of our sickness he showed up and fed our animals and checked on us. My eyes swelled nearly shut for over a week, my lips cracked and were bleeding but each day I had to at least step out on the porch to wave and say thank you. He’d wave and come over and ask how I was doing and tell me to rest. “We are together!” he’d exclaim while laughing and joyful. In other words—I’ve got you, your need is my concern. In our vulnerability we are knit into deeper relationship with others.  That’s how it works for all of us!  In all of the chaos of the last month or so, Salongo has decided he is our guy for the job. He comes daily and will also look over the farm animals while we are away (yes, we are starting to think about a trip back to Michigan for a visit). The problem of who can help when we are away is answered in our vulnerability.  It’s a willingness to show our humanness, not an effort to show how strong we are that is building real relationships. Thinking of home assignment in the USA is hard!  We are so a part that it feels like a tearing away to leave. It’s better when we know that good people are stepping in to help. It’s such a Ugandan sentiment to say, “We are together!”  It’s a good reminder that we really are!  Your joy is my joy; your suffering is my suffering.  We will struggle through together. | | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | ***Romans 12:10 -15* “Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality… Rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep.”** | | | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | This year of ministry we have seen struggles as well. Two different goats in the project died. The families were sad and we showed up for them in that. We’ve also had baby goats born and that is creating more opportunity for community and sharing as they grow and bless a new family. This month, last year’s July goat recipients were ready to give back. They had received an already pregnant female goat who gave birth to a beautiful male. The ministry just added on a younger female and the new pair went off to a new family. This month’s recipient family was the family we shared about last month that received the light. It’s the gift that keeps on giving! | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | **Goat delivery day! The black one pictured was given back so another family could raise goats! The smiles say it all! It's a blessing to give and they are blessed to receive!** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Even as I type this I can see a group of unrelated neighbors in brightly colored clothes digging mounds to plant sweet potatoes in the field next door. They have faith the rain will come. We pray it does. Either way, they plant together. They eat or don’t— together. It’s a tough season, having just coming out of dry season and not long enough to grow the crops to harvest. People are hungry. The clicking of the hoes hitting dry soil, the laughter carrying across the field——joy in hardships. *Vulnerable together.* Count us in! | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | **Neighbors digging in the garden together.  A joyful sight and sound. Praying rain comes again soon! Gardening is such a leap of faith!** | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | ***Matthew 6:9-11* “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread…..”** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | We’ve started paying Salongo and hearing his dreams and ideas.  He mentioned a cow— he has kept them before but doesn’t have space now, or the means to buy one. His idea is that we should have a cow and he is the keeper and milker of that cow. He is all in!  We asked him what he wanted one day and he asked for bread! He immediately laughed and was shy about asking!  The next day he had a loaf waiting! He was humbled and happy.  Salongo has received food from our garden to feed his family as well. We’re considering how the cow can help him develop his dreams and stability even as he works helping on the farm. It’s never REALLY about the goats—it’s always about the amazing people we meet and the great conversations to be had and where those can lead us together! | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | ***John 6:35* “Jesus declared, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'"** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | You know who else we are “vulnerable together” with? YOU! Yep, that’s right. The love you give, the conversations and prayers we have, the sharing the burdens and the visions…… it happens with you! Thank you for sharing your concerns with us so we can be there for you and pray for you. Thank you for reaching out and praying for us as we are on the field too! Thank you for making it possible for relationships to grow out of the dirt we stand on here in Uganda. You are watering the seeds and helping this outreach flourish.  This month we’d like to help give the needy members of the community a push through the transition between dry season and the harvest of the crops they are now planting. This relief in hard times speaks volumes! Your gifts help make that possible!  Please connect with us directly if you’d like to join in this specific relief. We’d also like to entertain more seriously buying a cow for the project as a way toward sustainability for at least a few families. *Our heart’s desire is to see God magnified in the way we love each other and show His love to those we live among.* Thank you for your regular financial support that keeps this project running and our family able to serve!  One last exciting opportunity in front of us is to buy land that has become available adjacent to our home and garden. The vision is to make a development and counselling center for this village. It would provide space for more farming (and feeding), a place to meet for coaching and counselling, and a place to provide different trainings to empower people and disciple them in this area. It’s a big decision and we don’t have the funding. Please pray with us for God to make it evident how this is to go forward/if it is to go forward.  Please reach out with your ideas and an interest in making this happen! | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | In His service, Peter, Kate, Levi, Aiden, Eliana | | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [**Count me in!**](https://northernlightsministries.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8ba0bd9199db705c73d4a6528&id=6c12037aa4&e=d73d0a8317) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Our mailing address is:**[**northernlightsministries@gmail.com**](mailto:northerlightsministries@gmail.com) **Checks can be written to “Pioneers”** **10123 William Carey Dr., Orlando, FL, 32832** **for “Peter and Kate Walugembe *#111654*   OR give online:** [**https://give.pioneers.org/p-75-give-to-a-missionary-or-project.aspx**](https://northernlightsministries.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8ba0bd9199db705c73d4a6528&id=900eccff0c&e=d73d0a8317)  [www.northernlightsministries@gmail.com](mailto:www.northernlightsministries@gmail.com) *Copyright © \*2022\* \*Walugembe\*, All rights reserved.* | | |