

TRACKING THE TABBS

August 2021

As I, Mary, write you, I hope that you all are doing well, as these are difficult days!

Uganda has been affected by Covid-19 with 2,893 deaths from the disease in this equatorial landlocked African country the size of Oregon with a population of 47 million people. Because the healthcare system has few ventilators for severe cases and because vaccines have been more difficult to obtain, the government has issued two strict lockdowns and the latest has been lengthened for duration. Only 1.3% of the population has been vaccinated. Therefore, the government has taken preventative measures to restrict the spread of the disease by closing schools and churches, limiting the size of public gathering, placing restrictions on public transportation, and setting curfews. These measures have been effective, and the number of new cases has been reducing every day. There have been 30 times more deaths from Covid-19 in the USA than in Uganda per capita (0.2% vs. 0.006%).

The chief advantages of working in-country are being able to work in the same time zone (Florida is 7 hours behind Uganda) and in-person with the translators, especially for training and workshops. But this is not possible at present. The last time Waller was in Uganda was December 2019. Two booked trips have had to be cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions. Despite all of that, Waller and the translators continue to make good progress using ZOOM and the internet.

We are excited to report that plans are being made to publish Deuteronomy, Ruth, Psalms and Proverbs in Lubwisi. This publication contains 4,419 verses of Scripture, more than half the number of total verses of the New Testament (7,957). Pray for sufficient funding for the printing of a good number of volumes so that these can be in the hands of many people and churches in Bundibugyo District.

On the home front, Sarah and Kevin continue to work as nurses during this very demanding time on our healthcare system. Sarah reports that on each of her days off she receives a request to come into work due to nursing shortages on her floor.

Laura has just finished her second semester of nursing school at New York University. She is grateful that despite the pandemic she is making friends and is doing well in her ZOOM classes.

Gloria graduated from Westmont College in May with a degree in Economics and Business. She is excited to start her job on August 23 as trade coordinator at Deckers Corporation, a shoe company that markets Teva®, Hoka One One®, Ugg® and other brands. She will continue living in Santa Barbara, CA.



As we go through these difficult days, Matthew 28:20 brings comfort. I like knowing that no matter what happens, Jesus will be with us always, even to the end of the age!

Blessings,

Mary and Waller Tabb

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