



Staying in Touch

What a reason to celebrate
He is Alive!

Volume 14 - Issue 4

April 2021

Points of Interest:

- **Amulu Engaged**
- **Campus Needs**
- **Empty Cross**

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Dear Friends,

Greetings in the Name of our Lord!

First, thanks for those of you who reached out to us in our calamity from having our house flooded mid-February during the arctic freeze. We have now been in a hotel for 43 days. Painting and sheetrock work is going on now; flooring will follow; but it looks like it could be another four weeks before our kitchen cabinets will be delivered.

Moving on to the other side of the world in India, great things are happening! We covet your prayers as we move each step of our journey. God is able!



First, our Ms. Amulu who is on our HTCS staff as well as having been our Girls Warden for years is now engaged to Mr. Johny. You can see in the pictures to the left them buying their rings for their engagement ceremony on March 17. We send them our love, our congratulations and every blessing for the years ahead.

All three couples who were married in December conceived but sadly one of them miscarried – so keep them in your prayers? Prayerfully they will be stronger for it!

Sadly, we lost our nightwatchman to an ongoing illness. He had been with us off and on for several years. He will be missed. Pray for his family.

Next, all our HTCS students are full steam ahead in higher studies. Unfortunately, many of the extension students were not able to carry on. We're hopeful they will return as their circumstances change. COVID19 and the economic effects have devastated many families in India.





FROM SAM: Greetings to you in the name of our Lord God! Trust you are all doing well by His grace and mercy. Words can't express how your prayers and support has been transforming many a life here for the Glory of God.

GHI campus is once again bustling with plenty of activity with children going to school, Bible College and Seminary students attending classes and the campus workers working on the farm and keeping the campus clean. We thank God for the paved road that runs the length of the campus, side walls and streetlights.

We also want to thank those of you who have supported in digging the second bore well and providing water for drinking, washing, gardening and construction purpose. Now to a more serious situation that we have been avoiding far too long!

Snakes on the campus and inside the buildings

Though we enjoy the facilities and the beauty of a rural campus, for the last 18 years we have lived with constant fear of snakes, scorpions, stray dogs, fox, wild boar, and wild cats that enter our campus from the hill side above us. But we are now seeing all of them escalating.

We are seeing an unusual amount that are now continually on the campus. In fact, in our own house, our worst fears became a reality as six snakes entered our home over the last few years. Four of them were deadly vipers. In fact, 'Fayma' my wife, got up in the middle of the night and stepped on one of them on the kitchen floor. Thank God it did not bite her. Not long ago we smelled something foul in our bedroom and found a dead viper under our bed (vipers are more deadly than cobras). We still do not know how it came in or how it died, but we know that God protected us by his grace.

Last year we found a cobra near the chapel; and a couple of months back, we found a cobra in the college student dining hall. Just last month, a cobra was about to enter the boy's dorm at the orphanage. And we have also killed many vipers on the pathway that runs the length of the campus.

**Do not be
anxious about
anything, but in
everything by
prayer and
petition, with
thanksgiving,
present your
requests to God.
Philippians 4:6-7**

Reasons for the snakes (and other animals) on the campus

The south and east boundaries of our campus are well protected by a solid brick wall, but the north and the west boundaries have only metal barbed wire fencing, thus creating a passage for the snakes to enter the campus.

The regular summer fires have further cracked the concrete posts that held the barbed wires and thus creating an opening for other animals to enter the campus. As a result, many stray dogs have entered the campus and attacked our goats and taken away our baby chickens. Also, wild boar are coming in groups and destroying our crops in the night. And it is against the law to attempt to kill them.

The need for a wall and fence along the hill side to secure our campus.

So where do we go from here? After consulting our contractor who knows our campus and its needs, he has suggested that to secure the northwest side of the campus, we should have a 3' cement wall for 150', following with 6' chain link fencing for 1,150' with 6' cement posts every 6' apart. Attached to the



bottom of the chain link will be a 3' metal mesh to prevent the snakes from passing through the fence. We believe that this would at least give 80% protection. Brothers and Sisters, prayerfully I hope you can help us protect the little children in the orphanage and the Bible College students, Campus staff and our own family from the snakes and other animals by providing for this urgent need.



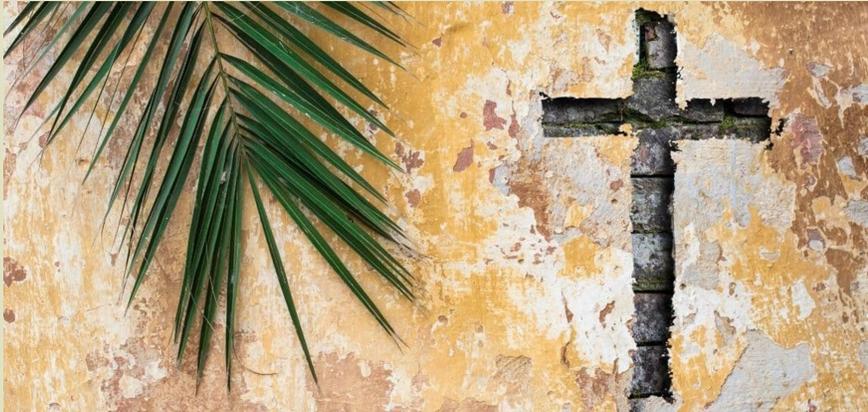
The cost is almost \$11,000 and we have received \$2,200 here in India and that is enough to get the work started, so please continue to pray for us as we remember all of you in prayer.

Lots of love,

Sam and Fayma

Be Thankful But Don't Camp Under the Empty Cross

by [Katherine Walden](#)



As is my yearly practice, as this is Holy Week on the Christian calendar, I will be reading each narrative found in the Bible that portrays the immediate events that led up to the Cross. I will pause and feast on Jesus' great discourse in John 14-17. I will pause and somberly reflect on His sufferings and ultimate sacrifice.

Please never doubt, I am eternally grateful for Christ's sacrifice and the redemption He bought on my behalf through His suffering on the cross.

However, I will never take full advantage of all that was purchased for me on that day if I set up camp at the base of the cross and never budge.

Jesus is no longer on the cross; His horrific physical ordeal is over. He is no longer in the tomb. His victory over death is eternal.

Jesus is alive!

*John 20:11-18 – “But Mary was standing outside the tomb, weeping; so as she wept, she stooped to look into the tomb; and she *saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. And they *said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She *said to them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they put Him.” When she had said this, she turned around and *saw Jesus standing there, and yet she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus *said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Thinking that He was the gardener, she *said to Him, “Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you put Him, and I will take Him away.” Jesus *said to her, “Mary!” She turned, and *said to Him in Hebrew, “Rabboni!” (which means, Teacher). Jesus *said to her, “Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene *came and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord,” and that He had said these things to her.*

Jesus did not allow Mary to dwell at the empty tomb for long. No! He sent her out with this charge. Go! Tell! Bring the good news to the others! Live the life I died for, and live it well!

Galatians 2:20 – “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

Paul asserts, “I HAVE BEEN crucified with Christ.” Note the past tense – he doesn't use the active present tense. I am not hanging on the cross; my old man has died! I don't need to re-crucify myself to prove my loyalty to Him. I don't always have to picture Jesus on the cross to show how grateful I am for His victory.

The life I NOW live, post-crucifixion, is a life lived IN and THROUGH the One who conquered death. Jesus calls me forward and calls us to live an abundant life.

While I live my life always mindful of the price paid on the cross by His sacrifice, I don't just stop there. I try to live each day fully utilizing the power, freedom, and victory that was won on Resurrection Day!

I invite you to join me. Pause, reflect, put yourself in Jesus' story this week, let the weight of that sacrifice sink in, but then...

Go! Thrive! Bless others, do the works Christ called you to do today and do so with joy and with the knowledge that your Heavenly Father loves when His children take full advantage of all He has given them.

John 10:10 – “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

Every blessing to you all during this Easter Celebration Time!

Mack and Dottie