



The Gardner Family

Ambassadors of Christ to the Ugandan People

Prayer Requests at a Glance

- 1 - For Mason to accept Christ as their Savior at an early age
- 2 - For us to have safety during Ugandan elections
- 3 - For our new ministries to go well and bring God glory

Dear Pastors and Friends,

Thank you so much for your patience with us. We have been trying to send this for some time now, but have faced several delays. In July, we finished up our half-furlough. We praise the Lord for the six months we were able to report to our supporting churches and to partner with a few more churches to provide for Mason, our new son. We ended up being able to visit just over half of our supporting churches! We are looking forward to doing another half furlough in about two and a half years, where we plan to visit all of our supporting churches that we weren't able to see this time. We would also like to praise the Lord for several answered prayers during furlough. First, He kept us safe as we drove countless miles up and down the East Coast of America. Second, God has provided all of the funds we were praying for to construct the church building in Gweri. This congregation has been meeting under a mango tree for over five years now. We plan to start construction as soon as we can when we get back.

We arrive in Uganda at the end of July. We would like to praise the Lord for providing us with safety as we flew such a great distance. We made it back and spent some time trying to adjust to the correct time zone so we weren't awake at night and asleep during the day. Since our return, twelve souls have accepted Christ as their Savior, and eleven of them have been baptized. I want to tell you about the first one of the twelve who gave their life to Christ. For the last 6 months, we have been slowly sharing the gospel with our oldest son Jedidiah. Any time an opportunity comes up where he asks a spiritual question, we explain to him the answer and show him a principle about salvation. We are sinners, sin brings judgment, God loves us, Jesus died for our sin, etc. After we arrived in Uganda, he started asking if he was going to Heaven. I told him he wasn't, and explained that only people who have their sins forgiven by Jesus are going to Heaven. He told me, "Daddy, I want to ask Jesus to forgive my sins, but not right now. Sometime later." I told him that he could pray to Jesus whenever he wanted, and that it was up to him. No one else could pray that prayer for him. For a few days after that conversation, Jed didn't bring it up, but then as we were driving the 8 hours from Kampala to our home in Soroti, he said: "Daddy, I want to ask Jesus to save me so I can get my sins forgiven and go to Heaven." We then led him in the sinner's prayer! We have been praying for almost five years now for him to get saved at an early age! Thank you all for praying with us. We thought it was so special that the first fruits of our second term was our own son becoming a believer.

Please be in prayer for several big prayer requests as we begin our second term. First, for the pastor of the church in Gweri. He was diagnosed with cancer in his shoulder. The church construction that we were planning to start has now been put on pause for a few months until he can get his treatments finished. His name is Pastor Jonathon, and he is currently in the capital city of Kampala in the cancer ward of the biggest hospital in Uganda. I have traveled to meet with him and encourage him in the Lord. Please also pray for his church, as an assistant pastor is leading in his stead. Second, please pray for us as we begin several new ministries and continue the ones we were already doing. We plan to restart the Bible institute this coming year. There are a lot of pieces that go into making the curriculum, lodging, etc. We also plan to resume regional conferences at our city church in Soroti. We hope to have a pastor's conference at the beginning of 2026 that focuses on Godly music. I hope to have another conference after that aimed at training Ugandans how to be Godly parents. Please be in prayer that God will give me wisdom in all of this. I also have several men that I am training to get ready for their ordination into the ministry. Please continue to pray for us as we serve God in every area He is opening for us.

For the furtherance of the Gospel,
Matthew, Savannah, Jedidiah, and Mason Gardner