

News from the Bagamba family January 2013

God's goodness in times of hardship

So much has happened since we last wrote a family update. The year 2012 was particularly hard on us. Akiiki, Banage and Tusiime had some recurring health issues. Banage and Tusiime are doing much better. As for Akiiki, she is trying new drugs but no doctor has been able to identify what she might be allergic to. At the moment she is taking hay fever medicine, very soon we will know whether it does any good.

In spite of all that, we have experienced God's goodness in great abundance. We clearly saw God's hand during the second week of December 2012. When the UN troops were shown on TV driving tanks alongside M23 rebels entering the city of Goma, young people were infuriated and started attacks against the UN installations. A few days later, criminals got involved and things spiraled out of control; homes of the UN personnel were being attacked and looted. We do share a compound with a UN employee from Pakistan so our compound was in danger. For four days our compound was defended by the bodyguards of an army officer who lives about 3 houses down our street. Generally Bagamba does not like to have anything to do with soldiers but Banage's friendly relationship with bodyguards proved very helpful. They promised her that they would defend her family. Every time criminals came to our gate, they were repelled. The fifth morning, when we got up, we were terrified to discover that our protectors had vanished. A neighbour told us that the army officer had driven away around 3 AM with all his guards. Till today we have no idea of where they are. By God's miracle, that was also the day the government in Kinshasa had asked the local army commandant to put an end to the anarchy. Though shooting were too much for us, God spared us from violence and material losses. We are so grateful to God for his protection.



Children's corner



Tusiime will be 2 on the 27th February, Akiiki will 14 in June. A teenager and two years old are an interesting mix for a family. While Akiiki wants to have

space for herself, Tusiime believes in being included in everything. We understand maybe 40% of what she says, she mixes English and Swahili and sometimes we have no clue of what language she is speaking. She asks for milk in Swahili but for water in English. In Swahili she tells her siblings that she will smack them, she uses English when she wants to be unbuckled from her chair. She likes faking to read books, in the process she rips off pages.

Amooti seems to have noticed that his sisters don't share his interests, so he is making friends elsewhere. He now has a group of friends who admire him for his knowledge of English. He has helped them translate a couple of songs from English to French. Well, terrible French as you can imagine but the pastor let them sing it in front of about 500 people. He is doing well at school too. This month he was first of his class, he is very happy with himself.

Maziga is very grateful to God that last year she was the healthiest member of the family. She is doing well at school too; she was third of her class. Though they fight a lot with Tusiime, they are good friends too. So far Akiiki is doing well in chemistry; she even thinks that she likes it better than maths. She continues to be in charge of the family choir. If she was allowed she would kick Amooti out of the choir though. He likes to turn everything into comedy while Akiiki takes it seriously.

The parents

As usual, Banage is doing a great job looking after the family. Her work has increased since the power plant which supplies our town is barely functional. We do get a few hours of electricity late at night at a time no one really uses it. Banage had to look for our old charcoal iron we had forgotten about. We have been blessed with a long rain season last year but now the dry season has arrived. We are praying that water shortage which Bunia goes through every year would not be too long and harsh. Looking for water during dry seasons is one of big concerns of women between January and early April. In addition to her mother's role, she does logistics for Beacon of Hope.

Since Bagamba's colleague left for furlough 3 months ago, he is holding the ford in the research department. He has to teach 3 courses this academic year and conduct language survey among the Vanuma and Bhele people. Students from the two ethnic groups are currently being trained in Bible translation principles but they are a few facts churches have to get right before Bible translation project are initiated. Bagamba's role is to help churches make appropriate decisions with regard to the scope of projects and whether it worth taking. Presently Bagamba is busy preparing for the celebration of the international Mother Language Day which takes place on February 21st every year.

Praises and prayer needs

We praise the Lord for your continued willingness to support us and serve orphans with us. We do pray for all of you and we are sure that that in the Lord your efforts are not in vain. We are grateful to God for his protection during various troubles in our town. Please pray that we would be healthier this year. Particularly pray that we would be able to find a doctor who can sort out Akiiki's health issue. Also pray that in his time God would bring total peace to the Congo. Also pray for road safety for our children, the number of motorcycle taxis is ever increasing in Bunia. Unfortunately, drivers are often high on drugs (most of them are former militiamen) and without any good knowledge of traffic law.

Bagamba and family