AFRICA 2.0
THE REAR & BACK AGAIN
By Kay Tronsen

It wasn’t easy – leaving sandals, 85 degrees, and our African friends behind to return to six degrees and a cold, white landscape, but we are back! Our second trip to Uganda was fabulous! Dale and I, Sandra Hunt, our daughter, and seven-year-old grandson, Connor, had a grand adventure together. December 20, 2016, to January 6, 2017, gave us 15 days full of experiences. I thought for my first article, I would try to give you an overview of our trip. The hard part is not having it turn into “My Favorite Vacation” which causes everyone to tune out or change the channel! So bear with me, and I’ll really try not to bury you in too many details. I will save my reflections for another time . . .

December 21-22, 2016 – We stayed in Entebbe (which is where the airport is located). Our traveling began with a driver named Fred Bayingana, recommended by the guy at the desk where we were staying. Before I left Palouse, I had prayed God would give us the right drivers and take care of us as we traveled. And He gave us Fred, a Christian young man with a college degree in development who hires out his van and his driving skills to earn money since jobs are hard to come by. He is married with two young daughters; plus, he has taken in his sister-in-law, and his brother as well as a homeless boy! They all live in Entebbe in a small, two-room place. He is an administrative assistant for his church, plus leads worship, and he helped found a ministry to 25 homeless boys in Kampala. Fred has such a heart for ministry and for Christ. He would like to be a pastor someday. What an answer to prayer! Through Fred, we had our first experiences with monkeys, up close and cute, at the Botanical Gardens in Entebbe, and Connor got the opportunity to chase ugly, huge storks at the beach! Seriously ugly, these birds stand as tall as Connor. I think they are Africa’s version of sea gulls – we saw them at garbage dumps, wherever there were lots of people eating, and, once, we even saw them fight one another.

December 23, 2016 – Fred drove us from Entebbe, through Kampala, to Jinja, a 78-mile trip that took us six hot, sweaty hours due to the mass of travelers leaving to join families for Christmas. We averaged 13 miles an hour in bumper-to-bumper traffic. It was too late (and we were too tired) to go out to the orphanage that night, but we did get to see Alex Nkayi and Pastor Martin and make plans.

December 24 through December 31, 2016, found us either at the orphanage or shopping for the orphanage, or doing things with folks See Africa, Page 2
from the orphanage. December 24th was spent shopping for food before driving the 16 miles to the orphanage in Buweera. When we arrived at the orphanage that first day, it felt like coming home; greeting those we knew from before, receiving hugs of welcome. The children were waiting patiently; apparently they knew we came bearing gifts! They were big-eyed and watched every move.

We unloaded our Christmas Box cargo into Pastor Martin’s house; then Pastor Martin’s new wife, Mary, and I did an accounting of the boxes that made it (the airlines lost a bag so some boxes were lost – more about that later). She was able to reorganize and repack so that everyone got something. Pastor Martin said this was the first Christmas gifts some of these children had ever received. Christmas Day was FULL – breakfast with Alex and his wife, Julia; out to the church for a 2 ½ hour service where I spoke, dressed in a traditional African dress (hot!); then food, celebration, games, relays, dancing and singing, a hike up a mountain with thorns and fresh mangos, more games and lots of laughter. That day ended with a community Christmas movie which we did not stay to see (too late, too tired!) using the projector we brought to them on our last visit.

December 31, 2016 – January 1, 2017 – Fred drove us back to Kampala (which did NOT take six hours this time!) where we had reservations to stay at a place called Red Chili – a step or two up from backpackers (it even had a pool, which Connor heartily approved of!).

January 2- January 4, 2017 marked the Tronsen’s first three-day safari – much too long a tale of driving, baboons, walking, green bananas, elephants, waterfalls, and hippos for this short article! More about that another time.

January 5, 2017 – our scheduled departure was 11:30 pm so we made the most of our last day. We visited a school in Kampala supported by a church in the Spokane Valley; visit-
Are you wanting to read and study the Bible, but not sure where to start?

Are you wanting to be part of a group with PFC—but not sure which one to join?

Then “Starting Point: Bible” is for you. We are offering this once monthly, one-hour class on the first Wednesday of each month. Our next meeting is Feb. 1 at 6:30 p.m.

Pastor Corey and team will lead this group and help give you a good “starting point” with the Bible. The goal of the 6 session class is to give you a Bible introduction, practical help for how to use the Bible in everyday real life, and connect you to your next step.

If you are interested in “Starting Point: Bible” fill out a communication card on Sunday, e-mail Pastor Corey thelaugers@yahoo.com or call his cell (509) 336-9154. Childcare will be provided for any who need it.

March Starting Point: March 1

Oikos means household, or your extended network of relationships. Your Oikos is the 8 to 15 people that are part of your life on a regular basis—friends, family, co-workers, neighbors and people you do business with.

These are people you are called to pray for and serve that no one else can serve like you.

2017 Bible Reading Plans

PFC has a variety of Bible Reading Plans to help you dig deeper into scripture and strengthen your faith. Pick one up in the Fellowship Hall. There also are some electronic Bible Reading Plans available. YouVersion.com offers great plans. Select a plan to read through the Bible in a year, or choose one to deepen your prayer life, grow in your leadership, find purpose in your work or overcome addiction. There’s a plan for everyone.
We’ve been having a lot of “Weather Advisory” notices lately; I am sure you have noticed. I think each of us, as a human being, should come with our own advisory notice: “Imperfect Person Alert.”

We are all imperfect people, and yet we seem to forget this basic fact at times. Oftentimes, we fall into the trap of holding others and ourselves to impossibly perfect standards.

You and I are imperfect people. And that’s okay. God knows it, and loves us still. He wants us to accept and receive His perfect love for us. He wants us to know that “while we were still sinners, He died for us.” (Romans 5:8) God’s love demonstrated to us is this: He loves us not based on our perfect performance in life, but rather His love is a free gift. When we receive this love through faith in Jesus Christ, it instills in us a desire to learn and grow. Even as we learn and grow we are never perfect on our own. But in God’s eyes, through Christ, we always are perfect.

So - we are going to focus on the “[Imperfect] Life” during Lent, which starts March 1. We will focus on our own imperfections in order to draw attention to the amazingness of God’s grace.

- Are you willing to share your “[Imperfect] Life” story? We need a few volunteers to share how God has met you in the midst of your imperfect life and showed perfect love and grace to you. Volunteers will be sharing their stories at our Lenten Soup Suppers.

- Will you give grace to the people in your life? Remembering you are not perfect, and neither are they. If you have been holding someone to an impossibly high standard, it’s time to admit that attitude is wrong. We want to build one another up, and help each other grow - but there’s a big difference between encouraging people and making people feel guilty for their weaknesses.

- Will you confess your imperfections to God (who knows them all anyway) and ask Him to help you grow in those areas as you also grow in appreciating His perfect grace for you?

Imperfect Person Alert: My name is Corey - I’m a sinner, imperfect, and totally in need of God’s perfect love and grace.

 Lent Preparation

- February is a great time for reflective prayer—asking God what He might want you to process during Lent. What does that prior sentence mean? At PFC, we use Lent as an intentional six-week season to give God His rightful place to lead and re-orient our lives around Him and His mission.
- Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 1. Consider putting one of our Ash Wednesday services on your calendar NOW. We’ll be doing Coffee and Ashes at the Green Frog from 6 to 8 AM - you can drop in for a free cup of coffee and receive the imposition of ashes. Or come to PFC at 6 PM for a short worship service, also including receiving of ashes.
- PFC again will host Lenten Soup Suppers on Wednesday nights at 6 PM, starting March 8. Childcare is provided and a variety of family-friendly soups will be available. See Pastor Corey’s column about the theme for this year’s Soup Suppers: “[Imperfect] Life”
Taking on a new leadership role can be really scary—at least for someone like me. I am a planner. I like to think ahead of time about all the different scenarios I may face and how I would handle each of them. When you are doing something for the first time, often you don’t know what to expect—you cannot foresee all the different scenarios. But if you never step out in faith, if you never take on the risk and enter the unknown—you never grow. Every time we are forced to work through a new situation or unexpected roadblock, we learn new skills and collect experience. When you are a leader—the go-to person—it can be humbling to say things like, “I don’t know” or “I’m going to have to figure that out and get back to you.” But, those phrases are both required for leaders who are branching out and learning. You don’t have to know all the answers to be a good leader (thank goodness); you just have to have a passion for the task you are leading and the ambition to find or figure out the answers.

But if you never step out in faith, if you never take on the risk and enter the unknown—you never grow.

Three years ago, along with my good friend Brenda Cook, I stepped out into the unknown and accepted a leadership role in our church as Co-Director of Vacation Bible School. For the past two summers Brenda and I have learned so much and grown as leaders. We’ve learned about organizing, delegation and controlled chaos. With sheer joy we have watched the faces of young children hearing the good news of Jesus Christ and singing songs of praise. We have seen teenagers, adults and seniors give of their valuable time and energy to make a whole week of learning and love possible for the children of our community. At times, it has been difficult, frustrating and tedious but knowing that we are helping to create what is possibly the best week of the summer for the children of Palouse makes it all worth it.

After careful deliberation and much prayer, Brenda and I have decided to step down from VBS leadership this year. Who will take our place? It is a question others have asked us and we have asked ourselves. We are praying and believing that someone will step up. Brenda and I both are willing to mentor/assist anyone who feels called to take on this role. We want to help our successor(s) be successful. Are you being called to branch out into the unknown and do something scary? Are you being called to lead? If you would like to discuss the possibility of taking on this important ministry please talk to Brenda Cook, Pastor Corey or me. We would love to answer your questions and pray with you. Just because something is scary doesn’t mean it isn’t worth doing. In fact, often the things most rewarding are those things we do despite our fear.

ROSS POINT WOMEN’S RETREAT
April 21-23, 2017

Our theme is "Having A Mary Spirit," a weekend retreat with DVD speaker and author, Joanna Weaver, who will teach us how to allow God to change us from the inside out while we focus on his saving grace. It’s a special all-area retreat just for women to grow closer to God and to each other with wonderful object lessons, discussions and scriptures.

Our Ladies Bible Study group will be directing the retreat; wonderful music and worship will be led by Kay Tronsen, Tracy Lee Sievers and Nancy Dernell.

The retreat begins on Friday evening with dinner and session and goes through Sunday morning, ending with worship. Mark your calendars ladies! And invite a friend to join you. More information will be found online at www.rosspoint.org soon.
Prayers for these individuals and families:

- Pray for the family of Carol Towne.
- Pray for Bruce Baldwin’s bone marrow transplant.
- Pray for Patty Myott and her declining eyesight.
- Pray for Donna Thompson (cancer)
- Pray for Virginia Baldwin
- Pray for Callie Anderson (4-year-old with cancer)
- Pray for Judy Hart (stroke)
- Pray for Sue Foster (cancer)
- Pray for Brenda Brown (cancer)
- Pray for Meredith Willcox-Norris (cancer)
- Carol Heinlen’s niece Barbara (cancer)
- Pray for an additional female youth leader to join our ministry.
- Pray for our national and community leaders, their families and communities.
- Pray for your Oikos—those that God has strategically and supernaturally placed in your life.
- Pray for active duty service members.

Praises and Prayers for these Missions and Ministries:

- Praise God for Dale & Kay Tronsen’s trip to our partner church and orphanage in Uganda and for their safe return.
- Praise God for the Bishop Place worship service. Pray for Pastor Matt Jorgens and his family.
- Pray for the Bible study at Eastern State Hospital and the residents.
- Praise God for providing volunteer youth ministry leaders. Pray for youth to come to Christ.
- Pray for our missionaries and partner church and orphanage in Uganda (pastors, teachers, orphans).

Remember our Shut-Ins:

Richard Keyser       Patty Myott       Bob & Dory Tuttle
Reuben Merry         Joanie Bagott      Don & Lorraine
Virginia Baldwin     Arnetta Tompkins  Gilliland

Our shut-ins would love to have a visit from their church family. If you’re interested in visiting, contact Pastor Corey.

BOOK NOOK

Looking for something good to read or an audio book to listen to? You can look here each month for recommendations from Pastor Corey. For February, Pastor Corey is recommending: “Canoeing the Mountains”

Author Tod Bolsinger uses Lewis and Clark’s adventure as a backdrop to help church leaders understand how to navigate ministry in the post-Christendom age we live in. Highly recommended for all ministry leaders.

Leadership University Podcast - Date: Jan. 9, 2017
“Why You’re Never Done Growing as a Leader”
www.drcloud.com/article/Patrick_Lencioni_013_Lead_U

Dr. Henry Cloud and Patrick Lencioni discuss “humble and hungry” leadership. Both contributors come from a Christian faith perspective, but also have much experience in the business world.
Online Giving now available

PFC has launched a new online giving portal for people to quickly and securely make donations online. You have always been able to work with your own bank and do bill-pay, but now we have an option for people to give with other online options including one-time and recurring credit/debit cards or bank drafts. With people using checkbooks less and less, online giving is not the way of the future - it is truly necessary for the present. Please know if you give this way PFC leaders are still following the same rules of confidentiality regarding giving that we have for giving done in person, and you also will still receive an annual donation receipt.

If you want to use online giving to make your regular tithe/offering, just click the “Online Giving” button at the top of the church’s Web site: www.pfc.palousechurch.org

Thank you for your Contributions
By Peggy Collier

Because of your generous contributions toward providing Christmas gifts to the patients at Eastern State Hospital this year, I was able to buy all the items for both Carlene and Robert. Additionally, I was able to purchase 12 extra winter coats for the other patients who might need them. This was a special opportunity with the winter we have had to keep people warm.

Thank you so very much for contributing money and other gifts to this project.

PFC Connect Weekly E-mail

If you haven’t been receiving our “PFC Weekly E-mail” and you would like to, please send your e-mail address to Tim Sievers at: timasievers@gmail.com or share your e-mail address on your communication card on Sunday. The Weekly E-mail is a great way to keep updated on PFC events, prayers, and community needs.

Did you know there’s an Oikos app for iPhone and Android? Search “8to15” in your app store and you’ll be on your way to receiving daily reminders to pray for your Oikos!

Bishop Place Worship Service
A Ministry of Palouse Federated Church

Join the residents of Bishop Place in Pullman, for a service of hymns and the Word.

Sundays at 1:30 PM
All are welcome

What’s cooking in February?

Did you know that PFC hosts a weekly meal? Every Sunday night at 5 PM we gather in the fellowship hall to share a meal and good conversation. All are welcome! This is a great weekly event to bring a friend along with you. Each week has a “theme” and there is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall where you can volunteer to bring an ingredient and/or come early and help us set up. Here are the meals you can look forward to in February:

Feb 5th: Baked Potato Bar
Feb. 12th: Pizza Night
Feb. 19th: Taco Night
Feb. 26th: Mac’n Cheese and Salad Night
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 05</td>
<td>9 &amp; 11 AM</td>
<td>Saul: Preparing to Serve</td>
<td>Acts 9:19b-31</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6 PM</td>
<td>The Fight: Praying for Others</td>
<td>Ephesians 6:10-20</td>
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<td>6 PM</td>
<td>Closing with Grace</td>
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<td>6 PM</td>
<td>Philippians Introduction: The Joyous Journey</td>
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<td>6 PM</td>
<td>Paul and Timothy</td>
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**Miss a Sermon?** | [www.pfc.palousechurch.org](http://www.pfc.palousechurch.org)
Click on “Resources” then “Audio Sermons”
CDs or mp3 files also are available upon request—
contact Tim Sievers.

Our mailing address has changed. We are no longer using a P.O. Box. If you are sending something to the church - please use our physical address: 635 N. Bridge St., Palouse, WA 99161. If you make your tithe or offering through your bank, make sure you update your bill pay to ensure your gift is received.
## PALOUSE FEDERATED CHURCH CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY 2017

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<th>Sunday</th>
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6:30 PM | Starting Point |
| 9 AM | Worship  
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Bible studies with an * indicate they are held at PFC.

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**Depending on Jesus to Restore Our [Imperfect] Lives**