

Kalibbala January 2021 news



Wishing you all a hopeful, blessed New Year!

As I write, I need to be honest and say sometimes I struggle to be hopeful when I read the news or I hear stories. I am feeling broken for my country and particularly for those walking through the trauma of this season. All I can do is pray the light and love of Jesus in their life, even if they don't know him, that they would know that some higher power has been carrying them through it all.

Tim and I are also crying out for our nation here in Uganda for different reasons. We have a general election next week and so many here want change. They want an end to corruption, injustice, intimidation and police/army violence. However, it looks likely that the current president will retain power despite opposition campaigns and many believe this will be done through a rigged election and control of the opposition.

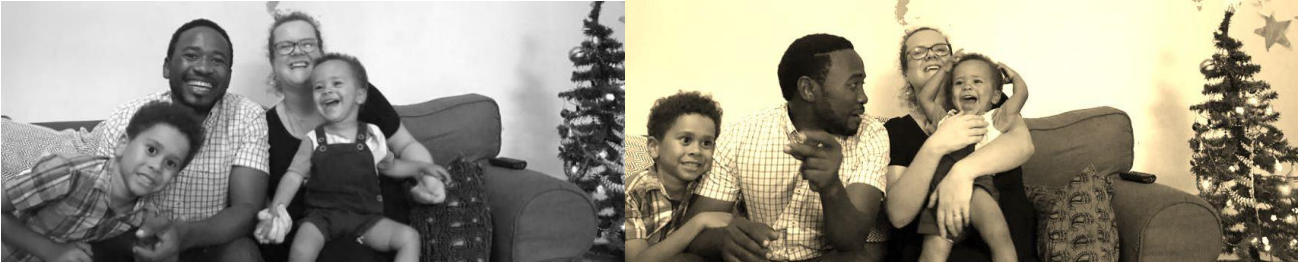
There have been some violent riots as a result of the opposition leader being arrested for apparently unjust reasons. Many were killed in these riots and it was a bit unnerving listening to gunfire and tear gas explosions just outside our house. I have friends who live all over the city of Kampala and everyone that I spoke to on that day had the same experience as us. It was unsafe for Jonathan to travel home from school so he ended up staying the night with some friends which I was very grateful for. I was nervous that these riots would get worse in the build up to the election but things have been pretty peaceful since though there have since been reports of police violence and unfair treatment of opposition supporters.

Please pray for Uganda next week that peace would reign over violence but also that God would ultimately expose injustice. Please also pray for safety for us as a family and wisdom for what is the right thing to do. We are considering travelling upcountry for a while but there are various complications with this eg the cost, the fact that Tim wants to be at home to vote and also the consideration that it may be wiser to just stay at home and avoid travel with the potential of being 'stuck' somewhere.

There is also the issue that I am not yet walking unaided after I fell and broke my ankle in November. I slipped and fell on our verandah one evening. I knew I had broken a bone when I looked at my foot that was pointing in the wrong direction! I shouted for Tim who without hesitation put my foot back in place. The doctor was amazed at his quick reactions and knowledge of what to do and told me he saved me needing surgery to re align the bone!

Despite challenges and events which often cause me to lose hope and become fearful and anxious, my faithful and gracious Father God keeps on reminding me that He is with us, He is in control and that He is who He says He is.

I am constantly challenged about what/who I am placing my hope in. It is easy to say we put our hope in Jesus when all is easy but a little more challenging and scary when we literally don't have anything else to place our hope in.



God has shown his goodness and faithfulness in so many ways that I often overlook or forget. For example, when I broke my ankle we didn't know where to go for treatment. The normal hospitals I trust didn't have X-ray availability at the time so we were stuck. God planted the idea of a local hospital into my head that I had never visited before but I felt total peace about going. It turns out there was an orthopaedic surgeon on duty that night who is a well-known and respected surgeon who works from all the main referral hospitals. He has a clinic at that hospital once a week and amazingly that was the night that I fell! God also spoke clearly to me and told me that he is in control of my healing – it will be slower than I want but I should trust that he has marked the road of healing ahead of me. I have to admit that has been hard to trust at times when I freak out that I have DVT or that after a fall my bone has become unaligned. He has been so faithful to his word even when I have not. I am now walking with the aid of crutches and putting partial weight on that foot with no pain and every day I am able to do more and more. It has been a difficult and challenging path especially having to depend on others so much for everyday tasks but I am reminded that hard isn't necessarily bad and that to some extent choosing Jesus means we are choosing to walk a hard path but to walk it with grace and joy.

We had a good break from work for Christmas which was lovely. Christmas day was a real highlight for me – cooking lunch in our home and eating outside in our compound with friends and family made it very special. Jonathan and Caleb are well and growing by the minute it seems. Jonathan goes back to school on Monday after a break for Christmas and he has adapted so well to the new socially distanced and masked style of learning. Caleb is becoming a bit of a comedian and really gives all of us a lot of entertainment despite his toddler tantrums. It is a joy to watch them both play together and on New Years eve it was a delight to watch them both dancing away at our mini dance party!

The girl I spoke about before has been living with a foster carer for a few months now and she is doing really well. Her health has stabilised and greatly improved. We are now looking at next steps for her because we do not want her to deteriorate again when she goes back to live with her Maama. Please pray for wisdom for this and for some change in the family so they are more able to support her well.

This just leaves me to say how grateful we all are for your constant support, love and prayers. It is hard to express in words how thankful we are but please know we think about, talk about and pray for our supporters often even though separated by distance and time, we still carry you in our hearts.

Sending great love to you all,

Tim, Anna, Jonathan and Caleb

