

Good Afternoon!

Well, we are a little over a month into our new life in Uganda, and it's hard to believe that we have been here this long already. When we came last year for our survey trip, the month seemed quite long. This time around though, the first month has flown by! As a quick summary of our kids, the big kids are still loving school and growing in their friendships with the other missionary children in Mbale. It has been a huge gift for them to have such great friends so quickly! The twins enjoy exploring downtown Mbale; they get lots of looks as they run down the sidewalk, stop at the storefronts to look at random mannequins, fans, or anything else that catches their eye., crawl underneath sidewalk signs, etc.

We have continued to stay busy settling into our home, taking care of all sorts of random home repairs (septic issues, bats and pigeons making their home in the roof of the garage, more septic issues), slowly but surely making our house feel more like a home, spending more time at Lulwanda, beginning some medical care, and enjoying time with the older children who live at Tendo. As a reminder, the children who live at Tendo are older teenagers who grew up at Lulwanda Children's Home, but now that they are a little older, they live here in Mbale, when they are not at secondary school. The purpose of them being here is so that as they approach adulthood, they can begin to really learn how to do things like shop at the market, have a bank account, etc. The Tendo kids were on school holiday this month, so we were able to see them more often and get to know them a little more, finding out where some of them are from, how long Lulwanda has been their home, what they hope to study at the university level, what they enjoy. They came over for dinner one night, and what fun to find out that they love to play games. We played a pretty exciting few games of spoons with them! We look forward to more game nights when they are home from school.

We have also enjoyed spending more time with the children and staff at Lulwanda. They are quick to welcome us when we arrive and love and care for us well. Many of the staff are sweet to ask also about how our families in America are doing. In terms of medical care, one of Ryan's responsibilities, there has been some movement in organization and new procedures within the past month, such as putting together records to keep track of each child's medical notes, care given, medicines taken, etc. There have been several children at Lulwanda who have tested positive for malaria within the last couple of weeks. Thankfully, if they can be tested as soon as they experience symptoms, and can begin taking anti-malaria medicines, they recover quite quickly and can be back at school and their normal routines within a day or two. Just yesterday, one of the girls was experiencing symptoms of malaria, and when Ryan went to check on her, she said, "Uncle, please carry me." He said he was sweating because she was so hot from her fever as she laid her head on his shoulder. She tested positive for malaria, Ryan began her on the medication she needed, and she is already much better today. There is a clinic in Mbale that has a good relationship with Lulwanda. Ryan worked with them last summer, and again has spent a couple of days there again this month; they have committed to give us any malaria testing supplies and medication that Lulwanda needs for free!

A week ago, as many of the students were preparing to go back to school after the holiday, they needed check-ups, vaccinations, etc., similar to what our children might need before they start a new school year. So, off Ryan goes to the clinic with 30 children. We thought that taking the twins to the doctor at the same time could be overwhelming, but that is a walk in the park compared to taking 30, haha! One of the house moms went along to help, and even though a couple of the kids were terrified of receiving vaccines, they all did well. There was one teenage boy who escaped getting his vaccine, so he had to go back the next day again; he only delayed his vaccine though and did not avoid it as he had hoped 😊

It is a blessing already to love and care for the children that God has placed at Lulwanda, and we are thankful that He has given us the privilege to do so. Just today we were talking about how the Lord has

how perfect His plans always are. We are excited and expectantly watch to see how His plans continue to unfold in our family and in the lives of those at Lulwanda.

We can't thank each of you enough for the ways you love us, pray for us, send messages to let us know that you are thinking about us, check in on us, and support us. The Lord uses each of you to encourage us on a daily basis to continue to keep our gaze set on Him and not be pulled down from hindrances that are set before us. Thank you.

With love,

Ryan and Megan

	<p style="text-align: center;">Prayer Requests</p>
<p>Ryan and Megan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To stay focused on the Lord and His plan above all else • For a spirit of unity • Wisdom in nurturing our children and helping them process through emotions they have as they experience questions about why we are in Uganda and as they miss family and friends • That we will spend much time in God's Word and will grow in wisdom and discernment
<p>Audrey, Simon, Lucy, and Norah</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Lucy and Norah to fall into a good sleeping routine (they have rarely slept through the night since being here) • That all four will not grow tiresome of so many new/different "things," but that they would be encouraged and know the joy of the Lord in the blessings He has given us. • That they will be more comfortable with practicing the expectation of greeting others here (taking the time to greet someone is a big deal, and the kids are still quite shy with Ugandans and try to hide behind us).
<p>Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That we will stay well and free from stomach troubles and malaria • That the kids will embrace healthy eating habits here • For rest and good sleep
<p>Home</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That we will establish good and trusting

	<p>relationships with house staff (guards, night guards, house helper)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That we will be able to communicate well with those who are helping at/in our home. • Please pray that we won't have to have any more home repairs for a while (we've had quite a few this first month!)
Lulwanda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As Ryan delves into his role at Lulwanda more, that his eyes and heart will always be open to the opportunities to share the love of the Lord with the children and staff. • For wisdom as we seek for ways to disciple the staff and children in a way to share the Gospel with them. • Please pray as Ryan implements some new ways of doing things in terms of medical care, that those on staff will be open and willing to try something new/different. • That the house moms and children will see the importance of sleeping under their mosquito nets and begin doing so on a regular basis.
Tendo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the kids went back to Secondary School this past week, that they will have opportunities to and be encouraged to spend time with God on a regular basis. • For direction on the steps God is directing them towards as they think about life after secondary school
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For continued opportunities to develop friendships with the other missionaries in Mbale. • That we will continue to become familiar with Mbale and finding our way around town, places to shop, eat, people to purchase goods from, etc. • For us to begin to pick up on a little of the local language.