



FIRST COVID CASE DISCOVERED IN UGANDA

At the end of March, life as we knew it changed, almost overnight!! All private and public transport were given strict instructions to stop! All church gatherings, schools, malls and stores were closed down. Only food stores, food deliveries and limited areas of the market were allowed to function. Borders closed, including airports; only cargo and UN flights were allowed. Testing for the COVID virus began, due to a flight from Dubai, UAE when the first case was revealed to the the nation. This was new territory and different ways of thinking for us. How does one protect oneself? How do we adjust our lifestyle and immerse oneself into lockdown?

Daily Monitor

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Uganda registers first Coronavirus case

Sunday March 22 2020

The Ministry of Health has confirmed the first case of the coronavirus Covid19 in the country. Dr Ruth Jane Aceng the Health Minister said the confirmed case is a 36-year-old Ugandan male who arrived from Dubai at 2am on Saturday, March 21st aboard Ethiopian Airlines.

BY N Robert Atukunda





FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Friends and family and sponsoring groups have helped out in many ways - food distribution, medical relief, mask making, and keeping in touch with the church family nation-wide. We have been amazed at the generosity of those who are also feeling the pandemic crisis, and we can only thank the Lord, who touches people's hearts. We have been able to assist many of those who are in our programs - the vulnerable, sponsored children, pastors and women's groups. THANK YOU SO MUCH!





PROJECTS CONTINUE...

Tim has been busy with building projects - from Heritage International School to ongoing work around Kampala with Kinderhilfswerk. This has worked well, as construction sites have been allowed to proceed during this lockdown time. Students at Heritage International have gone to online learning, while most local schools do not have the capacity to do so. This has been challenging in many aspects.

At Heritage, the small swimming pool, bathrooms, and landscaping are completed, with work continuing on the large pool land fill. Jesse, our son, has been busy helping Tim during this time of pause from his usual work at Heritage. The Mini-Me glass chapel is also underway and slowly being put together in front of the large chapel.

At Bukasa, the Siegfried High School 2-storey building is almost complete, with additional work on the administrative office. What a change there is on the site. With no children at school, the hustle and bustle has silenced. Construction at the Mutungo TAPP site is in full swing with cement being poured for the 2nd storey and rooms being formed for rentals. Due to heavy rains flooding the site, a lot of backfill was hauled there and now the building can resume.



Life in quarantine had been quite different. One could only travel when having a sticker from the government.

Travel Sticker We were fortunate to receive one, but had limited ourselves to travel around Kampala city and within a 50 kilometer radius. We have used caution as we've traveled to encourage our communities. God has protected us and we thank Him for His faithfulness. This week, they have opened up some public transport using 1/2 capacity. The prices have increased drastically, so many are still walking and others are moving back to the village to stay.

Curfew - We still have curfew on stores times and movement. Temperatures are taken when you enter businesses and stores, in addition to hand sanitizers and masks, which are mandatory.

Sunday worship - Each Sunday, we gather with our staff on our verandah and take time to pray, worship and share a message. This has been uplifting for us all.

Social Media - At the start of the lockdown, we met with the Kampala pastors and formulated a plan to create a forum to send messages and words of inspiration to our church members. It has been ongoing and well received. Many have acknowledged how uplifting and comforting it is to feel connected!

Work teams - We were saddened to miss several teams that were scheduled to come during this time of quarantine. When borders and airports are closed, it is impossible to travel... and so, we look forward to the time when things open up, and those teams that have missed, will be able to reschedule and visit us once again! You are missed!



We are so thankful to each one of you. Your love and prayers, notes of cheer, and contributions to those who are struggling through this time without food have been miraculous. We pray God will bless you abundantly.

Social media has been a blessing to us in many ways, keeping us in touch through Skype, Zoom, FaceTime, Google Hangout, Whatsapp. You name it! We have tried it!

FAMILY - We were able to come together with our family several times - for Colleen's father's 88th birthday, where our family in the US, Zambia, Canada and Uganda could share; and for our daughter Natasha's birthday, we had a game gathering with our kids, and grandkids. On Mother's day, Tim's birthday, etc., we've been able to link up as well. For these times, we are certainly grateful!

MISSION - With our African team we've been connected through video and messages, and with the Global Strategy team on Zoom. Everyone is working hard on connectivity and unity.

In addition, we made several videos which were put on YouTube informing our supporting churches, family and friends on the latest information here. It is truly a new world with endless possibilities of keeping in touch.

PRAYER ITEMS

- **Colleen's dad has been diagnosed with Stage 2 lung cancer, but we thank God that when he met with the radiologist they found that it was still in stage 1. We see God's hand working and prayer is still needed as He embarks on this new health journey.**
- **For our families protection - physically and financially. We are globally scattered and need God's care.**
- **Our son Jesse as he awaits travel restrictions to be lifted, so he can return to Canada.**
- **The well-being and protection of our supporting churches and individuals during this uncertain time.**
- **For the COVID-19 restrictions to be eased in order for those who need work for food and medical care.**



We praise the Lord, we were able to celebrate the high school graduation at Heritage International School. The day was beautiful and special permission was granted -- using strict health and security measures. Four graduates joined those present, via Zoom from their respective countries (S. Korea, S. Africa, China and the Philippines). Tim, as the Chairman gave the Board address, and helped to congratulate the graduates who represented 10 countries.

Prayers for all of you are constant -- even as you begin the process of ending lockdown and re-starting life. What will the new normal be? None of us are sure. In Uganda, some restrictions have lifted but life is generally hard due to hunger, unemployment and cost hikes. Thankfully, God is with us no matter what will happen!

With appreciation and love -
Tim and Colleen

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight our paths." Proverbs 3:5-6



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