June 2010

“Enlarge the place of your tent, and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out; do not hold back; lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes” (Isaiah 54:2).

Enlarging our tent
It seems to us that when we think about the place of our ‘habitation’, we primarily consider it a local venue, and seldom a global one. Our habitation is where we live, right? Surely setting such limited boundaries must be a result of thinking within a human framework, discounting the possibility that God might have something bigger in mind, much bigger! Who knew that enlarging the place of our tent meant that the canvas could make it all the way to Africa? Who dreamed that God would stretch our curtains as far away as Uganda, and in that place He would strengthen our stakes? It would have been fine with us to pound those stakes in deeper right here in Colorado, in full view of Pikes Peak. Certainly it has been a surprise to us, as much as to our friends and family, but certainly East Africa is not a surprise to God. He tells us through His prophet Isaiah of His "plans formed of old, faithful and sure" (Isaiah 25:1).

Much to our delight, it is now time for us to actually lengthen those cords! Let the tent stretching begin! We have just received word from the Home Office that our funding is close enough to 100% that we can choose a date of departure. As we look back at our earlier updates, your faithfulness to pray and God’s faithfulness to provide are cause for much celebration and thankfulness. We asked you to pray with us that our funding would come in quickly so we could leave by early summer. You did; it has, and we are. We asked that you pray with us for wisdom as we sought a solution for our farm. You did, and God has provided the perfect solution. He has also provided a home for our beloved dog, and reliable and faithful care for Cecilia’s mother. (We would say elderly mother, but she won’t let us). As the news of our approaching departure has leaked out, many of you have asked if it is too late to support us. To that question we say, “Absolutely not!” We would be happy to send you a donation envelope, or you can visit our link on the Rafiki website and donate online. We do still need to close the gap financially in order to step onto that plane, but more than that, we also continue in earnestly coveting your prayer support! An endeavor such as this one, without the company of saints on their knees, would surely be an exercise in futility and frustration.

As we scramble to get documentation and paperwork in order, and decide what to take and what to leave behind, know that we are excited that you are with us on this journey and deeply grateful for your support and encouragement. We do not take any of it lightly! Do not be surprised if you feel a strong desire to join us in Uganda for a MiniMission trip in the near future. We are praying for you to do so. We eagerly look forward to a July 10 departure, and with a sideways glance to Icelandic volcanoes and a British Airways strike, we are keeping our shoulder to the wheel, our eye on the prize, and our tent stakes sharpened. Won’t you come join us and discover ninety-nine reasons to fall in love with the Rafiki Village in Uganda?

Holding nothing back,

Cecilia and Stan Gryde

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