

## **“Lord, what do you think I should focus on?”**

Although not a “prayer warrior” I have discovered the secret shared by Andrew Murray so long ago—to as much as possible, remain in a mindset of prayer; open to HIS momentary leading. This is especially helpful when writing about things He has done. So, as I peered into 2025, I prayed.

Suddenly it felt like Christmas past, delighting in childhood memories! I had always enjoyed the fun of Christmas anticipation, finally opening my gift, maybe the one I was squeezing Christmas eve because curiosity got the better of me.

I had prayed that simple prayer and a photo came to mind; that’s all I needed. I was “young Don” again, enjoying my gift. This gift was a collage of photos accumulated over 2024 as we taught and equipped pastors from Uganda, South Sudan, Kenya and Rwanda, all with the Life Essentials Study Bible at our pastor equipping centre. Marty and I had been part of several of those sessions and to this day we enjoy so many moments - pastors’ echoes of gratitude for their new Life Essentials Study Bible that helps them prepare deeper messages for their churches; of some who shared they could never afford Bible college but now they can learn in depth; and watching pastors normally reserved, dancing before the Lord in open delight as King David once did.

And then as we introduced closing ceremonies that included worship through dance and song, led by our staff and even joined by female pastors, our outdoor classroom felt like a touch of heaven; multiple tribes, from multiple nations all worshipped the King of Kings! Some stared...one pastor had never seen a video projection image and was shocked to see men walking on the wall...some bowed...some raised hands and some even wept. Every moment is a memory—a unique gift!

This collage reminded me of so many precious moments that even now are impacting at least 250 churches this year, as newly equipped men and women of God expound as never before. I just wanted to stay in that moment.

## **RESURRECTED CHURCH**

But another photo jumped in front and now I was looking at The Wanjeyo True Light Church. Only months earlier, it had faced devastation when a major storm knocked it flat. Some local witchcraft practitioners had even performed middle-of-the-night activities against it, as Pastor Godfrey prayed inside at 4:00 AM.

Pastor Godfrey had responded to God’s call here over 8 years ago, investing every accumulated gift so the village could have the first church ever built here. But when nature seemed to take the side of evil, Godfrey could only stand in the heap of twisted metal and broken wood, waiting on God for His response. Like Andrew Murray and like me, and so many others of faith, Godfrey knew he should remain in the moment before God.

That response came when a friend of our ministry heard of the problem and immediately committed support to begin the reconstruction. But as others heard, they wanted to add their gifts to make the church even better; with concrete floor; and water collection and windows and even some chairs. People would no longer borrow chairs to come to church. There would be chairs in the house of the Lord!

I was so humbled to take photos of the newly constructed True Light Church just before returning to Canada. It felt so good to open this gift. But as it happens there was more.

As Christmas neared, I received a few more photos from Godfrey, excitedly showing us the church’s first Christian leaders conference for two villages. Godfrey had been part of our Life Essentials equipping some months earlier and *now he was teaching others...*all in the new True Light Church, freshly resurrected.

## **GOOD TASTE**

I was getting a taste for this “gift thing”. Soon the Lord reminded me of another. A few years earlier, we had gifted a church with a video projector so they might be equipped for their outreach activities. But every time we came to Uganda, our focus was drawn to so many things—we just could not get there for a visit.

Then, just before Christmas, our driver Jackson who attends this energetic church, sent us a few photos, sharing the church’s Sunday school class. Jackson has a soft spot for children, something we have seen in every remote village training we have done over the years. He is always asking for a soccer ball or net ball (girls) or just anything else that might encourage children.

But this time he did not want a soccer ball. Instead, he asked us to pray about a portable speaker, like the one we use at our pastor equipping center for outdoor worship time. In Jackson’s Sunday school class there were at least 100 children outside because they could not fit in limited class space together. Looking at this 100+ class size, we knew in a couple of weeks when Christmas arrived, it would likely double and no number of raised voices could communicate the Gospel to so many effectively without help. So, we sent them a portable battery powered speaker with microphones.

In response they sent us a photo of Jackson, our second driver Patrick and the pastor’s wife in prayer with the children, all focused on this new gift for them. It was so humbling to see children openly grateful for a Christmas gift that helps them to hear the gospel, and with arms extended in prayerful gratitude, I believe the heart of God was moved for them.

What could be a better gift for them or us, to know He is pleased?

# LIFE ESSENTIALS CLASSES



**JAN 2024 - DEC 2024**

## **GIFT OF WATER**

I don't ever remember receiving a Christmas gift of water, but this time we did. Just two days before Christmas a cheque arrived in our mailbox, for our water need in Kkumbya.

We have written much about our coffee projects in Uganda which are designed to one day become the "donors" that will sustain pastor equipping for the next 25 years once profit from sales reached our planned threshold.

And I have written much about our rainwater collection systems and our conserving drip irrigation systems, but we have been in early growth stages, not yet aware of actual water need. We plan with contingency in mind, but we can never assume on rainfall. Our most recent rainy season reminded us of this reality. In fact, our anticipated rainwater collection only reached 60% of last season's accumulation, leaving our young coffee trees in stress for weeks until next rains actually came. The solution was easy but as usual, it would cost.

## **GRAVITY**

Our plan was simple; create a 60,000 litre inground water cistern half way down Kkumbya Hill, and channel downhill rainwater flow into the waiting cistern when rains came. When rainy season stopped, the accumulated rainwater would supplement other already accumulated water supply, helping with irrigation.

However, we needed \$5,000 USD to build such a system and I had planned to include this in our 2025 publication. But, before I could pick up my pen, I already had the full amount in my hand. A quick call to my donor/friend confirmed this was his family's goal also.

I just love the gifts of God and how He enables His people to share them at strategic moments like these.

## **PASTOR EQUIPPING**

In spite of the Christmas postal strike, we were so grateful to see gifts for pastor equipping, Bibles, radios for refugees and more, arrive through E- transfer or Canada Helps or just phone calls to our office. Thank you!

## **BIGGEST SURPRISE**

I have been very cautious about sharing this opportunity, but it seems time to do that now.

As COVID first wrapped its tentacles around our world and our lives, even basics like communication were interrupted and, in some cases, cut off; this was our reality that set off what would feel like a perfect storm.

As COVID began, our Ugandan country manager died suddenly, resulting in pain for his family and all who worked with him in our ministry. Since he had been our sole communicator with all government agencies, all communication with them also stopped. We had not realized how critical this was until about a year later we suddenly received notice our broadcast license for Youth FM had been terminated by default since our license renewal had not been submitted. Only our manager would have that capability at the time, and he was no longer able. We initiated the appeal process and on three separate occasions we were denied. No reasons given-no discussions allowed. It was just over!



- 1 | WANJEYO TRUE LIGHT CHURCH LEADERSHIP TRAINING
- 2 | WANJEYO GROUP PHOTO
- 3 | GLORY CENTER CHURCH CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 4 | DEDICATING NEW SPEAKER FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS
- 5 | CISTERN NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION
- 6 | YOUTH FM IN AMURIA TOWN
- 7 | YOUTH FM ON AIR BEFORE SHUTDOWN

## COMMUNITY

Over the years Youth FM had been on the air, we were aware people in TESO region enjoyed the music, the news and the Biblical messages, from local and international programming we had arranged for them. But when their radios went silent, messages of gratitude became messages of concern.

Families had quite literally been salvaged as members responded to the teachings of God; youth had reportedly begun respecting parents and elders, causing sweet shock waves in surrounding villages; community leaders had a voice with which to communicate the many government supports available to them (NB many rural villages today still utilize a village loudspeaker to share government news updates, akin to the town crier of old). And churches were beyond grateful that Youth FM openly shared Jesus, allowing pastors to come and do the same.

There was a sweet community harmony that was deepening with time...

But as the station stopped speaking, community leaders, government leaders, church leaders and many community members, came to the station regularly, requesting us to switch back on; we explained we could not disobey government decision...we remained silent and we prayed...much! In fact, everyone prayed much!

And then like a wave that grew larger and larger, surrounding villages started accumulating signatures of people imploring their own leaders to allow us back on the air. In the end, 10,000 signatures were given to authorities. Those signatures and testimonies were just too overwhelming; I now pressed into the Lord as never before. I just could not abandon people who so desperately wanted Christian radio...but what could I do? I was at the very moment when we had exhausted ourselves financially with appeals that I decided to prepare our team for sale of our radio station. After three stressful years, my choices were finally gone!

## LAST MINUTE

I will never forget this moment or where I was when I received the text message. But less than 5 minutes after I told our Ugandan president we would sell everything, a short text message from a major church leader simply said "...please hold on from selling...we are trying again..." and went on to say he had a friend who might help. I stood there in my room, eyes frozen on the screen...**how could he know what I had discussed only 5 minutes earlier with another man here in Kampala?**

There was no explanation except the Lord was somehow raising help for us at a time when we were simply at the end of our capability. He hit the pause button. Those altar-in-the-wilderness moments are so important to walking with the Lord and I count them as among the greatest of gifts; communication from heaven.

That friend became an advocate that took up the challenge, seeing this radio silence as a deep wound on the collective spirit of a community still struggling with insurgency recovery. That advocacy took on the passion of a leader whose vision could not allow failure; subsequent communication managed to reach the right people in the right places and soon our radio license renewal process was back in play-3 years after it had been lost.

## ONE MORE GIFT?

After a three-year silence, we have much to do and buy, including a new transmitter (\$4,000) and a new 80 m tower (\$30,000) and a new solar power supply (\$8,000). We will be allowed reasonable time to accomplish this, but if the Lord can resurrect a discouraged leader (guess who) then I know He can provide the rest.

I assume nothing, but I am obedient to share and to ask for your prayers...this feels like one of those spiritual moments that will one day be considered historical as well. Join us in this moment before the Lord!

Don



MARTY AND OUR LIFE ESSENTIALS WORSHIP TEAM

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**PLEASE COMPLETE THE PORTION BELOW AND RETURN IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED. THANK YOU.**

My gift of  \$50  \$100  \$500  Other

**January 2025**

Make cheques payable to: High Adventure Gospel Communication Ministries

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**Marla-Marty-Wayne-Don**

I have served the Lord alongside my good friend and a true man of God, Wayne Hill, for 42 years; 20 of those years under his leadership as our board chairman. Wayne and I travelled mission fields in Africa, Indonesia and Haiti, building Christian communities through radio, agriculture, education and medical projects. His glass was always half full and his genuine demeanor was deeply appreciated in every culture he served.

Wayne now enjoys the presence of his Lord, having completed his Eph 2:10 service on Nov 30, 2024.