

**MAINE TO MITYANA MISSION
BETH AND THE REV. CHARLES BRADSHAW**
August 18, 2016

*Love bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.
(1 Corinthians 13:7)*

Dear partners in prayer and mission,

We are in the home stretch now, but we are still here in Mityana. This is a brief pause between academic regular terms. We are preparing to receive students for the short courses offered during the school recess. We are planning the September 15 dedication of the new music building, the “Bradshaw Music School”. Beth is working to ensure the continuity of music teaching at the College. We have been so engrossed in these arrangements that we have not made any trips outside Mityana in a long time.

There have been other challenges. Student enrollments have been low; some have dropped out; and many of the students we have are behind in their fees. Because of dry weather, the crops of maize and beans have done poorly. We have had a series of night-time break-ins and thefts at the College—about 5 in one month, plus a male intruder in the women’s hostel (dorm).

As Principal of this College, I will most certainly leave Mityana feeling that the work is not as finished as I would have liked. I have tried to urge the strategic planning for the College in a certain direction, based on certain assumptions. Now I have to let go and let our Ugandan friends, who will have to live with the plan, carry on, in their way, with their distinctive coping skills (which don’t look much like planning, to me).



I hate the word: “selfie”; but Beth has figured out how to take one with her phone



Beth and Mary with friends at St. John's, July 31

It has not been all work and seriousness here. We have enjoyed visits from friends. Most recently our fellow SAMS missionary, Mary Chowenhill, spent the weekend with us. She is teaching business and economics at Uganda Christian University. We enjoy our dear brothers and sisters at our church, St. John’s, Lulagala. Friends who have married during our time here are now producing children whose companionship we treasure.

We celebrated my 65th birthday last month with parties morning and evening. At staff prayers in the morning the Bishop, without warning, arranged for a cake to be served. Then Beth organized a party that evening in our compound. In Uganda, on their birthdays, people say, “Today I am a baby.” So I was a baby for a day.

A few days ago I was praying Psalm 71 and I was struck by verse 18:

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And now that I am old and gray-headed, O God, do not forsake me,
till I make known your strength to this generation
and your power to all who are to come.

This is David, who had real enemies to worry about, praying for the Lord to guard and extend his life. I do not consider myself old, but I am surprised to have lived to be 65. My hair has been gray for a while, but I still have most of it.



A new generation of Ugandan pastors

The outstanding thing in verse 18 is the reason David gives for requesting a long life: in order to make known to the next generation the Lord's strength and power. Why has the Lord kept me alive for 65 years? Because there is a new generation for me to tell about the Lord's strength and power, his majesty, his goodness, and his loving-kindness.

Even as Beth and I are preparing to finish this assignment in Mityana, the Lord still has work for us to do. Please pray for our physical and mental stamina during this final stage; for physical protection and financial provision for the College; and for wisdom as we decide where to live and what work to do after we leave Uganda.

Faithfully,

Chuck + & Beth



Baptizing baby Kirabo at St. John's, August 14



Now you can see their faces: Kirabo with her mother, Dorothy.



Beth and Alice, who is taking over as the Administrator of the Music School, model the new BMS shirts.



Beth's volunteer landscapers beautify the music building