

**International
Teams**

in partnership with



**Christian Reformed
World Missions**

BEYOND NEWS

The Sliedrecht Situation

April 2007

The Beginning...

After months of preparing, speaking, sorting, and packing, the day had finally arrived for us to make our journey to Uganda. On Feb. 19 we packed our vehicle FULL with our luggage and left for the airport. After a long and frustrating check in process, we spent time hugging our family and friends and saying very difficult good-byes.



**At the Airport
Guarding Our Luggage**

Our plane flights went really well. Avalien played nicely and quietly and also slept a lot. Tim and I didn't get sick—Praise God! Our first week was spent in the

MAKING THE MOVE



...From Kampala to Soroti...

capital, Kampala. We needed the time to adjust to the 8 hour time difference and to buy supplies, furniture and appliances. It was a definite blessing to get our 8 passenger 4x4 van shortly after we arrived!

LIFE IN SOROTI

We have now been in Soroti for 8 weeks... The first few days were quite overwhelming. It was hot, the electricity was out more than on, we needed to unpack but had no cupboards, closets, shelves, or dressers in which to put our things and our house was home to a few too many cockroaches and



Avalien Lost in Luggage

With many tears we walked away and headed towards our plane...to our new life. Good-byes are never easy. It is hard to describe the emotions that we felt that day—fear, anticipation, excitement, and sadness. Yet, in the midst of all the emotions, we felt your prayers and God's all surpassing peace. God has a plan for us in Uganda and we held on closely to that!

ants. With no electricity our fridge didn't work and we weren't able to get the gas for our stove, so we couldn't cook. We asked ourselves a few times "what are we doing here and why did we leave N. America?" But, with each new day we felt better and better about our lives and ministry in Soroti and what God had in store for us here. We are blessed to be able to rent a small duplex with Josh, Mandy, Lydia and Grace Shaarda, Angie's sister and her family. It has been wonderful having family as teammates! Our neighborhood is on the out- skirts of town near the IDP (Internally Displaced Peoples) Camps. We are reminded daily of why we are here... the needs are ☺



Tim Blowing Bubbles for the Neighborhood Kids

ANGELINA



cont'd...

so great and are all around us! There is a lot of sadness and hardship in the lives of the Ugandan people. It is hard to know how we can help. We pray for wisdom daily. We pray that God may work through us to love and serve the people of Uganda.

Tim has started teaching a course on Discipleship at Bethel Bible College. He also takes Ateso language classes 5 afternoons a week. When he isn't teaching or learning there is always a project around the house to do!

Avalien and Angie stay very busy at home.



Buying food at market, cooking and cleaning are time consuming tasks—especially in a foreign country! Avalien is doing well. She seems to like her new home now and is adjusting. She loves having her cousins, Lydia and Grace, as neighbors!! She really enjoys going for walks and seeing all of her new friends. Many people here are very curious about this little black girl with white parents! Avalien is a joy to us and also to our Uganda neighbors...she is a bright light around here!

We have decided to reserve this section to introduce to you people that God has placed in our lives... people that we have grown close to. Angelina is one of those people. She is 60 years old and lives with her three sons, two of whom she is trying to put through school but is failing due to major debt, and the other of whom is severely suffering from throat and sinus cancer, unable to get treatment due to lack of funds (Ben, the spotlight of our next newsletter). You see, Angelina lost her sight due to measles when she was five years old and had to have her eyes removed. Along the way, she also lost husband. As an elderly blind widow, she is part of one of the poorest, most marginalized groups in Uganda. Widows have basically no rights, losing not only their husbands but often everything else to their husbands' families/villages, even their children. The blind are generally ignored and are socially, emotionally, physically educationally, and spiritually neglected by not only society and the government but also by the church and their families. On top of that, Angelina is an Internally Displaced Person forced to leave her village due to the violence of the Karamajong tribe and the Lord's Resistance Army.

While life for Angelina has been extremely difficult, it is through these difficulties that she has grown strong and that God is using her for His kingdom. Full of God's love and a passion to reach out to the blind of Iteso, Angelina, along with five others, formed a non-profit ministry, Soroti Agriculture and Craft Association for the Blind. Their goal is three-fold: to build up blind people to live normal lives and provide for their families' needs through mobility, vocational, business and skills training; to help churches disciple the blind; and to increase community/church sensitivity to the blind. However, their progress has been slow and they are struggling greatly. As such we, as a team, have decided to partner with them.

Since Josh and Tim have taken on Angelina (and her colleague Francis – in the photo) as their Ateso language teachers about a month ago, they have come to see her as a true friend in Christ and an unsung hero, a Christ-like example for all to look up to, regardless if you can see or not, opening your eyes to the love of Christ and the gift of the blind.

ADOPTION

We are excited to announce that we are in the process of adopting a Ugandan baby from Amani Baby Cottage. Amani is a Christian Orphanage located in Jinja, about 3 hours from Soroti. We wait on the Lord's perfect timing, but plan to have our baby placed in our arms after July.

Check out Amani's website at www.amanibabycottage.org



Avalien at Amani

PRAYER

Pray for

- the adoption process
- wisdom in knowing who and how to help
- Angelina and progress in her ministry to the blind
- Angelina's son Ben as he is in a lot of pain and needs healing
- Tim's teaching and learning

Praise God for

- health and safety
- a wonderful landlord who allows us to renovate
- Angelina and the new Ministry Partnership with SACAB
- water after a month without
- the people and opportunities God has placed in our lives

Send Financial Support to:

International Teams, Attn: Receipting Dept, 411 W. River Rd., Elgin, IL 60123
 (847)531-2203 michell.martinez@iteams.org
 Make checks payable to International Teams & write **Tim & Angie Sliedrecht** on the memo line

You can also send gifts online by credit card at: <http://www.iteams.org/iteams/>
 (in the **Where to Give** box, type **Tim & Angie Sliedrecht**)



<http://teambeyond.spaces.live.com>

New Ugandan Address
 Letters, Packages
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 can be sent here

ONLY LETTERS
 can be sent here

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BEYOND NEWS: THE SLIEDRECHT SITUATION

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