Kibidula News

July 2012 - February 2013

Why Avocados? *- By Jason Fournier*

Actually, if Jesus is coming soon, why invest at all in anything that won't bring returns within the next couple of years? It is a question that I have had to deal with since becoming director here at Kibidula. I've heard it preached that time is so short and it's like we're on the sinking Titanic - not the time to be sweeping the floors and washing the dishes.

I have concluded otherwise. Yes, I believe Jesus is coming soon, but He is waiting for a certain condition amongst His people and considering the fact that He isn't impatient like us, soon may be sooner than we think, but then it could be longer than we think. What I do know is that it is sooner than when we first believed. I also know that there is a work to be done and it is far from finished.

I can also tell you by experience that it takes money to run this mission. The trees that were planted decades ago are now helping to meet the financial needs of this place. The trees that I've planted in my garden a few years ago are now beginning to bear fruit. The avocado trees that we plant today will bear fruit in five or so years. If Jesus comes before that, praise the Lord! And I will have no regrets for having planted those trees. And if He doesn't come in five years, or ten years or thirty years, praise the Lord, we will have something to live on and finances to continue the work He has given us.

The story is told of someone asking an old Christian man who was hoeing in his garden, "suppose you knew that Jesus would come tomorrow, what would you be doing?" The man paused for a moment as he thought and then he answered, "I suppose I'd keep right on hoeing." And with that, he carried right on hoeing. I believe it is time for each of us to be ready for Jesus to come any time and if we are ready all the time, and we were doing the task that He has given us to do, then we wouldn't need to rush off and try to accomplish some last minute thing. We'd just carry on with the task He has given us.

So I have concluded that the principles of self-supporting ministry are just as valid today (all this much closer to the coming of Jesus) as they were way back in Ellen White's time. And with that conclusion, I am determined to continue to build a solid financial foundation for Kibidula (as elusive as it has been all through the decades). I have decided that avocados will be that foundation. Why avocados? Well, that will take more space than I have here to explain. Maybe I'll explain it in another issue.

Anyway, it isn't cheap to get into such a project either but I believe that God will provide and that the harvest will more than repay the investment. So watch with me as we start down this road and join me in prayer for its success. "

"The fruit of our labor"

Avocado seedlings, ready to be planted

The Missionary Mule... *- By Fletcher Grahn*

When I was first approached by OCI about assembling an airplane for the Kibidula Farm Institute, I was already attached to another mission organization. I wasn't sure how or if this opportunity would fit in with my other work, but I kept an open mind as I continued with my preparations to deploy to the mission field.

About a year or so later, after much soul searching, I found myself 'unattached' to any organization or mission. My thoughts naturally were 'what now?', 'is there anyone out there needing an aircraft mechanic?' I remembered the need as presented to me by OCI the previous year and got in contact with them to see if Kibidula still had a need… and they did.

This is how all of this began for me. For almost five months now, I have been in Tanzania, realizing a dream; doing something to help spread the gospel to the remote and difficult to reach peoples of the Earth. It has been a wonderful experience for me. While the look, feel and texture of this country is so far removed from what I am used to in America, in some ways it seems just like home.

The aircraft I have been working on, a four seat Zenair CH 801, had already been started long before I arrived at Kibidula. Wings, fuselage, cabin and other major components had been mostly fabricated but remained unassembled for the most part. It has been my responsibility for nearly five months now to fabricate new components, finish fabricating any components still unfinished, and assemble them into an airworthy airplane. So far much progress has been made; the airframe is nearly fully assembled. The remaining few weeks will be used to complete as much as possible with the parts and tools available before I leave.

It has been challenging, sometimes frustrating, rewarding and from the very start, a blessing to be a part of this project. When I leave, unfortunately, the aircraft will still be uncompleted. But necessary parts, tools and materials will be on their way to make ready for the next and final phase of assembly.

During my time here I have witnessed the various functions of Kibidula. Their multiple ministry outreach programs are truly a blessing to the lives of those who they touch. Young children, youth and adults alike are ministered to here at Kibidula and beyond. With the addition of a faster, larger capacity, and longer range aircraft to their mission, their hand to spread the gospel can extend even further and more efficiently, touching more lives for Christ.

I am leaving for home soon, but it is my heart's wish to help Kibidula to bring this airplane, this tool of the gospel, into fruitful service as soon as possible. Perhaps, someday soon, I will be back again in the Kibidula hangar, putting the last of the pieces of this 'missionary mule' together. If it is God's will, and He keeps that door open, I would enjoy that opportunity very much. For now though, there are still a few weeks to go and things left to do…

Fletcher (left) going over some schematics with Jean Luc and Thomas

From Ulaya to Madibira - *By Hanka, Ratka, and Zuzka*

It's 4 A.M. and our five-member team had just arrived in Dar Es Salaam. Our first stop on the way to Kibidula was the Mikumi National Park. We were excited to see the animals and breath-taking natural scenery. After leaving the park it took us another five hours to get to Kibidula.

On Thursday, we got to the guest house in Madibira where we were going to stay for 14 days. It was a completely new world for us and we were all stunned. There are little shops along the streets, women with their babies on their backs. It's unbelievable how they can carry a bucket full of water on their heads. Instead of blocks of flats there are small mud houses with grass roofs, Instead of paved roads there are only bumpy dirt roads. It's amazing how our cultures are different.

We came to Madibira, not only to experience local life, but our main aim was to share the Word of God. The first few days for three girls from the Czech Republic (Chicken public) were nice... but also a little bit difficult. We were trying to get to know their culture and language and it was love at first sight! (we were particularly fond of the word "chakula" ,meaning food). It was a blessing to be there and to be able to see into the lives of local people, to participate in daily life, their joys and hardships.

We prepared sermons every day so that we could preach at the three meeting sites. The first site was at Mahango, another at Ikoga and the last was at Ihehaa. Two of them are were at local churches and one was just under some mango trees (we saw monkeys on two occasions!). We enjoyed these evening meetings. We were able to meet a lot of people and influence their lives in a way that we could never imagine before. Although we had been trying to learn some Swahili (asante, karibu, habari…) we were still not able to communicate that well. That is the reason why we were so grateful for our amazing translators. They supported us and they even helped us to overcome technical difficulties. We would even go so far as to say that we have become life long friends. We want to thank Alex, Sedeck and Watson for helping us to preach the Gospel.
The evening meetings were divided into two parts. The first part was a health talk. Nanette, Tamara and Doug were explaining the benefits of living a healthy life. There are plenty of natural medicines like papaya leaves, seeds, and charcoal that are easily obtainable in nature and easy to use. Together we formed teams that worked as one man. Undoubtedly, we could not do it without the leadership of our Big Boss Bill Ross, whom we liked to call "our šéf". Our teams had sermons and health talks every night. We also conducted health expos. There were three of them during one week at each site. We were teaching people how to stay healthy and how to prevent various diseases.

Another thrilling experience was building one-day-churches. We were part of a group which builds churches all over Tanzania. We felt like Bob the Builder with all these drills and screws. We are glad that we could participate in that activity.

During our sermons there were several people who have decided to be baptized. We were looking forward to our last Sabbath . We were all present during that very special moment in the lives of these people.

When we came here, three weeks seemed like a very long time. However, we couldn't imagine how fast it would be over. We are thankful for the opportunity to have been able to come here, to visit this country and to meet a lot of nice people. Not only will we take away loads of pictures, but also many memories of new chakula, places and people we will never forget. Most importantly we would like to thank God. He was guiding and protecting us all the way and this us aware of His endless love and mercy.

Amina.

Zuzka, Ratka & Hanka under the roof of a newly built church

Welcome to the team!

We have been privileged to add a new member to our team for 2013! Melissa Watson is from Tennessee, USA, and has taken on the colossal task of supporting our farm manager with the sheep farm! This great work involves a lot of "counting sheep" but Melissa is not one to sleep on the job! She studied animal husbandry at Andrews University and is a vibrant and friendly individual. The Masai herdsmen have already found a special place in her heart, and she has volunteered to teach one of them how to speak English. Melissa has committed herself to 3 years at Kibidula and we look forward to seeing her grow in Christ as she works in His vineyard.

REACH Switzerland

REACH Switzerland is a permanent sponsor of Kibidula, supporting students of the Agricultural Training Center.

Service Opportunities:

- **Elementary School teacher**
- **Maintenance Personnel**
- **Administrative Secretary**

If you are interested in working for Kibidula please contact us via e-mail, and we will give you more detailed information regarding these Service Opportunities.

The Lord needs YOU in His vineyard!

Kibidula's current project needs

(Donations received until June 2012)

Evangelism — Outreach Programs: $5,000

0% received	$ 5,000 still needed

School of Evangelism — Sponsoring worthy students : $300 each

0% received

Swahili Bibles @ $6 per Bible:

0% received

Support of 35 Lay Missionaries with $90 monthly: $31,500

9% Received	$ 28,630 still needed

Vocational Training—Carpentry tools, Sewing machines and Generator: $ 2,000

100% received	Completed!

Car Fund for Health Evangelism: $30,000

0% received	$ 30,000 still needed

Donations

You can donate online with your **Credit Card**. Go online to: www.outpostcenters.org and click "Get involved" - "Donate to Missions" - "Donate by Credit Card"

Cheques from USA (Tax Deductible)
Please write to:
Outpost Centers International (OCI)
5132 Layton Lane
Apison, TN 37302, USA

Transfers from Europe
Please contact us, or visit our website *("How to Assist Kibidula")*, for bank details in Switzerland.

Kibidula

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Please write your Check ***to "OCI" and specify "Kibidula" and the Kibidula project you want to support.***