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Nov 20,2023 Newsletter

IT IS THANKS+GIVING TIME!



We give thanks to God with all of you for this wonderful year of life – blessings of many kinds: ample provision, healings, a wonderfully fulfilling team trip, a new dairy cow breeding project, construction and dedication of the new boy's dorm; and among the blessings struggles and suffering, all of which strengthen and fortify us as we press on with our good work.

As you read this, Tom Sterk continues in courageous determination to live and give until he can give no more, walking with courage and generosity through the valley of the shadow. He, Nate and three others plan to leave on December 11th for a week-long trip. With God's grace, Tom, Nate and friends will be able to finish a critical task he hadn't time to do while on the June trip – to more fully train the caretakers of the two breeding cows Tom's small consortium of friends purchased for KVTC. Already there has been wonderful gain and unexpected loss – two healthy calves were born in August. Sadly, however, both died two weeks ago. A better trained caretaker might have been able to save them. Tom, Nate and Craig will do their best to assess the causes and impart the knowledge and disciplines necessary to successfully have sustained breeding of valuable livestock.



Tom & Nate



Tom and daughter Nikki in Uganda last June

Please pray for Tom – and his family, who would prefer that he not take this trip; they all know, painfully and intimately, the struggle he is engaged in with pancreatic cancer, and that his remaining days are few. They want to be with him through that struggle, so it is hard for them to release him to this task to which he feels so urgently called. However, God has brought a measure of comfort by calling a hospice trained nurse onto the team. She will do her utmost to help him through to a safe return home!

Nate Kamps, FOK Board Chairman, believes he is just as urgently summoned, first to be right beside Tom throughout, and second to assess two ongoing building projects, the boy's dorm and the faculty residence. He hopes to send back a full report about the dormitory and its scheduled opening to students, including lots of photos. His more important and demanding goal is to get a full report from the Kibbuse Foundation Board about the reconfiguration of the still vacant "house on the hill" overlooking the campus as a faculty residence. Once completed, this spacious building can house as many as ten faculty members, each with private quarters, right on campus. It will not only improve faculty comfort, our hope is that their better living conditions will translate into improved faculty/student relationships and result in better teaching and learning. It will also considerably reduce the financial burden caused by rising rents for off-campus faculty residences.



Faculty House

The "Faculty House," a temporary moniker until the Kibbuse Foundation determines a more appropriate name, is about half-funded. \$35-40,000 is still needed. If you are looking for a worthy project to invest in on GIVING TUESDAY, this would be a wonderful choice.

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