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## Waffle and Dr. Val's Newsletter



# So, What's the Plan?

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### **Special Praises for this Month:**

Waffle's kidney stones are completely OUT!

We completed the building of our first small structure on our piece of land near Mt. Elgon, where we envision building a Discipleship Training Center some day.

You, our faithful friends, were able to sponsor 10 additional bright but needy Karamojong children in school this year!

## *Our Whirlwind Plans*

What an amazing schedule God has been leading us through! In November was a big, 10 Year Peace celebration. Then, our Crested Cranes Marriage conference: a top notch training from Rolling Hills Church that went direct to the hearts of the best of the best pastors & CLIDE leaders.

Meanwhile, we and CLIDE were also getting ready for the Timothy Children's Retreat with NW Hills Church. Yes, as all these wonderful things were happening, we were also planning at the end of December to have the Suburban-NW Hills construction team arrive. These guys are serious, so things need to be ready for their arrival. They are a "get-er done" type group and I love it!

In the midst of these activities comes "God's Plan". We started organizing for the Peace Celebration, when things went another direction. Let me backfill the story: a month before, I awoke with sharp kidney pain. I was thinking some kind of UTI, the "go to your knees in pain and 3 Ibuprofen are not enough" type UTI. It was the wake-up call that Dr. Bob Sayson had warned me about: my long treasured "7 mm pearl" (kidney stone) passing down. Three days to the Peace Celebration, my pain increased: uncontrollable kidney pain; they say it's like child birth! I

needed surgery. The 12 hour drive to a hospital would be too much; I needed a flight to Kampala. Dorie Halsey from Gresham was flying in for the Peace Celebration. As she came off the bush-plane, I took her seat to fly out. Now, air-bound, I found myself so grateful for God's provision. I smiled even with the UTI.

Landing safely, I took a motorcycle taxi (bodaboda) to the best hospital I knew. A CT Scan showed an acute kidney infection and a large kidney stone blocking the ureter. At 10:00 p.m. they referred me to the specialist URO-CARE hospital, across Kampala. With CT Scan and suitcase in hand, I hailed another motorcycle taxi. What unfolded next was so good, from God. The surgery was to be in the morning (yea!), but when they learned of my drug allergies, they delayed a day to locate a different anesthetic. Surgery was so cool, they did a spinal and I could feel nothing; that meant I could watch the TV screen and see everywhere the camera went inside... so cool! Later in recovery, the doctor came with good news and bad news. "OK doctor, what's the Bad News"? "Well, you have the narrowest ureter I have seen in 30 years and we could not find the stone, so we put in a stent from the kidney to the bladder." So, I

ask, "then the good news?" He gets up and walks to the door, "Doctor could you come?" An Indian man walks in, "Good News for you sir, I just came from India to demonstrate the latest scope for kidney stone removal. It is small in diameter, just what you need. Surgery is tomorrow and will do it for free." Wow! I get the #1 hospital with 2 of the best nephrologists and have it done for free, wow wow. The next day, I get the spinal again and just as I'm going numb, it dawns on me why my surgery was free: doctors started filling the room to observe the newest scope on the surgical scene. Being a modest guy, I felt, quite, uh, well, you know. I was grateful to be on Ketamine, a dissociative drug. It had me a little cross eyed, but I could still watch the strange TV program and listen to the running commentary as my brain disconnected from reality. Unfortunately, they still did not find the stone; I would have to come back in 3 weeks for the third try at surgery. They planned a few days recovery but I sooo wanted to be at the marriage conference, so the next morning I was up and dressed and down to the doctor's office to have the catheter removed. Val says I'm not a patient patient! Pain controlled with drugs, UTI on the mend, bleeding mostly under control, I didn't want to miss what proved to be an awesome marriage conference.

*Online Giving:* [www.NewHorizonsFoundation.com/1329](http://www.NewHorizonsFoundation.com/1329)

## Learning Endurance

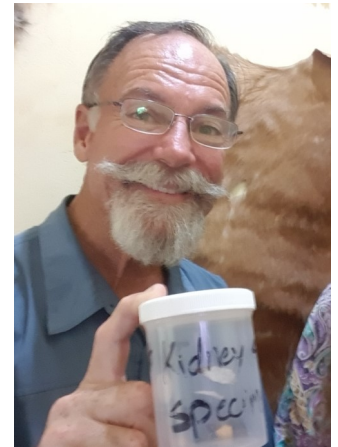
The weeks that followed were painful. Painful also in that Val's friend Dorie was not doing well. She got sick while in Africa and could not fly back to the USA alone. Val flew to Rwanda to escort her to the states. I went for procedure #3 where they would remove the medieval torture device called a stent and look for the stones again. Unfortunately, the sheath of the new scope had been cut off, and was now too short to reach through the bladder to the kidney so again, they could not remove the stones. I drove to the

airport to pick up Val then back for another surgery to put in another stent. Val stayed overnight in the hospital bed next to mine while I recovered from procedure #4. We proceeded to Soroti for the best Timothy Retreat ever! Yes, I could not lift anything without bleeding and pain, but it's all ok though, pain meds were working (mostly).

Meanwhile, we needed to press on with the construction projects. The Guys from the Suburban and NW Hills construction team arrived. They are awesome! With pain and not being

able to lift anything without paying a price, we knew we would need good teamwork to finish the Parsonage and Church. I explained my limitations and they filled the gaps. It was great to see God work through us together for the full month. We built the Church framework, moved the prefab pastors house into place, showed Bible films to 1200 people several nights, mentored the young men we worked with and collapsed into our tents each night feeling quite fulfilled. The construction team was stretched a little, but they came shining through. (Even if I was a dud.)

After the team left for Oregon, the new sheath finally arrived; the stones were at last removed in February.



## Why Lord, Why??? Our Growing Edges

Why Lord, why? Why did this have to take 4 months to resolve? Why wait until after the construction team leaves? The answer as best as I can discern from the Lord is "I had some life lessons to learn"

1. I need to be less task oriented. Building relationships is the key to ministry. In my normal mode I am too intense about getting projects done. This is twice God has had to slow me down (I think I am starting to get it).
2. Letting others do and fulfill God's purposes through their hands should be my priority. When I am in "Go Mode" I control too much. Others in the family of God can enjoy the blessings of serving when I release control and trust God.
3. I need to recognize my Spiritual vulnerability. Maybe there is something that allowed Satan to hurt me at a critical time. I think it is time for some searching prayer. Even though Satan meant it for evil, real good came from it all. I trust God even in the challenges. He is always faithful and never leaves me alone. His timing and goodness are amazing.

Having only been in Uganda since 2013, I would say I am still learning how to be a missionary here. Little by little, this clay is being yielded and shaped towards God's desires for my life. Please pray that as He molds me; that I will reflect Jesus as....

An excellent Husband to Val, with a challenging job, in a unique culture, with less money, more responsibilities, in an older body! A faithful Servant of God. Now 61 and looking how to finish well, keeping my walk with Jesus precious and hot (not "lukewarm"). A healthy Man. I seem to need to sleep more than I used to. (Keeping up with Val is part of that, she is amazing!) We are working with more Pastors, church leaders and kids than before. We are ever on the move with some sweet irons in the fire. We stretch ourselves, as our hearts desire to see the Kingdom of God filled with Karamojong believers. Please say Amen!

## Christian Adventure Ministry and CLIDE Consultancy

### Send Donations for Waffle and Val's Ministries to:

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### Prayer Points and Upcoming Events:

**Rains are here! Time to plant a new crop: Chia seeds!**

**Waffle comes to the USA in April for a Wedding!**

**Val comes to USA in May for her Mom's memorial and class reunion!**

**We are Finishing the CLIDE Hut in Peace Village and planting cowpeas or sunflower**