

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We want to greet you all in the powerful name of Jesus, who is the author and the finisher of our faith (Hebr.12:2). Without faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, we would not be involved with this mission work in Uganda. We have faced many challenges while we have been involved with this mission and our faith has been tested in various ways. October last year, When Petri returned to Australia from Uganda, he got very sick. He was admitted to hospital and diagnosed with a viral infection in his body. The virus caused infections in Petri's liver, kidneys and lungs. He was very unwell and weak and only gained his health back at the beginning of this Year. This infection made his arms very sore and at times he struggled to lift even a coffee cup. Petri was finishing the renovation works at our place, so he was able to take it easier and rest when he was too weak to work. This turned out to be a huge blessing and many of you were a big part of this blessing to us, as you came to help us to finish our reno. As we have gone through these hard times, the support that we have received from you all has been crucial. We have felt the power of prayers lifting us up and experienced true love and care through the body of Christ. At times we have felt physical, emotional and spiritual tiredness, but Jesus has always given us enough strength for each day. In the middle of these challenges our Heavenly Father has demonstrated his care and power in very practical ways. This has built and strengthened our faith in him and encouraged us to trust in him more. Growing in faith does not happen without pain. The bible tells us how we enter the kingdom of God through much tribulation (Acts 14:22). We should not lose our heart or faith in the possibilities of God, when we face all kinds of storms of life (Hebr. 10:35-38). We all have experienced or currently experiencing difficult times and afflictions. They are a natural part of our lives as children of God. Therefore, we want to encourage all of you to keep going and press on trusting that Our Father in heaven will look after all our needs. He himself has said: "I will never leave you, nor forsake you." (Hebr.13:5-6) Jesus is the true shepherd of our souls and not even the weakest of his children will be lost from his hand (Rom.8:39).



*The Church/Community centre Petri built in Kamuge village.*

There is still great need to preach the gospel in Uganda. Whole of Africa has suffered from the false gospel, which is mainly prosperity gospel. This includes a belief that Jesus makes us rich and healthy. Poor people in Africa have welcomed this preaching and ran after 'the great evangelists' hoping that by believing in Jesus they will get out of the cycle of poverty. This doctrine includes also claiming positive things and almost forcefully proclaim the miracles into one's life. Ugandan's are still very involved with witch craft and it is quite normal for them to do

different rituals in order to receive the needed miracle. This deadly doctrine of prosperity gospel has spread like fire throughout the continent of Africa and many people's faith has shipwrecked. Therefore, the preaching of the gospel is very important and the main part of our mission work in Uganda. Now that the church building is built, we continue to pray for the right elders who can lead the work. We have specifically prayed for the Lord to test the hearts of men and set the right brothers apart for the work of ministry (Acts 1:24-25).



*One of many outdoor preaching/evangelism meetings we organize during our trips to Uganda.*

Many of you already know about a great set back that almost broke our desire to continue the mission in Uganda. Samuel and Juliet who are the founders of the Exodus Orphanage School, started to go astray and finally turned against us. All started when Petri advised Samuel that he will not automatically become a pastor of the church in Kamuge. Instead the elders will be selected prayerfully as the bible teaches. After this we also learned that Samuel and Juliet had already planned to pastor the church and were not willing to surrender this dream on the altar. Petri also showed from the word of God that a woman cannot be a pastor. Samuel's and Juliet's attitude started changing towards us. They started spreading lies about Petri, but their own lies were revealed. To our surprise Samuel's own family exposed him. They started telling Petri about the wrong things that Samuel and Juliet had lately done to them and had prayed that God would help them and stop Samuel. Petri gave multiple opportunities to Samuel to repent and turn from all lies back to the truth, but the repentance was never authentic and lacked the changed actions and behavior. On the contrary, Samuel began telling people that he will be pastoring the church in Kamuge anyway, after Petri's departure. Petri had gained the respect of many people in the village and they told him what Samuel had said to them. We came to the conclusion that we cannot continue to work together with Samuel and Juliet due to mistrust in them. We informed Juliet and Samuel that we can no longer be involved in Exodus Orphanage School. Without us knowing, God who had seen it all, had already prepared the next step for us.

Samuel's brother John works as a health educator for the Ugandan government in the small remote villages. He has been carrying a burden for a long time for the village of Kamuge and other villages in the district of Pallisa. John wants to combine the health education and the gospel in his work. John was helping petri with the building of the church and often acted as a



*Petri with John at the mission center in Kamuge village.*

translator. Petri and John became good friends and John supported Petri wholeheartedly when the problems with Samuel started. He pleaded Petri to stay and not to stop the mission in Kamuge. His prayers were heard and Petri decided to stay. Petri went on to set up a committee of 8 members, which has since grown to 14 and was founded in Kamuge. John acts as a joint chairman with Petri and he is also acting bookkeeper, and is our current main contact in Uganda. John is responsible of communication between us and the committee and now the

committee is responsible of the finances for all the mission work, which now include, prayer meetings, support of the children, the church/community center, food and crops at our mission center, and the livestock. All of them believe that as there are more people involved and responsible, there is less temptation to go wrong. Currently we are in a process of registering the mission works we have begun in the village of Kamuge, so that it will have NGO status as well and give us legal rights to operate in Kamuge and Uganda. The name of the mission is Kamuge Christian Mission and it involves preaching of the gospel, teaching the Word, discipleship in the church, social welfare and educating the people. We focus first on the village of Kamuge, but we also reach out to the other nearby villages and churches.

Work is plentiful as there are many needy people in Kamuge and surrounding areas. We are investigating the area and highlighting the most urgent needs among the people. We then make an action plan on how to help the people most effectively. We don't rush into action as we believe the foundations have to be laid carefully in order to build lasting work that glorifies God. We have discovered that there are hundreds of homeless children in the area and we are praying for wisdom on how to help them the right way. Our vision to build a mission center has begun and this will serve as a children's home and school and would also support poor families to look after their children. We have also begun to invest more in cultivations and purchasing of more land and are finding ways to become more self-sufficient. Health education is also a very important part of our mission as it prevents many health problems and even deaths.



*The opening ceremony and first service in the newly constructed church/community center.*



*Petri speaking in the first meeting in the newly built church.*

Regardless of the setbacks, we remain hopeful and have faith in our God, who has begun this good work will also complete it according to his will, and we refuse to dwell in the past issues or events. He makes it all worthwhile and turns all situations for the good of his Kingdom. We have come to understand better than ever before that we cannot serve the Lord halfheartedly. We either follow in Jesus' footsteps and are obedient to him or then follow our own will. When we are reaching the lost, we should be serious towards the call we have received from our Lord and have the fear of God deeply rooted in our hearts. God will

never rise against his own Word, but can rise against us, if we oppose his work. The book of Hebrews says, "It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." (Hbr.10:31) We want to ask you to pray for us that we remain obedient to Jesus and sensitive to the Holy Spirit in order to follow His guidance. The coming months will be very important concerning this mission. "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain." (Ps.127:1) Let's pray especially for the church in Kamuge that it would be built according to the will of God. We are planning to go to Uganda November-December this year and on the way back to visit Katja's family in Finland. Thank you for all your prayers this far and we ask that you continue to pray that the will of our Lord would be done.

With Blessings,



*Petri&Katja*

*"Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43: 18-21*