



# Kingdom Wok Ministries Int.

## December 2016 Newsletter

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When we have road construction in the US there are either flaggers or detours to keep the traffic directed. No so in Uganda. While there are a few flaggers, mostly the traffic is controlled by speed-bumps. Last week as we were driving back to the airport we came to one section of road, about 10 miles long that was under construction. Within that 10 miles there were 168 gravel speed-bumps! It was my 4<sup>th</sup> time over this section of road and my curiosity got the best of me, so with nothing else to do but ride, I counted the speed-bumps.

You may not realize it, but speed-bumps come in many sizes and conditions. While they are all basically the same design, they are not identical. For example, some of them have been worn down by semi trucks, and they are fairly flat and easy to negotiate. Some are higher than



others, and some are wider than others. A few of the speed-bumps have a "pre speed-bump chuckhole" that makes the transition even more difficult. Some of the speed-bumps accompany a deep hole for an upcoming culvert, and some even are in the middle of a nice paved part of the road. Like I said, there are all kinds of speed-bumps.

Having finished that particular stretch of road, I could relax; my speed-bump counting time was over. I began to reflect on the recently accomplished mission, you know, the things that went well, the schedules we had to change, the things

that didn't go so well, and so forth. I thought of the people we met and visited with, including several new folks on this trip, and I reflected back on the meetings and interpersonal relationships that are so deeply important. I thought in sorrow about the funeral that took place for one of our students just prior to my arrival, and I smiled with joy as I thought about the wedding that was taking place for one of our Hope Africa employees as I was driving to the airport. I love reflecting on both the good and the not-so-good, so we can try to do better whenever the "next time" comes. And then it hit me: speed-bumps---of all kinds--- are a part of life.

At times in life we hit the small speed-bumps. Maybe we have a flat tire, run out of gas, or get a traffic ticket. These are all quite inconvenient and frustrating and sometimes costly, but little harm is done in the big scheme of things. We take care of the problem and move forward. Sometimes we are traveling along the smooth road of life and out of nowhere---I mean totally unexpectedly---we hit a bump that sends us for a jolt. We didn't expect it or even see it coming, and we are rattled. Perhaps a good relationship that we have finds a snag; a disagreement over something that you thought was a "nothing" or "no-brainer." Maybe one of our children falls and gets hurt, or one of our parents all of a sudden takes a turn in health that surprises us. Those "bumps" are more difficult, and often take awhile to overcome.

Sometimes life seems to have us by the throat, and every time we go forward, back, left, or right, we seem to be pulling the rope that is around our neck. We loose a job, the house payment is over due, or the car needs costly major mechanical repairs. Worse yet, a loved one gets cancer, is in an accident of some sort, or .....one of those awful events happens to us. It seems like there is no winning. And then there are the worse-case scenarios: loved ones suffer and die. Our children or grandchildren are in the hospital with something "unknown" or needing a treatment that is yet to be determined.

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It is during these times that our faith is rattled like a scuba diver inside a cage watching great white sharks. "God, where are you?" "Please God, I beg you with all my heart: let it be me that gets sick and not my grandchild!" "Take me, not her."

Thoughts rattle through our minds so quickly and sincerely as we seek ways to get God to do things our way instead of His. Don't get me wrong: I am the guiltiest of this. When it comes to my kids or grandkids I would take all their suffering and pain if I could ....but I can't... and I shouldn't. Those speed-bumps are under the control of our Savior, and it is exactly when the bumps get the most difficult that I need to slow down, keep my eyes on the road of life in Him, and know that He is the master builder who is in control **FOR THE BEST FOR ALL OF US**. "For I know the plans that I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."(Jeremiah 29:11) Thank God that He is on our side at all times, in all situations.....ALWAYS!

I traveled with Mick Black this last trip. Mick LOVES the Ugandans at K & K. He has a heart for the cooks in the school, to make their lives easier and healthier, and this trip Mick made giant leaps to help those ladies. By the time we left there were four (4) InStoves in the K & K kitchen building. InStoves require very little fuel, and have almost zero smoke emissions. They cook the food more quickly and efficiently, and the women can breath fresh air while cooking instead of gasping for breath in a smoke-filled room. The stoves were a MAJOR blessing and Mick is to be commended for his perseverance in finding them.



In addition, we were able to design and order two more buildings for the K & K School complex: the secondary school building, and the women's ministry building. The secondary school will allow our K & K area kids to continue their education after primary school. The women's ministry building will house the sewing project right away, as well as temporary housing for a few young girls who need to stay at the school for their own benefit. It will also hold the future mill that will grind maize (corn) into flour. This will be both a money maker for the school, and a convenience for the community. In addition it will save the school funding that they are not spending to outsource their maize grinding. It will have a two-year payoff time if all goes as planned.

There was a great and glorious Christmas celebration at the school on the day prior to our arrival. We thank God for another year of school for the kids, and their parents are continually thankful that their children might have a future like the children from schools in big towns. The Lord continues to bless the efforts there, and we give Him all the glory.

2016 was a great year for KMI in Uganda. We were able to participate in a great medical team serving hundreds, build three (3) new buildings, institute some rainwater collection systems, and put in two very wonderful borehole wells. In addition to that, we were able to host a week-long evangelism festival where over 30 souls came to Christ, and were also able to provide funding to purchase land for K & K's first church-plant in Atari, a village about 5 Km. from K & K. Make no mistake: we take NO credit for the work. Truly, it is only by the leading and the grace of God through His Son Jesus, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit that these things can happen. We want it known throughout the world that God is still God; Jesus is His King and still resides on the throne, and the Holy Spirit still lives and works in the heart of men & women, boys & girls.

Please know that we thank you for listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit. Because you have heard Him and followed His guidance, we have been able to continue moving forward with Jeremiah 29:11. Thank you for giving to the Lord. Someday, in heaven, you will be able to meet the people whose lives you touched. Be ready: for they are many!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Serving Him,

D.C.