



Neil and Sue Browning

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Location: Uganda



What we do: Neil works as a surgeon at the local government hospital in Moyo and Sue as a lecturer at Kajokeji Christian College (KCC).

Dear friends and family,

We have just been through a strange phase in life. Having been in Uganda for three years we have needed to renew work permits and driving licences. Very simple when you know how, all online, but requiring all the correct documents in the right sizes (thanks to the son-in law who does the tech bit!) and then trips to Kampala for Interpol and collection. Thanks for prayers and advice – we are finally all done! Probably in more ways than one.

So at this time of renewal, there is review and forward looking. Are we doing anything of value here? What is God's plan? And being as God-deaf as we are, not much clarity on either. But again, this last week or so, really helpful friendship and advice from our mentors and from sermons we listen to online (thanks to HT sermons and St Peter's prayer times). We need to look at Jesus, not ourselves or our puny efforts. So here we are still. Not sure if for another year or two or three, but here.

Encouragement comes from different places. At times I (Sue) feel tired and that I am imposing on the men in the prison, as they have sat through a Roman Catholic service with all its lovely music and singing and words – do they really need another message from me representing the Protestant wing? And to my amazement they do! They eagerly listen and sing and pray and line up to give their lives to Jesus. They invite us back for Bible study and services week in and week out, wholeheartedly. God is at work, despite us. And it is a great reminder why we are, never mind why we are here.

Thanks too, for the ongoing care and calls from family and friends, the children's gifts and treats arriving four weeks later, and numerous WhatsApp messages and pictures. These are all so special for us. And we know you are praying when a friend turns up at the road block in South Sudan when I am not sure what happens next, or when a familiar face makes a local transaction go smoothly.

The rainy season is late but in full swing. The roads are muddy here near the border and just over, as we discovered again travelling for the enthronement of the new Bishop of Kajokeji (the previous principal of the College) on 10 September. Fortunately for me, the vehicle in front of mine got stuck in the mud on the return and we could help tow them out. So glad we were together and I didn't get stuck. Also, I have the benefit of knowing the roads quite well by now, so I know which edges/holes to avoid.

Lectures are in full swing again, which keeps me out of mischief – I do enjoy the student interaction and personal challenge.



Balloon blowing contestants at Sunday School, enthusiastically supported by their teams.

Support Neil and Sue Browning:
churchmissionsociety.org/browning

**With Jesus
With each other
To the edges**



Neil continues to do most of the hard work for Sunday school, along with the team. Schools have been on holiday so we have seen a slightly different cohort of children as some return from boarding schools and others return home. We continue to see 70 to 90 children regularly on a Sunday. We are hoping for a few new leaders to join us as some have moved on for work and studies.

Neil's placement at the hospital still remains exceedingly challenging, both in regard to the limited supplies and the colleague who prefers to work on his own. Neil has completed the orthopaedic training and is now just waiting for the hospital to sort out the sterilizing system so he can function fully. Please continue to pray about the possibility of Neil working in Kajokeji at the refurbished hospital there. Neil needs to be "accepted" at government level before he can serve there, and the paperwork is to be submitted.

Kajokeji remains in flux. Many are trying to return home there, but with few homes repaired and occasional reports of violence, it is difficult for families to return. The complete loss of food supply to the refugee camps has, however, forced the situation.

Home life is relatively smooth. The neighbourhood dogs (three of them) frequent our patio and torment the cats that have taken up residence here, but provide us with much amusement and love. The rains have brought enormous growth to the garden and it feels like we live in a jungle along with the numerous ants and furry worms. The hibiscus, bougainvilleas and roses are flowering and the grass needs to be cut weekly. We no longer have goats that visit, so we employ a grasscutter who "weedcats" the yard.

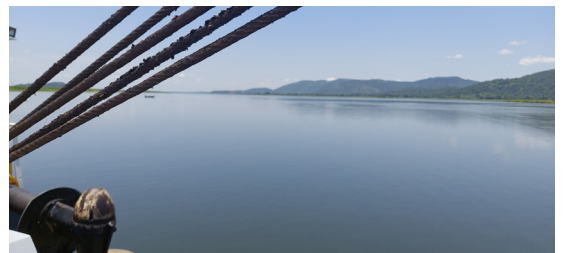
We are always thankful for the amazing Toyota we inherited and the quad bike that gives us alternative transport when needed.

Bless you all for staying in touch and in prayer.

Someone said to me recently, "Do you think that Africa needs to get God? Would that solve its problems?" I have reflected on this so much. The truth is we all need to get God. Not just his rewards and his promises but his nature and his love. Christian behaviour definitely helps the running of things and the takes out the violence, but at a deeper level, we all need to get God for eternity and for right relationship with him. I have also been freshly challenged by Philippians 1:29, which says we are privileged not only to believe in Christ but to suffer for him too. Getting God doesn't fix everything but it does fix us. Here people tend to trust him in suffering more easily, perhaps because life is tougher. We are learning so much about trusting God in new ways. Please continue to pray for us and yourselves, a closer walk with God.

Bless you all,

Neil and Suzi



Photos from top to bottom: Stuck in the mud in Kajokeji; We cross the majestic Nile every time we travel south to Kampala – the ferry is reliable but a bit time consuming, and can take 15 minutes or two hours depending on one's arrival time and the queue; The Sunday school leads the church service occasionally.



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