



Seek, Serve, Share with the Ainomugisha's



Distributing Christmas packages.



Matthian and his lovely nanny.



With Pr. Gerald and John.



Overview

Amy has been sent to **Uganda** for long-term missionary work with the mission organization **International Teams NL**, and her **Dutch Reformed home church in Hardinxveld-Giessendam**.

What is she doing there?

- **Evangelizing in Word and Deed among people with disabilities & their families**, under the name **Special Joy**.
- **Supporting** in building up the **Ugandan church**.
- **Learning Luganda** the local language.

Amy is married to Derrick Ainomugisha and together they take care of **Alannah and Matthian**.

Derrick:

- **Works with Special Joy**.
- **Does ministry as a presenter** on a Christian radio/TV station with a music show aimed at young people and the gospel.
- **Coaches a soccer team called Sports For Christ** who share the gospel and unity across church walls through sports, preaching and music.

'We love, because He first loved us.' - 1 Joh. 4:19

A lot to tell.

Because a lot has happened since December!

- The **Christmas packages** were a success, thanks to everyone who donated for it! We were able to give all our families and even some families outside our program a Christmas package! We enjoy hearing the stories of how families enjoyed the package, especially the chicken, and had a great Christmas because of it!
- **John, Amy's Field Coordinator from iTeams visited** in December and it was really good to have him! In 5 days we were able to show him a part of our work and our lives. We went on a Special Joy family visit, had a team meeting with the Special Joy team, went to church, had a meeting with our pastor, ate local Ugandan food, showed the city of Kampala, visited Derrick's football team and work, and had valuable conversations.
- We had been looking for a new place to live for a while, because the other place didn't do us so well... Luckily we found a new place and **we moved** there at the end of January. We did have a tough period with thieves in our compound, thieves in the compound next to us (both old and new place), shots fired in the compound but luckily no one was injured, our old landlady who was unreasonable and with whom we couldn't end well, and some unsafe situations when Amy was home alone with Matthian. It makes Amy realize that Kampala is not Hardinxveld, and it gives her a sense of insecurity, but above all of vulnerability. Fortunately, the fear has not gripped Amy and we try to take measures.
- We have been able to find **a sweet nanny** who helps us with the care of Matthian and the household. Very nice! Here in Uganda it is actually quite normal to have someone to help you, because after all, you don't do parenting alone :-). Because of her presence, Amy can be a nice mom, but also focus well and work for Special Joy! And it's nice that we can help her with a job, because she is a widow and mother of 2 children. So a win-win situation. Her children are 14 and 18 and live with their grandmother, and the care/school fees for them are her responsibility.

- **Daniel** got a sponsor and has been going to school since January! He also receives therapy, they are now mainly working on his speech and he receives occupational therapy to teach him how to eat independently and to go to the toilet. Unfortunately Daniel's mum couldn't pay the transport costs to the school herself, so luckily we were able to find a house for her close to the school, so they can walk there.
- **Brian** has also found a center and thanks to a donation he can go there for at least 3 months! It will start in May. There he will work on his independence and hopefully he will learn a skill so that he can earn some money independently. His aunt is sick a lot and finds it difficult to take care of him and her other children as a single mother/aunt. That's why we support her with the medical costs and rent for the short term, and we invest in a micro-credit that will help her for the longer term.
- **Solomon** and his mother Grace have been helped once with a micro-credit and school costs. Hopefully they can move forward again! Solomon and Grace have been abused and evicted by Solomon's father, a very sad situation. Solomon has anemia, but not really a disability, so that's why the support is one-off.
- **Mary***, someone affected by polio and now paralyzed on one side, will be making/finishing mats, which we will hopefully sell in the Special Joy shop! We are now, together with Daniel's mum, looking for a good location for the shop. To be continued :-).
- On March 4th we had a **team outing** and that was good! We had a good time, got to know each other better, played games and did team building. We are grateful for this committed group and it is great to see that they are increasingly taking up the line of thought that we want to share and show in society towards children with disabilities and their families -> *The mindset that 'Jesus loves these people and finds joy in them!'*
- Derrick is busy preparing a **gala/sports tournament with Sports For Christ** with a fundraiser for Special Joy. His team members are enthusiastic and it is already great to see how people react. Derrick works with people who have a lot of influence in the christian world in Uganda (pastors, presenters, artists), so if they take up the mindset of Special Joy, great things can happen in Uganda!

Yoghurt a solution?

During a visit to Daniel's school, we heard that they couldn't really work with him, because he often had epileptic seizures (we thought they hardly happened anymore, so what a disappointment to hear that!) Together with the school, we searched for the problem and a solution. Is it due to the medication intake? Probably yes, because medication for epilepsy is to be taken very precisely. How can we help Daniel and his mother with that? Let's see if Daniel likes yogurt and takes the medication well. And yogurt is also good for the medication absorption in his body. But mama Daniel can't afford yogurt unfortunately. That is why we now support her with this for 15 euros per month. And you know? Since then, Daniel has had no more seizures. Very thankful for that! Last Saturday Amy was back at the school and then we heard from the therapists and teacher that Daniel is doing better now and that he is making progress! And Daniel's mother mentioned again that she is really very grateful for the help she receives from us, because without the help of Special Joy she sees life without much joy... Thanks to everyone who supports Special Joy and makes a difference in these lives !

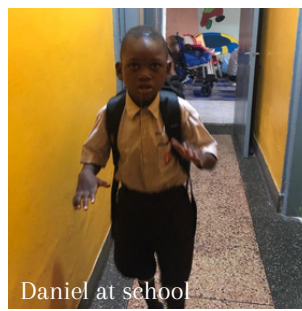
Our love from Uganda to you, the Ainomugisha's



Team-outing



Visit to Brian



Daniel at school

Do you want to be involved?

We believe that as children of God, we are one family as the body of Christ, and that we have been given different tasks that suit us. Together we may let this body bring Love in this world, with Christ as our Head. And, Love becomes more when we share it together.

Which task fits you? How may you share along?

You can share along and be involved with us:



Encouragement

Stay involved through personal contact, the newsletter and the channels below.



www.amyinuganda.com



Special Joy Uganda



Amy in Uganda - Special Joy



Praise and Prayer

- **Praise God** that Uganda is Ebola free.
- **Praise God** that Daniel and Brian have both found a school/centre and that Daniel is doing better again.
- **Praise God** for the financial resources within Special Joy so that we can do what we do.
- **Praise God** for being able to move and find a nanny.
- **Pray** for focus for the administrative tasks for Special Joy.
- **Pray** for a suitable place for the Special Joy shop.
- **Pray** for the economy. After Covid and Ebola, the economy is bad and life is difficult for many people.
- **Pray** for a good start-up of the micro-credits.
- **Pray** for our safety.



Finances

Amy is not receiving a salary in Uganda and is living by financial support. Derrick earns approximately 133,- euro a month.

ITeams

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These gifts are tax deductible.