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# Together In the Plagues

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## Special Praises for this Month:

Praise God! Our Moroto Corona Task Force is actively working to prepare for COVID-19 and has welcomed our contributions and ideas.

Praise God! Most of the people were not heavily affected by the first two waves of the Locust invasion!

Also: Waffle is back with me in Kangole! His construction projects went very well.

God is Great!

## *It Started with Locusts*

We had heard the rumors. Swarms of locusts were descending on northern Kenya, wiping out crops and destroying grazing areas. We prayed that somehow they would not transverse the border.. Then they came in, by the millions! We were in Nakiloro, picking up sick people after our church that meets there under the tree. As the only vehicle available to this remote community, we often become an ambulance when our first aid kit fails to handle the daily medical cases that we find there.

At first a few people shouted, then the loud cry turned into cacophony as the cloud filled half of the sky and began hovering over us! We jumped out of the vehicle as locusts began descending on the trees and grass all around us.



In the next 2 months, they spread and spread in several waves throughout Uganda. We estimate that the swarm that passed us was at least 20 million locusts. Each locust eats its weight in food every day, which is about 2 grams. Every day then, that swarm was consuming 44 tons of food!



Fortunately, they came through before most people had planted their gardens, so the crops were not totally destroyed, only the orchards and trees were eaten badly. But, unfortunately, we could see them laying eggs by the hundreds... Each female locust lays about 300 eggs, so the 20 million could easily become a billion when they hatch out next time! That should be in May, so please pray they don't hatch!

We got our sick patients to the hospital in time. One had typhoid

concurrent with malaria; the other one had complications from a previous surgery. The one with typhoid and malaria recovered within that week, but our friend, Theresa, with the surgical complications did not make it. We spent the last week visiting her in her hut and singing songs with her. It is so sad when friends suffer and we are not able to find a way to help them. She was a new believer, and our first loss in the new church in Nakiloro.



As a church, we were able to help her family to bury her, as most people in the village will not help with digging a grave or preparing the body. We praised God for her renewed life in Christ and her new life in eternity with God. We had peace as a church and were able to comfort one another through the loss. God is still Great. Together we endure; we love; we pray; and we praise God, in the calm and in the storm.

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



# Then a Pandemic

Just as the swarms of Locusts were driven to the Karamoja wilderness, the Corona Virus Pandemic exploded into the world. Uganda did well and closed borders quickly and effectively. We all hunkered down in lockdown to see what would happen. Fortunately, the borders held, except for a handful of infected truckers that came in. Cargo vehicles are allowed to cross the border to keep commerce going and maintain the economy, but drivers easily spread the disease, with their extensive traveling and their frequent stops for food and at “houses of convenience” (brothels). Drivers that tested positive transported the virus around Uganda for two days, until they were tracked down, their contacts were traced and everyone effected was either quarantined or deported.

Meanwhile, we started to see that the communities where we had started our new churches were now in isolation, and all of

the new believers no longer had anyone to mentor them spiritually or help them through this struggle. We made a food relief trip up to see them and helped them to divide into home churches, so that they could continue to encourage each other and work together to stay healthy. We did some fun quarantining, social distancing and hand washing trainings together! Here I am in my practice Quarantine! →



To help with leading our newly established home churches during lockdown, we have commissioned 2 pastors to go and stay in the villages so that they would have a resident shepherd to encourage, advise and pray with them.

.Lockdown began to get tighter as we joined the Moroto Corona Task Force, to find out how we could help during this pandemic. Moroto District, the heart of Karamoja, has a long border with Kenya, including several unofficial transit points, without formal border control. Kenya has many times the Covid cases than Uganda has, with much less social distancing, so it has been vital to keep the border tight. We are happy to join hands with the district

to strengthen their response. Please pray as we help with surveillance at the Karamoja border and supply medicines and PPE where needed. God is Great!

# But God Is At Work!

Waffle and I have agreed to serve God in whichever way He directs us. We want to be available to Him. Here we are in a pandemic. Our normal work is at a standstill, so we dive into Pandemic Surveillance and Training with the local people. Little did we know that this would take us to the farther reaches of Moroto, deep into villages that we never even knew existed! We are now becoming great friends of the illegal gold miners of Karamoja! We have gone



multiple times to visit their villages and encourage them on COVID-19 prevention and preparedness. In the process, God has revealed to us His real purposes. The mining camp,

Nakabaat, had already built a church building, and were praying that God would send someone to teach them about Jesus! The second group of gold miners, in Naput, had begged us for months to come to their remote location to share Christ with them to teach them God’s word. We finally got there and began speaking about Corona. The people were so excited to see us that they immediately designated 30 acres of land for the future church, with a clinic and school to come later! They want to know God! Please Pray!!

## Christian Adventure Ministry and CLIDE Consultancy

**Send Donations for Waffle and Val’s Ministries to:**

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### Prayer Points and Upcoming Events:

During the lockdown, our local churches are not allowed to meet to encourage the members. We cannot even play Christian music on a loudspeaker, as it may attract a crowd. The people have no access to internet church services so their spiritual welfare is at risk. We have set up a few home churches. Please pray for the Holy Spirit to be near to us all.

Pray for 2 gold mining communities that want to start new churches. One is at a remote cattle corral, and the other is on the Kenyan border. Please pray for us to have time and local evangelists to help out with the new church plants!