

Dear Praying Church Friends,

“How Can I Forgive Him For Murder?”

One of the great privileges missionaries have is answering the questions of new converts as they grow in Christ. While Mr. Omading Stephen trusted Christ earlier this year, his greatest desire has been to see the rest of his family come to Christ. . There were many times he would say to me “Pastor, I really believe my wife Bettye, and sons Ignatius and Fred need to be saved soon.” He continued coming to my home twice a week for discipleship lessons and would faithfully bring his wife and children to church on Sundays to hear the Gospel. One afternoon, Stephen asked me about a recent sermon I preached relating to forgiveness from Ephesians 4:32. He had understood what he should do but was really struggling with bitterness. He proceeded to tell me of his father who was murdered almost 20 years ago and how much he resented the man that killed him. In order to keep this short, the man was never brought to justice in the court of law but was often seen on a weekly basis by Omading and his family. Ultimately, Omading and I spent several weeks studying forgiveness in the Scriptures and its importance in the Christian life. Several weeks later Omading came to me and proclaimed “I want to please the Lord and I must forgive this man.” He stated that if his wife and children could see the difference Christ had made in his life in this area of bitterness then maybe they could trust Him as their Saviour as well. I am happy to report that since this decision we have seen the rest of his family come to Christ over this past month. Omading’s twenty year old son Fred was the last to get saved this past Sunday! Please continue to keep Omading, Ignatius, Bettye and Fred in your prayers as they seek to grow in Christ!

Faithfulness

I have been very encouraged to see the faithfulness of God’s people in the midst of trying times. In Serere there are a few of our church folks who walk or ride a bicycle for over an hour in order to come to our services. While it is encouraging to see this commitment from someone who is 20 or 30, it really thrills my soul to see this attitude in folks who are in their 60’s and 70’s. Several years ago I had the privilege of leading Mr. Basillo and Mrs. Zipporah to Christ. Basillo is 75 and has tuberculosis with severe arthritis which still does not keep him from being faithful to church every week. His wife Zipporah also battles some severe health problems but is always present come church time! Please continue to pray for these folks and the many others we have not mentioned concerning their continued faithfulness to the Lord.

S.O.A.P. Orphanage/School Update

This past month we had the special privilege of taking some of our orphans down to the capital city of Kampala where they sang several songs and I preached for a missions conference at the Gospel Light Baptist Church. They really enjoyed participating in the services and meeting many of the church folks who have been praying for them throughout the year. I have included a picture of Vincent and Tabitha who were a few of the orphans that traveled with us. This week the students have also been enjoying their end of the school year term and the beginning of their holiday time. Please pray for our students over this time and their subsequent visits to some of their extended clan members in the village. Our children have a great burden to see these folks come to Christ. We have had a good school year and certainly appreciate all of your prayers.

In His Service,

The Pittmans