

28 April 2017

Grace and peace to you my brothers and sisters in Christ from sunny, warm Uganda. I wanted to give you a quick report on our progress. The first filter is up and functioning fairly well. I taught from the pulpit last Sunday at Yesu Akwagala Community Church on forgiveness.

We wanted to start the second and received a shock - the other villages refused the filters. About a week ago, another village had built a still to generate some income. And in the night, someone poisoned the still. Several people became very ill and some may have died. The police captured a devil-worshipper who wanted to discredit the Christian community. There are several devil-worshipping enclaves in the area. Now all the villages are afraid that if they took a filter, it would be poisoned.

So we switched plans. There is a natural spring in the area that serves all the villages in the area. They asked us to create a cascade filter to clean the water from the spring. Apparently, if there is moving water, there's less fear of poisoning. It is a monumental task to design one in a day or two, but God is faithful.

That evening, we received our next setback. The spring is at the bottom of a deep valley and there is no road. We found a driver brave enough to make the drive with a truck full of stone, but several farmers refused passage through their farm.

Later in the evening we were allowed to participate in a seldom occurrence, the tribal counsel. All the chiefs from the surrounding villages gathered to discuss the project and discover what kind of folks we were. After long discussion, they began to be more favorable. Pastor Yawe explained that we were Christian and I was allowed to pray for the assembly, then they decided. We could go forward with the project and the farmers would be required to allow passage. For this we praise God.

The next morning, every able-bodied man and several women showed up to muck out the spring. I worked with them side-by-side until about noon when they had to get off to work. I was pretty well caked with mud.

The work continues. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Michael

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