

"The pressure is too strong"

That is not what I expected to hear, nor did I expect to even think about this for some time.

But the Lord provided that wonderful "pressure". It began a few weeks earlier, during conversation with a long-time friend, who has supported our efforts in various countries, and in this phone call, it was clear she had heard from Him, responding sacrificially but cheerfully. (2 Cor 9:7)

## **BIGGER PICTURE**

Our dream of self-sustainability for Ongutoi Health Centre has become increasingly critical, especially in these days of global medical challenges. But in retrospect, the Lord has done an amazing thing, well beyond our expectations, and in such a way there is no doubt He had thought of everything in advance.

One year before we followed Him into the wasted fields of Ongutoi (2007), He had provided a unique block making machine (2006) that would eventually build the entire health centre; He stirred hearts among the medical community that would provide ambulances, medical equipment and training as Canadians travelled to give and serve; He would challenge and enable the Rotarian community to invest in critical water and sewage facilities so vital to a health unit like Ongutoi, and he would stir international leaders like our friend Kim Phuc (www.kimfoundation.com) to donate a surgical facility and pediatric unit to help recover many who had been victimized during years of conflict...a miracle project to be sure!

What does a miracle in the bush feel like? Now in hindsight, it's exciting.

But at the time, not so much...before we started to build anything, we agonized each time we saw our Ongutoi friends in such pain. We encountered endless painful stories; the most difficult moment we faced was seeing Baby John's grandmother carry him home to die because the facility had not yet begunnothing was available to help; each time we heard of another mother dying in childbirth at the side of the road, trying to reach heath care facilities so far away, we grieved. 10,000 miles apart meant nothing when we shared their pain!

We did not often tell those stories but each one caused a depth of anguish within us; bringing us to the point of calling out for them until heaven answered! I still remember the exact moment when that occurred, standing before hundreds of tired, sick but hopeful villagers-I knew heaven heard and Ongutoi was born!

This is a faith-work, so each time we thought about the "next steps" we waited for Him to provide. But waiting is not just an adjective-it's a process; a process that involves concern that leads to prayer, that leads to waiting for the answer (or provision), and that answer leads to action, which eventually leads to relief and rejoicing!

That brief paragraph took a moment to write but at least a year to live out in real time-for each step we took.



BLOCK MAKING MACHINE IN ONGUTOI



ONGUTOI OPERATING THEATRE HELPING MANY

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**BABY JOHN** 



SO MANY PATIENTS EVERY MONTH



EARLY ONGUTOI ORANGES THRIVING WITH IRRIGATION



NEW SOLAR SYSTEM FOR AKUMANGOR BORE HOLE PUMP

### **AKUMANGOR**

However, in what felt like a moment, we found ourselves providing healthcare for 1,000 people every month. The enormity of that support need became more real with each passing month, especially when COVID gripped the world. Truly...how would we carry on? I knew God *could*...but *would* He for the long term?

Although He had not told me, the Lord saw this coming and had already provided a way "across the sea".

A major investment by South Korea provided the nation's first fruit processing factory only a few miles from Ongutoi, opening just before COVID happened. We had been so busy focused on healthcare, we had not noticed our community was in the middle of Uganda's citrus-growing region, well known across East Africa. Kenyan and South Sudanese trucks are often seen patrolling Teso Region in search of available oranges.

By now the way across the sea looked like a bridge, so we started to grow oranges in Ongutoi.

But projecting actual need, we soon realized we must supplement Ongutoi oranges to ensure ALL patients could receive care-so we invested in 15-acres of land in nearby Akumangor. For the first few months I could not even pronounce that village name (A-coom-an-gor).

Akumangor had once been a haven for LRA insurgents, hiding in the bush and surviving from an old water well only a few hundred feet from our new land. But they were forced out of the region by the Arrow Boys led by our (now) good friend Musa, and one of his militia leaders Otim; today Otim works tirelessly at the new Akumangor orange orchard, leading a team of workers. And he loves oranges.

Otim is a serious man, rarely smiling. But it did happen once during our last visit when we installed an experimental gravity-fed drip irrigation system. After opening the valve, we watched the emitters slowly drip life-giving water on to the orange tree root pattern. And then it happened-**Otim smiled!** 

The experiment worked but the other 1,500 trees needed consistent water that could only come from a bore hole. Our water survey showed strong promise; we soon discovered an abundant supply just 200' below us, and a newly donated bore hole confirmed it with further testing. But we stalled there. We needed the \$10,000 to install a special bore hole water pump and the solar system to operate it.

We were back in the process again-praying, waiting and praying some more.

And then my friend called-I love it when that happens! It's usually at the end of a waiting period when we are poised for action for the moment. Christian service is a unique dichotomy. I expect Him to answer and when He does, it still feels like a surprise. Watchmen Nee spoke of this in his book The Normal Christian Life; having read this in my early Christian experience, his words were just words...they are life now!

Within 2 weeks of her gift arrival, our team leader Fred was busy assisting the water supply company to instal the bore hole pump and solar system. By normal Ugandan practice, we were racing indeed!

## TOO MUCH

The pump was rated to send water out of the ground and across the field for about 780'. BUT we needed to send it to the farthest point of zone 5-that was about 1,000', and from there another 600' to send water into all the water emitter lines. We switched the pump on and held our collective breath.

The water pressure was so strong it popped emitters out of the water lines like buttons off a fat man's shirt; and it shot water out the end (1,600' from the bore hole) of the lines like a pressurized garden hose!

Then, it happened again in the Akumangor bush-**Otim smiled!** Who knows-this might become a habit?

The good news is we have enough water supply and delivery power to reach every orange tree in our Akumangor orchard. But the challenging news is we must now find the support to provide the remaining drip irrigation system for the other 4 zones.

Most equipment is available in Uganda, but some must be imported from Israel, where irrigation has revived and rebuilt the nation as a world provider of fruit, vegetables and even flowers.

Each zone needs \$1,100 to provide drip irrigation equipment. Please pray about this-we are trying to beat a deadline when we anticipate the next dry season hits

Akumangor in February. At that time, the punishing equatorial sun dries all plant life. During the original planting, we had lost 250 trees due to excessive heat. But we can avoid such a circumstance-in fact we can assure uninterrupted life flow with water fed by drip irrigation. The water is available-the delivery is there and we only need the irrigation system!

### THE GOAL

Remember our goal-it's not oranges; it's the health care we can provide through sale of those oranges, and once fully operational, we can do that for 25 years!

# **QUICK UPDATE**

### **BIBLES**

Last month we appealed for Bibles for female prisoners in Uganda's TESO region. Within days money started to arrive and very soon after that, Bibles have been purchased and our skills school was busy creating zippered Bible covers to protect against animals and environment. Upon receiving the Bibles and soap, prison chaplain responded with gratitude and this encouragement:

"We pray you continue to remember our inmates in prayers and other support for they feel loved and remembered, which gives them a chance to reform and go back to their community as responsible citizens."

> ...I was in prison and you came to me... Matt 25:36 NASB

### **ETHIOPIA BROADCAST**

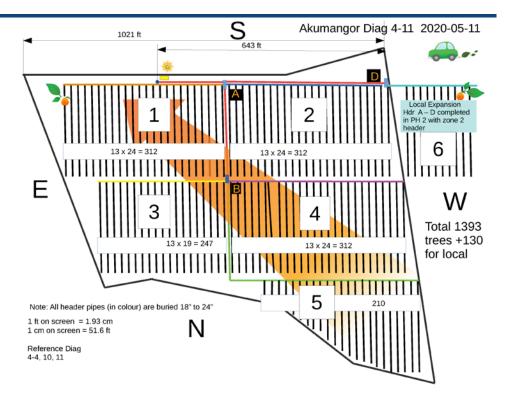
It was my great joy to contact our Ethiopian broadcaster, giving the news we can begin his evangelistic outreach. Our High Adventure family has responded with some support for this weekly Amharic broadcast!

Let's stay in the process...

Don



**INSTALLING THE DRIP IRRIGATION LINES** 



**AKUMANGOR WATER IRRIGATION PLAN – ZONE 5 COMPLETE** 



OTIM SMILING DURING ORANGE TREE CARE INSTRUCTIONS



HIGH POWERED BORE HOLE PUMP



STRONG PRESSURE 1,600' FROM BORE HOLF



NEW TOILET FACILITY NEARLY COMPLETE AT LIFE ESSENTIALS CENTRE



ADJUMANI TEACHERS EDUCATING REFUGEE STUDENTS FROM USALAMA FM



YOUTH FM PRESENTS BIBLES AND LIQUID SOAP FOR PRISONERS

### **NEWS THIS MONTH**



HIGH ADVENTURE SKILLS SCHOOL MAKING ZIPPERED BIBLE COVERS



MARTY RESPONDING TO RADIO LISTENERS IN 11 COUNTRIES



LIFE ESSENTIALS KITCHEN NEARLY COMPLETE



HIGH ADVENTURE TRAINEE CONTINUES SOAP MAKING SMALL BUSINESS



HIGH ADVENTURE & ONE TRIBE TRAIN REFUGEES IN WASHABLE SANITARY PADS

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