

"I can't steer this thing"

Marty and I grew up in a small town that celebrated the autumn season with a "fair" at the local exhibition grounds where farmers proudly displayed produce and animals, fresh from their farms. But one of the attractions for teenagers like us was the rides—specifically the electricity-driven bumper cars. I soon discovered it was not possible to "look cool" while trying to navigate through a crowd of crazed drivers who discovered the same thing I did; the steering wheels on those old cars were for decoration. Try as I might I could not avoid hitting and getting hit—hence the name bumper cars.

Life feels a little like that right now as we navigate what feels like a sea of bumper cars.

COVID-19 is the most recent challenge and stands as the world's biggest problem right now.

But before we made adjustments to COVID-19, we were knee-deep (figuratively) in locusts...at least in Uganda.

These locusts were traced back to mid 2018 in the Arabian Peninsula region known as The Empty Quarter; one of the world's largest deserts. It stretches over parts of Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates. (www.npr.org). Locusts can reproduce in 3 months and under right conditions they do just that.

By late 2019 the locust swarm moved from Yemen into Somalia and Ethiopia, leaving behind a frightening footprint of destruction. Satellite images taken 6 weeks apart, reveal evidence of their destruction as countries changed color from green to pale yellow. (www.gro-intelligence.com)

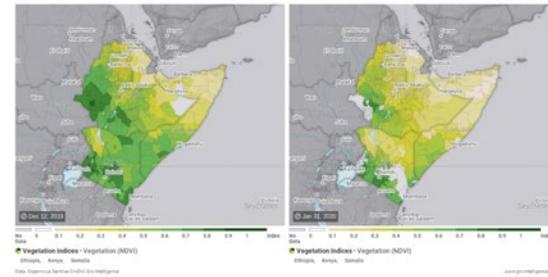
Desert locusts can travel up to 150km (95 miles) a day, and a one-square-kilometer swarm can devour as much food as 35,000 people in a single day. (source UN). If unchecked, the locust swarms could grow by 500 times by June, when drier weather is expected to slow breeding, according to the FAO. (NY Times).

A major locust outbreak in northern Africa between 2003 and 2005 cost nearly \$600 million to control, including some \$90 million in food aid distributed to affected nations, according to the U.N. Post-harvest losses topped an estimated \$2.5 billion, the U.N. said.

We first heard of their approach when the (estimated) swarm of multiple billions of grasshoppers reached Kakuma, Kenya where we are building a radio station for two refugee camps (Kakuma and Kalobeyei). And within days they were 470 km southeast, in Amudat, Uganda where we are trying to build another radio station to support the ancient Pokot people.

Within a week, they travelled 130 km east, into Karamojong where our American friend Dr Val (www.africa-vet.com) serves the Karamoja region as a veterinarian. Her photos of locust invasion are breathtaking and a little frightening. It was only days until they reached Ongutoi where we have invested much in orange orchards designed to support the health centre through produce sales. We quickly investigated prevention as we saw photos of local farmers' families banging pots as

NDVI Declines in East Africa Linked to Locusts



**LOCUST DESTRUCTION
AFTER 6 WEEKS
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**CLOSE LOOK AT A LOCUST
BY DR VAL
(AFRICA-VET.COM)**

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CARRYING WATER AMIDST LOCUSTS BY DR VAL (AFRICA-VET.COM)

they ran through fields to scare away the predators. But this was not the first-time locusts invaded a nation.

During Pharaoh's resistance to God, he discovered the real control over locusts was not his paid magicians-it was the God who created and controls locusts (then and now).

He spoke, and the locusts came, grasshoppers without number; they ate up every green thing in their land; ate up the produce of their soil.

Psalm 105: 34,35 NIV

We knew if the Lord allowed them to touch us, it could devastate our project, resulting in famine; ultimately affecting the health of many (we currently treat up to 1,000 poor villagers every month for free). So, we prayed, as did our friends. In fact, at a prayer meeting one Canadian woman reported seeing our area with a heart-like section resting over top of our region, and the grasshoppers moving around it but not settling. This woman has never been to the Ongutoi area!

Over the next few days we continued to receive reports of locusts reaching our district, settling into fields and trees all around...but none actually settled into our orange orchards. This was inexplicable! And then inexplicably (again) it began to rain-almost one month earlier than expected for this region. Locals tell us desert locusts like to breed in wet areas but do not like rain itself. And as the rain fell, the locusts moved on, back across into the drier Amudat area and out of our region.

By this time COVID-19 was sweeping the globe, squeezing nation after nation in a relentless grip of fear! Like everyone else, we began to adjust; preparing for staff remote access to our office computers so radio programs could continue across the world each day, while our international partners and projects also responded within their communities.

MORE GOOD NEWS

Just days before the Covid-19 and locust challenges, our friends at Rotary Clubs had generously expanded Ongutoi's water collection platform, allowing for larger water collection with every rainfall, which would eventually be used to water the 788 orange trees through our drip irrigation process.

And our Christmas gifts were applied within days of that completion as we added two big above-ground water tanks (now at 7). Our Rotarian friends are still busy-trying to expand the collection platform one more time, with the goal to collect enough water for soon-maturing trees. That wonderful goal will no doubt create a new goal for us; additional water tanks. We would very much appreciate early prayer for additional \$3,100 tanks.

The (inexplicable) rain began (at the same time locusts were leaving) and within 24 hours, we had received 15,000 litres of water-enough to fill one of the new tanks. With just two more such rainfalls, the cistern and all 7 tanks will be full and ready for the dry season when irrigation begins.

Abraham's text message to us from the fields of Ongutoi was like fresh rain itself! In one short period of time, a huge locust swarm was gone and replaced by life-giving water!

Not to be outdone, our Akumangor project manager Otim was working with Fred to install a new bore hole for the 1,500 trees on that 13-acre land, once occupied by the dreaded LRA who drank from nearby swamp water to stay alive while on the run from Ugandan military.

Water is life indeed and for citrus crops like ours, we desperately needed more water than ground wells could produce. We knew this bore hole was a "must" for this particular orange project because its success meant supplemental support for Ongutoi health centre for the next 25 years! Our clay pot irrigation served well for seedlings but growing oranges are thirsty and need more!

The water survey suggested we would find water at one specific location on the property but we also knew another reality; we *could* invest the money for a bore hole and it *could* be dry-there are no guarantees. Besides, we still needed the



LOCUST SWARM BY DR VAL (AFRICA-VET.COM)

KENYAN CHILD CHASING LOCUSTS BY WWW.INDEPENDENT.CO.UK



money for the bore hole itself. After waiting for many months following the survey, and many months of telling our team to pray and wait, the timing of God arrived one day when a ministry friend inexplicably (again) sent in an undesignated gift that would cover the bore hole cost.

Sometimes I wonder how to explain the provision of God-it's the dichotomy of impossible yet possible. However, this is not philosophy-it's about the will of God and with His wind at our backs, we started to drill.

Within hours we received word from the field; the team discovered sustainable water at 42m depth. In fact, tests confirmed we could pump 5,000 litres per hour with an anticipated 20,000 litres per day or more. Our need for oranges is 6,000 litres per day, so this news was more than good to hear.

Our next steps in Akumangor will include a solar powered water pump and drip irrigation system. Once installed, our 1,500 trees will receive water under the power of the sun, growing them until they can begin to produce fruit that will convert to medical support for Ongutoi. We are waiting on the Lord for another \$5,200 to complete this automated system and would ask for prayer support. We are confident (but not arrogantly so) the Lord will provide, and in time I will share of yet another inexplicable moment! Until then we pray!

CONFINED BUT CONFIDENT

CORONA Virus-related anxiety across the world is producing rapid and strong response, just as previous pandemics and plaques have done throughout history. But while the people of God rightly respect, obey (and pray for) our government leadership, we do not live in fear, primarily because we know who is in control-even during global upheaval which He warns us about. And that too is not a new thing!

**As for the promise which I made you when you came out of Egypt,
My Spirit is abiding in your midst; do not fear!
For thus says the Lord of hosts, 'Once more in a little while, I am going to
shake the heavens and the earth, the sea also and the dry land.**
Haggai 2:5,6 NASB

RADIO RELEVANCE

Sitting quietly in small buildings, usually removed from all people, our radio transmitters; some we own and some we lease, are scattered across the world; all busy. In fact, they have always been busy, unobtrusively guarding hearts and minds of spiritual captives in equally remote places. Each and every day by the grace of God and support of friends with like-mind, we send the Word of God across borders, into palace and hut alike.

Just today, more emails reached me from across the world, from some of those struggling as we are:

It is a great pleasure to send this mail regarding the reception of Bible Voice Broadcast in Arabic on 9450 kHz. shortwave. I have heard you several years in English but it is the first time get in touch with Arabic language transmission.
Muneer K P, Sharjah, UAE

Although my English is not very good, yet I know BVB is just like a guiding star, leading listeners towards better understanding of life and also increase our knowledge and righteousness to live an upright life. I do hope BVB service will keep continue its qualitative programs with new innovative efforts. Of course, it would be wonderful if we Chinese people could hear your programs in Chinese language in the future on shortwave.
Li M. Maanshan City, CHINA (NB: 500 km from Wuhan)

I finally realized I'd believed in false teaching about the nature of God when I was with Jehovah's Witness. Now the Lord has proven Himself in my life to truly be my redeemer! Are all of my circumstances smooth right now? No way! I have a son in jail and lots of aches and pains sometimes comes my way... but it's while in the midst of these kinds of painful situations that faith grows and I truly come to know the awesome nature of our God.
E.M. Benin City, EDO State, Nigeria

I am delighted to write today to advise you that I have been listening to your radio program on 5900 khz in the 49 meter band.
R.P. Wheaton Illinois, USA

We are a regular listener of BVB English service. always we connected to you on Shortwave...the BVB has become part of my life.
A.S. BANGLADESH

*Sadly, these are the bad reception conditions here...
I hope to find you again with a better signal.
And when coronavirus crisis will be ceased, I'll happy to write you a TRUE letter.*
D. Como, ITALY (111km from Codogno)



ONGUTOI SETTING UP HAND WASHING FOR ALL VISITORS



COMPLETING WATER COLLECTION PLATFORM EXTENSION



NEW TANKS ARRIVE IN ONGUTOI



INSTALLING NEW WATER STORAGE TANKS



ONGUTOI ORANGES AVOID LOCUST INVASION

It is excellent that you are delivering the Gospel according to the last part of Matthew 28, the word of Jesus for Mission work. I wish you all success in your work!
 U.Q. SWEDEN

I have been understandably concerned for our entire High Adventure family (supporters and international partners alike) but recently much encouraged during my own devotions, with Moses' prayer **"Indeed, He loves the people; All Your holy ones are in Your hand, And they followed in Your steps..."**
 Deut 33:3 NASB

Although we still cannot steer as we wish, we really are not out of (His) control.

Don



NEW BORE HOLE GOING IN AT AKUMANGOR



CLAY POT IRRIGATION SOON REPLACED BY DRIP IRRIGATION



OTIM CHECKS ORANGE TREES

PLEASE COMPLETE THE PORTION BELOW AND RETURN IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED. THANK YOU.

My gift of \$50 \$100 \$500 Other

MARCH 2020

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