

FEBRUARY 2018

Fire and faith



Mike and Marianne Botting, EI missionaries living in Pader, Northern Uganda, lost their home to a fire on 22 January 2018.

They have been living in the round house for the 6 years they have been in Uganda, but during a very windy day in Pader a bush fire not far from their home sent sparks to their thatched roof, which caught fire. They had taken measures a couple weeks ago to clear grass near their house, but this did not stop the fire which was started through a spark blown onto the thatch roof... Just after they finished eating lunch, their house began to burn.

Mike and Marianne said “We are so thankful that there was nobody hurt, and even many of our things were saved. People emerged from all around, carrying water and helping to receive the things that a very courageous few were throwing out the door... For about an hour! We were awed and amazed how people unquestioningly put their own safety at risk for us today. We felt the grace of God in a deeper and more real way than perhaps ever before.

When we told them we never expected to recover anything from the house, and how humbled we were at their selflessness in rescuing many things from the house, they just said, “This

'Do not fear [anything], for I am with you;
Do not be afraid, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you, be assured I will help you;
I will certainly take hold of you with My righteous right hand [a hand of justice, of power, of victory, of salvation].'

Isaiah 41:10 AMP



is what we do in Acholiland.” *An old woman tenderly took my hand and told me to keep trusting in God. She’s had her house burned down twice, and yet God has always provided. We’ve been receiving phone calls from all over from friends who heard and are calling to comfort us.*

We are deeply sad to have lost where we called home for the past (almost) six years (next week!), and also to have lost keepsakes and some valuables. But we have a deep peace that we know comes from God. In fact, He had prepared us for it through a friend who had been burdened two nights ago to share some verses with us, among them Isaiah 41:10!”

The night of the fire, Mike, Marianne and Elias were graciously offered accommodation at Christian Counseling Fellowship Guesthouse, until they could either rebuild or find a rental, and have been welcomed like family by the dear staff there. They, and we, are so thankful to the administration of CCF (Alice Achan and Denis Olak) for helping them out in this hugely generous way!

Advised not to make any hasty decisions about rebuilding, but to prayerfully take



time to step back and consider what is best for the ministry, they are renting a home to allow the proper time to seek the Lord.

Mike, Marianne and Elias say a great big thank you to:

- the many people who sent money and words of encouragement, and who have prayed for us
- Kampala International Church and Missionary Aviation Fellowship, who sent love gifts up on the plane twice to Pader
- Rev. Charles who took the lead in searching for our apartment, and to the District Local Government who rushed our approval (we learned afterwards this process can take months)
- God for not only providing a place to live, but godly neighbours and children for Elias to play with.



Rev Charles on the veranda of the new apartment

Emmanuel International UK Conference and AGM



The EIUK Conference took place on 27 January 2018, and was attended by more than 50 people, some of whom we have not seen for a while! It was a wonderful day of catching up, both about the work of EI and the lives of those who came to share the day with us.

We are very grateful to St John's Church, Southbourne, who hosted us this year. We are thankful to the church's catering team who provided a delicious and filling lunch at a very good price.

The speakers this year included **Fred Silva** and **Tarcísio Porto**, our EI missionaries from Brazil. Fred and

Tarcísio shared about the work they are doing in the different areas of Brazil. It was so great to welcome them and their wives, **Carla** and **Jurema**, to our meeting.

Tom Edom, who had recently returned from Uganda - after 6 years in Pader - gave an informative overview of life in Uganda, the work that he was involved in and the people he got to know. It was good to get a glimpse of what travelling in Uganda was like, and what the country looks like!

The team who went to Tanzania in the summer of 2017, from St Peter's Church



Fred Silva



Tarcísio Porto



Tom Edom



Richard McGowan



Chris Parrott and James Rogers

Farnborough, was also represented and **James Rogers** and **Chris Parrott** shared about the work they did in Ikuka and the experiences they had. It was wonderful to hear how much short term mission trips mean to those who go and those we serve.

We had an opportunity for a short Skype call with **Andrew and Miriam Wingfield** and their children **Ben, Sam and Bethany**. The Wingfield family have finished their time in Iringa, Tanzania and were en route to the UK after 13 years as EI Country Representatives.

Richard and Pam McGowan, from EI Canada, were in the UK and also joined us - a real blessing. Richard filled us in on the latest news from Canada.

We welcomed and appreciated all those who attended, but would like to single out our founders, **John and Thelma Carroll**. The group included many long-term supporters, new supporters, board members and alumni.

The AGM took place after lunch and was dealt with efficiently by the new Chairman of the Board, **Clive Tydeman**.

As ever, the conference was a successful opportunity for meeting, chatting, eating, worshipping and praying. We hope you can join us (again) next year!



Dates for your diary

Board Meeting: 27 April 2018 in Oxford.