



Seek, Serve, Share with the Ainomugisha's



Matthian, our gift!



A warm welcome in Uganda

***'For You are my Rock
and my Fortress;
Therefore, for Your
name's sake,
Lead me and guide
me.'***

- Psalm 31:4

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

Looking back at the first year Uganda.

Yes, because we are already over a year further! On June 15, 2021 I, Amy, arrived in Uganda and then my first year of 'being sent out' started after my official commissioning service from my home church. Psalm 31:4 was the text I received, not yet fully realizing how much I would need The Rock this first year, because so much has happened. In a nutshell: Special Joy started, food campaign, language study started, getting to know the culture a little better (because I'm not there yet ;)), married, (maternity) leave in the Netherlands, and gave birth to our beautiful son Matthian in July! A whole year, described in one sentence, but I could write a book about it ;). It has been a very intensive year, full of ups and downs and major life events that I already talked about in the previous newsletter. My heavenly Father was and is indeed my Rock and Fortress, for without that solid ground under my feet I was and am nowhere. It was hard in time and lonely. Sometimes my energy (partly due to a tough pregnancy), perseverance and love was hard to find... I felt quite lonely, like a small child who has to learn everything again when you come to live in a different culture. I love to build and invest in deep, genuine, honest, loving relationships and friendships, being relational like God the Father is. But how do you do that if you don't really understand each other yet, or if you think completely differently, or if you come from 2 different countries/backgrounds/upbringing that cannot be compared, or if you get disappointed because someone has different values and standards..? Thanks to Bible School Cornerstone, among other things, I know that it is part of it, that the period of transition is not always easy, and then I am grateful for my period of good preparation, both in the Netherlands and Uganda.

And now? How now now that our private situation has changed quite a bit? Matthian enriches our lives and he gives the words 'joy' and 'love' a deeper layer. It also leads to other conversations in the street, and as our mission elder so encouragingly said when we told him we were expecting a baby: 'If you have a child yourself and are a mother, you will also better understand the struggles of other parents (with children with a limitation), so it will deepen your work. How beautiful is that!'

We have started this new year in good spirits and we are curious what the coming year will bring us and what we can receive and hand out!

And now? How to proceed now that our private situation has changed quite a bit? Matthian enriches our lives and he gives the words 'joy' and 'love' a deeper layer. It also gives other conversations on the street, and as our mission elder from Amy's homechurch said so encouragingly when we told him that we were expecting a baby: 'If you have a child of your own and are a mom, you will also better understand the struggles of other parents (with children with a disability), so it will deepen your work. How beautiful is that!' We have entered this new year with good courage and we are curious what the coming year will bring us and what we will receive and share!

On furlough in the Netherlands

During our furlough we enjoyed connecting with the people behind us, the church and our mission organization. Amy's furlough started with a retreat in a place called the Spil, and that was very nice and good, together with God.

Because it has been such an intense year, she did a debriefing at InToMission. A debriefing is a process in which the 'losses suffered' are looked at and that can be on all kinds of levels; relational, physical, material, emotional. You reflect on these losses on the basis of a timeline and bring it to the foot of the cross, so that you can then continue to recover (Jesus' finished work). This was intensive and gives sadness, but at the same time it is also very valuable, helping and restorative. She had her last meeting in November.

When Derrick arrived in the Netherlands (a month later than Amy) we enjoyed an evening where we sang hymns for Special Joy, Amy's sister's wedding and a short week away together at a friend's house. So nice, such blessings! Amy was almost due, so we had antenatal checkups and final preparations for Matthian's arrival. During those weeks we also had meetings with the insurance, with InToMission on Intercultural Communication (very valuable if you have just entered an intercultural marriage and live and work in an intercultural context), visits to the dentist, talk with the pastor, celebrating Father's Day, being with grandma, etc. (preparing for) our Dutch wedding, which we celebrated in 2 parts, visiting friends/family/supporters, and we had an ACCESS training from iTeams. This was a 4-day training in which iTeams could get to know Derrick and vice versa. All in all a busy, full agenda, but very nice that we could be there! Amy also followed the Luganda 2 language study further in the Netherlands and was able to successfully complete it on July 11.

Matthian was born on July 16 and the following weeks were intense for us as a family. Intensely enjoying and beautiful, and intensely overwhelming and new. In addition, Derrick played football occasionally, and Amy enjoyed visiting family and friends. We ended our time in the Netherlands with a babyparty, baptism, arranging a passport, saying goodbye, arranging paperwork, family days, meeting evening and presentation in the church about Special Joy, and a lot of fitting and measuring to get all (baby) stuff in the suitcases :). We look back on a good time and we want to thank everyone for the involvement, visits, prayers, donations, gifts and listening to our story!

Lots of love and connected in Him, the Ainomugisha's



Access training van iTeams

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** for a good, covid positive, breech delivery. All glory to Him for His help and protection! Praise God Matthian is doing well.
- **Praise God** for successfully completing Luganda 2 language study.
- **Praise God** that we are safely back in Uganda and that it is good to be back!
- **Praise God** for the beautiful, encouraging time in the Netherlands and the pleasant, good moments with the people who are behind us, supporters, iTeams and everyone involved with us and our work.
- **Pray** for a good time in Uganda again. Pray for rest and the right, appropriate solutions and options now that our private situation has changed.
- **Pray** for the country as Ebola is here, but thankfully it's almost gone.
- **Pray** and give thanks for and with Daniel's family. (See email)



Finances

Amy is not receiving a salary in Uganda and is living by financial support.

iTeams

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ovv IA-UA de Jong

These gifts are tax deductible.