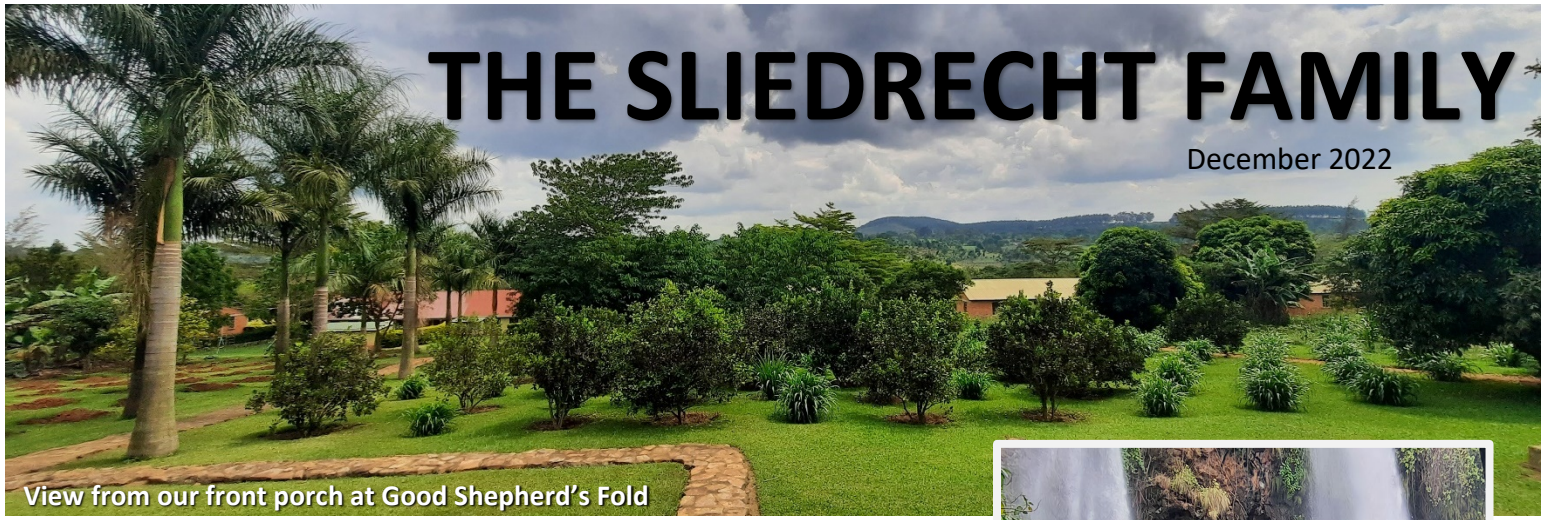


THE SLIEDRECHT FAMILY

December 2022



View from our front porch at Good Shepherd's Fold

This newsletter is long overdue. Emotions have been so deep and fresh

that we couldn't even think about it without heartache and tears welling up. You see, this past summer, we were finally able to return to Uganda as a family (minus Miriam), and immediately felt we were back home, even though it had been 3 years since most of us (except Tim) had last been there... however, we were returning to pack-up and say good-bye. Many long days were spent sorting through all our personal belongings and ministry-related stuff we had accumulated over the past 15 years, to mostly give-away and sell-off. While it was a hard and emotional process, it was a joy to see much of it bless our Ugandan friends and other ministries and missionaries.



Sipi Falls – one of our favourite places

The good-byes were, of course, the most difficult. Like Paul with the Thessalonians, we had intense longing and made every effort to see our brothers and sisters in Uganda. When we were finally able to, it was to have to say goodbye not knowing when we would see them again. However, we thank God for the time we could be



GSF Mercy Ministry members showered us with prayers, testimonies, words of encouragement, and gifts from the little they have



Quality time with our dear neighbors from Soroti and GSF

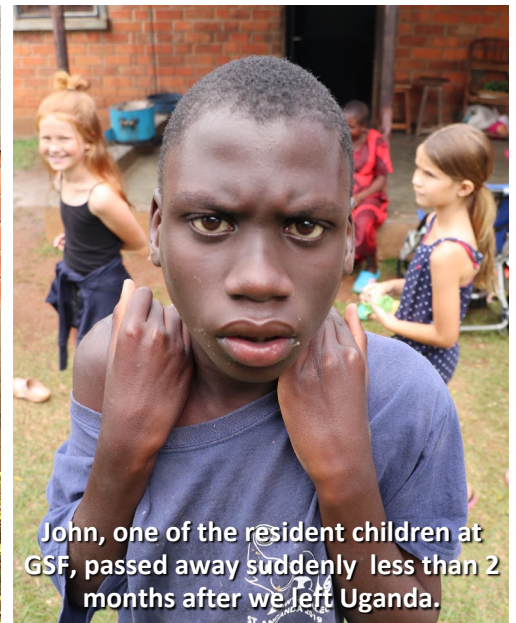
together and that as hard as the goodbyes were, they were also the sweetest and most meaningful moments of our summer. These are just a few...



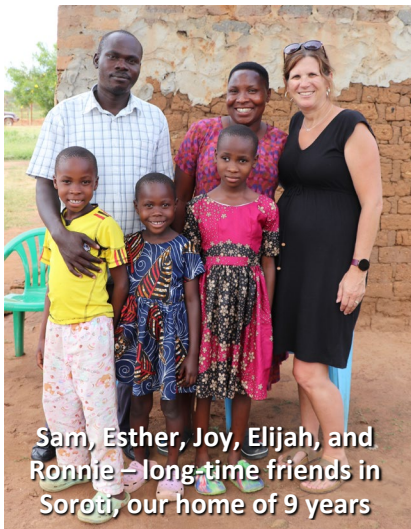
Rebecca, the girl who suffered from severe burns 6 years ago, now a beautiful young woman



Penlope and Claire, friends and the social workers of GSF Community Development



John, one of the resident children at GSF, passed away suddenly less than 2 months after we left Uganda.



Sam, Esther, Joy, Elijah, and Ronnie – long-time friends in Soroti, our home of 9 years



Neighbourhood friends in Soroti

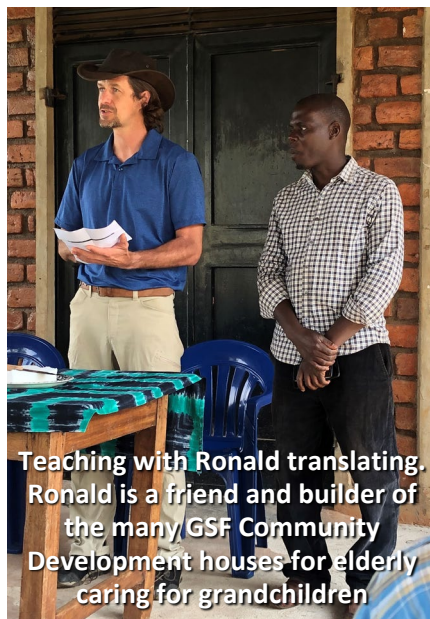


Goodbyes from GSF Staff members wearing some of our dress-up wigs

Amid the sorting and good-byes, we were blessed to have many opportunities to share God's Word, namely by teaching the first session of the **Freedom in Christ Discipleship Course**, on who we are in



Providing church leaders, like Tom, with over 100 solar audio Bibles for Bible Listening Groups



Teaching with Ronald translating. Ronald is a friend and builder of the many GSF Community Development houses for elderly caring for grandchildren



Baptizing men and women with Ronald – many of the men came to Christ while building houses for GSF Community Development.

Christ – fully accepted, significant, and secure. We then had a few key leaders go through the full course so that they can carry on the teaching at [Good Shepherd's Fold](#), local churches, and with others.

Additionally, I was able to work with the GSF Community Development team to help strategize on next steps, particularly in relation to [Farming God's Way](#) as it has become a discipleship movement with incredible impact in the surrounding communities of GSF and is thus becoming a central focus of GSF. In the end, we thank God that I was able to effectively transition out of my role at GSF and pave the way for the next Director of Community Development to carry-on and expand the work.



The men (with their wives & some children) of GSF Community Development whom I have had the privilege to walk alongside, disciple, and learn with

We are so grateful to God that we were able to have this time in Uganda to have proper closure as a family. Of course, GSF and Uganda will continue to hold a deep place in our hearts and we will remain closely connected to the people and ministry work there.

So, what are we doing now?

Our calling remains the same. We want to see Christ known among the nations, to see local churches throughout the world grow deep roots in the Biblical worldview, and, as a result, reach out to the least, last, and lost within their communities and beyond. And so, our calling continues to be: to encourage, equip, and engage people in disciple-making movements around the world.



GO WITH



GLOBAL OUTREACH
INTERNATIONAL

www.globaloutreach.org

With this passion for missions, **we are continuing to serve as missionaries** with [Global Outreach International](#), now on their Mobilization Team – to recruit, mentor, train, and prepare people to serve in cross-cultural missions. As Global has a new vision to pro-actively recruit 100 well-prepared and well-cared-for missionaries a year, we have been developing processes and procedures of multiple pathways for people interested in cross-cultural missions, from those who just sense a call to explore the possibility of missions to those who are certain of their call in long-term missions:

- Discernment Trip (1 to 2 weeks)
- Short-Term (2 weeks to 2 months)
- Internship (2 months to 1 year)
- Mid-Term (9 months to 2 years)
- Long-Term (2 years or more)



Side Hustles

In addition to working with Global Outreach International, we have been serving with three other organizations:



[The Freedom Boys Ministry](#) seeks to rescue, rehabilitate, and resettle boys living on the streets of Soroti, Uganda, in the love of Christ. We've had the privilege to walk alongside this ministry since its humble beginnings under a mango tree in 2009, and we continue to do so stateside as advisors and fundraisers. We are thankful for the time we had to spend with Denis Okwera, the director of the Freedom Boys Ministry, this past summer to help



Denis & Frances – long-time friends and Director of the Freedom Boys Ministry

establish new systems of governance with a board of directors, and of accountability with Josh Shaarda (our brother-in-law serving in Soroti) providing on-the-ground oversight.



FREEDOM IN CHRIST

Transforming Discipleship

[Freedom In Christ Ministries](#) exists in over 35 countries to equip the Church to bring transformation to every nation and generation with a highly effective discipleship approach and resources to making fruitful disciples who make a real difference. For the past 2 years, I have been serving as a Hub Leader in Transform, their 8-month program for leaders to journey into greater freedom, fruitfulness, and disciple-making. I have also had the privilege of being on a team with some of their leadership from UK, France, Jamaica, USA, and Canada to develop a new course "Becoming the Church God Imagines." I am also seeking to integrate the Freedom in Christ discipleship courses and resources in the training of missionaries at Global Outreach International, the rehabilitation of the Freedom Boys, and the mentoring of youth at MentorMe.



[MentorMe of West Michigan](#) hires, trains, guides, and supports Christian men and women between the ages of 20 and 70 or older to walk alongside, mentor and disciple "at-risk" youth ages 10 to 18, 2-4 hours per week each. Studies have shown that quality Christian mentorship significantly improves the emotional, behavioral, social, mental/academic, and spiritual development of youth who are at risk for falling behind and off track – for anxiety, depression, suicide, dropping out of high-school, teen pregnancies, substance abuse, and criminal activity. Our desire is to see "at-risk" youth become "at-promise" youth who love and live for Jesus. I serve on MentorMe's leadership team and as a Guide to three mentors.

Due to changing circumstances on several fronts, our financial support has gone down & our expenses have gone up over the last couple years. WE NEED YOU!
Would you please prayerfully consider partnering with us financially, or increasing your giving?

[CLICK HERE TO GIVE](#)