

VISAS DENIED!

Friends, we apologize for how long it has been since you read anything from us. We know you have been anticipating news about the planned September visit of our colleagues from the Kibbuse Foundation Board.

Of course, we have been hoping to send that news. However, we have been



Together in 2023

stonewalled by none other than the United States Embassy in Kampala, Uganda, which has denied visas to our friends. Initially, this resulted because no one on the Kibbuse Board (or any of us, for that matter) was aware that applicants for visas to the States must apply 240 days before departure!

Our attempts to remedy the situation by requesting expedited appointments for visa application through various avenues, including an appeal through the office of Congressman Bill Huizenga, all have failed. Rev. James was the only one granted an appointment, but he was denied a visa with no reason given. No one else was even extended the favor of an appointment.

Because time is now so short, in our meeting this past Sunday evening the Friends of Kibbuse Board unanimously voted to cancel plans for the visit in September.

Although we are disappointed in this seemingly negative development, we rest in the knowledge that “our ways are not the same as God’s ways, nor our plans the same as His.” We trust that our loving heavenly Father has something better in store, something that cannot be hampered or hindered by human planning or tripped up by government agencies.

While together Sunday evening, we found ourselves unanimously in agreement, not only about canceling/postponing the visit, but about a plan for moving ahead. It will begin with the Friends of Kibbuse Board of Directors keeping that September date for a retreat at the Radiant Life Center in Paw Paw, MI. Our hope for this time away from the distractions of our usual responsibilities, is to work on a draft plan for ongoing management of the Vocational Center and Clinic from our perspective.

We also hope to find an alternative way for our Kibbuse Foundation and Friends of Kibbuse board officers to meet face-to-face, possibly at a location in Belgium or the Netherlands (where getting visas would not be a problem) later this fall or early winter. There we could wrestle through to mutual agreement on a plan for the Kibbuse Foundation’s best way forward.

Please stay tuned. Our September Newsletter will be much more specific about what lies ahead!

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