



Africa Vet

To My Friends,

This is the most unique month of my life! An era is coming to a joyful close, and a new one is expectantly rising. Singleness has been a blessing from the Lord: twenty one years in Uganda in singleness, two decades as a single missionary, working in the bush alone. When in the waiting room, it is easy to get sidetracked onto something that is second best, to be tempted or convinced to follow after something that may not be what God's true will for you may be. But God has kept us for each other. Over the years I have prayed (and many of you have as well!) and believed that the Lord had a plan for providing a mate for me. God is faithful. Amazing grace!

Sometimes marriages don't work; sometimes people disappoint us. We can get hurt, and the pain can go so deep. We were both 9 when our lives received the first and most profound jolt: family disintegration, a fractured home. His drunken father abandoned him. My protective mom ran away from home with us. Lifelong fears can hold us back from following the crowd. But God can use our pains and fears to glorify Himself. Both of us have enjoyed years of deep ministry and spiritual growth, depending on God for our very lives and hearts. Because of challenges in our lives, God has taught us to trust Him and to walk in that trust. God is good.

Now a new blessing awaits at the altar: Waffle Illingworth Lomilo. By the time you get this letter (if everything goes as planned!), I'll be off on my honeymoon with my new honey! Between now (early January) and then, I have a To Do list of 1343 items! Fortunately, God has given me a wonderful team, the CLIDE members, and many committed friends and relatives who will be here to help things come together.

Waffle and my verse for this year is Psalm 118: 1, 29. "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; His love endures forever." ... "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; His love endures forever."

I'm thankful for all of God's gifts that He has provided to me. Every experience, every joy and tear has been for His glory, as a sanctifying, purifying fire. They are all Gifts from God, because of His goodness. That is, His inherent goodness, not His perceived goodness. I praise Him, not because of personal comforts or provision, or situational contentment, but because of the Goodness that dwells within Him. He is the essence of Goodness; no evil dwells within Him; no Malice, no ill intent, but only goodness. I receive from Him with open hands, whatever it is that He desires for me to have. Through all circumstances, good or bad, He loves us and wants to draw us to Himself. He is good.

Forever God is faithful. Forever God is strong. Forever God is with us. Forever.

By the time you get this... I'll be married!! It will be in the peace village called Nakayot, where God has brought together 1000s of the Karamojong who had been previously warring, and are now living together in peace. We'll have the traditional Karamojong wedding first, then the wedding the next day. The third day will be the communion/ evangelistic service, and we pray that God uses it to draw many to Himself.

Please pray for us, as we will be on our honeymoon, hiking up Mt. Kilimanjaro with 7 other friends!

Thanks so much!

Love to you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Val". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

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It is amazing, this adventure I am now living with Val and God! She and I know that He never does anything in the expected way. It is in keeping with His great Creativity. Most times we smile and enjoy what He is up to, while others around us are not always quite as prepared for our God's humor and love! Coming back from Serbia, then the Tribal Marriage, then the Church Wedding, then the Kilimanjaro Honeymoon, the flight to Dubai to get to Vienna, and then the Vienna 3 day layover, made for an interesting conversation with Customs and Passport Control for our reentry into the USA. Here is an extrapolated view of that encounter.

Passport Please....

Sure, here you go sir.

So where did you travel to?

Well first it was Serbia for 2 weeks and then a flight down to Dubai and Ethiopia and Rwanda so I could get to Uganda for my wedding.

Serbia to Uganda for your wedding? Ok. And then?

Well then we had the wedding in the bush and traveled for the honeymoon by driving across Kenya into Tanzania where we climbed to the top of Kilimanjaro....

Kilimanjaro, honeymoon....Ok. And then?

Well then after having the Land Rover serviced we drove back from Tanzania, through Kenya, into Uganda. Then we flew back to Dubai where we slept in the airport for the night on Valentine's Day, so we could fly up to Vienna for 3 days layover on our way back to the US where we landed here in Dulles for Customs and Passport check.

Welcome back to the US, sir. Do you have anything checked "yes" on you customs form?

Yes Sir.

Very good, I see you will need to go through agricultural check in line "B" please. Have a good day sir.

(At this point I wondered if all that I had said caught him a little off guard. So as I walked away I looked back over my shoulder to see if he was thinking about it....He in turn was watching me walk away, with an odd knowing smile, nodding as our eyes met. It looked as if he may have wanted to know a little bit more of the story.....oh well... off to inspection. Wonder how his lunch break conversation went with the rest of the agents?)

The next agent in agriculture asks....I see you have checked off that you have been around farm animals on your trip. Where did you go, sir?

As I explained about working with 98 animals for a wedding dowry and cows and goat pens, followed by weddings, traveling among the herds, Kilimanjaro, Vienna and Lipizzaner Stallions, He listened intently as I wove my yarn of events. He smiled and looked wonderingly at Val and me and seemed a bit amazed at all the goings on. He then asked to check my shoes for residue. None would be found after so many days traipsing though Vienna and he smile and exclaimed....."Congratulations.....have a good day sir".

As Val and I walked away to go and meet Val's sister there in Dulles, the realization of all that had been transpiring over the last few months come sharply into view. From my auto accident in Uganda in October to the puppies born on Valentine's Day as we were leaving for Vienna...from the leopard skin tribal wedding to wondering how the wedding receptions would go in Oregon in just a few days... I had been wondering why Val and I were feeling a little on the tired side. Maybe that is what the knowing smile was from Customs Agent. He may have been thinking....."These two are going to sleep for days when they finally get a break!"

Or maybe he was considering whether our minds were intact or not, because of having taken on so much in such a short period of time. It may sound a little wild....but wow it was a great adventure with Val. I enjoy her so much. And we have a deal.... when something goes wrong or amiss then we get a hug. We get lots of hugs, and as you can guess....we laugh....alot. You should see how her blue eyes smile, especially when she is grinning from ear to ear!

Having the receptions was great.....it allowed us to visit with so many who care for and pray for us. We will get to visit with as many as we can over the next 3 months. The heartfelt prayers, the hugs of love and the squeezes that say "take care"...the laughter, and sharing some sweet, joyful tears are wonderful. We leave folks waving goodbye with our request to pray for:

- Val and I to grow closer and to guard time for our relationship.
- Building up the relationships we have with so many here in the US and to express our hope for many of them to come to Uganda.
- The work there in Uganda is HUGE. As their hearts following after what the Holy Spirit would have them do, God can change our corner of Africa in a big way.
- Many know that going over to Africa as a new missionary brings extra costs....but some do not realize that part of the fund raising also is for the support of the CLIDE Team. The work they do reaches deeply into Uganda. CLIDE ministries touch the souls of those having some very deep needs, more than just needs for subsistence, but deep needs of their hearts. Our desire is to dive into the very heart of spiritual discipleship, to usher these precious ones' of God into His presence.
- Yes, the laborers are few.....but we invite you to be a part of what we are immersed in....pray for this and for those who would come and help us. You would be very welcome! The Ugandan's will never be the same after your visit... and you might not be either...

With all of the amazing things that the Lord is doing both in the US and in Africa, we see that we need to begin preparing for our return to Uganda in a few months. We yearn for the villagers we work with to come out of poverty and to glorify God with their lives. We therefore hope to ship over a sea container with many types of income generating equipment and supplies. If you have any of these items, or know someone who would like to donate them, please let us know: *Weaving equipment and supplies, *Pottery equipment (including potter's wheels), *Leather making tools and equipment, *Soap making supplies, *Paper making supplies, *Candle making supplies, *Welding tools and equipment.

Romans 13:11- Another reason for right living is that you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for the coming of our salvation is neared now than when we first believed. The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here.

I too smile from ear to ear as I consider the adventure You and Val and I have the good fortune to be on with our Great and Awesome Savior.....Wow.....He is great!

Thanks so much! God is at work!

Yours in His Hands, Waffle (and Val)

Dr. Val and Waffle Lomilo
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Africa Vet

I sure am proud of them. They are some of my heroes. They have offered their lives for the gospel, given up their home people, their friends, their incomes and their careers for a greater calling. Sacrificing their comfort and releasing control of their lives, they willingly surrender to God's will. These are my CLIDE teammates, whom I love and cherish.

Gifted, Spirit-filled and enthusiastic, they inspire and encourage me so much. I want you all to get to know them, so that you can see the amazing way that God has joined us together to create a team, working towards synergy, collaboration and partnership. These are my allies in both the spiritual battles and the psychological struggles, my colleagues in the ministry and adventure. Poverty, cultural differences, pain and suffering are all around us, yet we have found that we need to merge our hearts together for strength and resolve, to press on towards the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Waffle gave me beautiful white gold rings for our engagement and wedding. White gold is actually a combination of several metals... well not just a combination, but an alloy. An alloy merges the various elements together to create unique properties, superior to those of the pure component elements alone. This combination allows for the ideal measure of malleability and strength, a balance of plasticity and rigidity. White gold typically is composed of gold with palladium or nickel and silver. Nickel or palladium attenuates the color of the gold while silver helps with durability. Coating it with another element, Rhodium, protects it from corrosion and hardens it, while giving a more even hue.

Just as the beauty and strength of my wedding rings are dependent on specific properties which are integral to each of the elements that are amalgamated together, so our team is unified and enriched by the diversity and giftedness of each member. Our diversity brings synergy. Our uniqueness brings creative team-energy to our fusion. As we pass through the forge of life together, and our dross and slag is removed, Grace melds our lives into something useable, something honorable, something profitable for Him and something that can delight Him. Let me tell you about some of the newest members to our team now, and we can look at others in a future newsletter.

Dr. Daniel and Rachel Graham are from Portland, Oregon. Daniel was a small animal vet with interest in small ruminants (goats and sheep). He runs the livestock programs and does a great job at working with our indigenous team. Rachel worked in financial management and had been a missionary in Mexico. She helps with our administrative challenges, including financial advice and human resources. These two are an amazing asset to our Soroti team, bringing stability and great hospitality!



Waffle and Val with the Grahams

Dr. James and Claire Gibson from the UK have added a touch of English charm to the team! James worked as a vet in London for many years, while he was an assistant head teacher at a secondary school in London. Claire's specialty



Claire and James Gibson

was teaching English and training teachers. James has set up our CLIDE Kampala office and helps us in networking with the University, Government and other Christian veterinarians in Uganda. James has had a wonderful relationship with the vet students in Uganda and has great potential for spiritual impact in their lives, as he works with them to do outreaches around Uganda. Claire has been a great asset to the Timothy project in her advice and consultations on the schooling system and the sponsorship program.

Emily Arndt is an energetic, Christ-filled, veterinary technician from Wisconsin. She is finalizing her fund-raising in the US and will join us in Uganda soon! She will be based in Moroto, and will help us with Ethno-vet research and development (herbal veterinary medicines).

Dr. Moses and Christine Otim are not new members of the team, but Dr. Moses is in a relatively new position. He is now our Team Leader. After 15 years as the Team Leader, I decided it was time to promote him to lead the team a few years ago. He is doing a wonderful job and has really been a blessing to all of us. He is also a veterinary missionary like myself, with his veterinary degree from Makerere University in Uganda, and his Bible College training from Multnomah University in Portland, Oregon. Christine is in charge of our Timothy Child Sponsorship Program, and is “mother” to 164 orphans and needy children.



Moses and Christine

The merger of all of these members, plus more that I haven’t yet mentioned, has been one of the amazing things that God has been doing over the last year. I am honored by their presence and their commitment to Christ. We continue to see that God’s work is His design, and none of us can know the whole picture, but as a team, crafted by our Lord and fused together in grace; we discover more of Him through one another. Please pray for our continued integration and fusion, by His grace and love.

Also, pray that we can get back to be with them soon. Our funding is too low, so we have delayed to go back. We still need \$1200/ month and \$12,000 outgoing. Thanks!

Yours in Christ,

Dr. Val (and Waffle)

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It is so good to be home in Uganda. We stepped off the plane in Entebbe and were so happy to see our driver there to pick us (that is the way they say pick us up). We carried the bags out to the Land Rover and as we were ready to load, found our first welcome to Uganda....a flat tire. It was to be one of four on our way to Soroti. This flat tire made me smile however...because Val and I have a deal...I get a hug for each thing that goes wrong. (The math works out to four hugs). The first news we hear of, however, is that the rains have not come and the first round of planting has failed. The second round of planting is underway just in hope, that the "latter rains" will come. There is another drought in the land as well. Picture the following as you journey with us in prayer:

A Dry and Thirsty Land (Skit)

A sojourner travels through a dry and thirst land pulling his weary body along, desperate from thirst. Miles of waste land lie before him with little hope of anything more than death. Moaning from the ache of dehydration, he sees on the far side of the room another coming towards him. "Saved", he thinks to himself, as he is barely able to increase his crawl to reach the other who has hurried to meet him as well. As they meet they desperately try to fill their cups from each other but sadly they are both without. Yet another enters stage right and tries to fill his cup and they groan and agonize over their condition. Then at a point of desperation, One walks towards them in a cool demeanor with a pitcher. He pours the imaginary water into their cups and they rejoice as they relish the cool relief to their parched souls from cups that never run dry. He exits stage left.

They then, are able to help the next sojourner who happens along and they fill his cup from theirs. They continue drinking from their bottomless cups as they exit the stage, close together in their travels through this world.

End of scene....



Thirsting for Education



Kodet, Dr. Moses and Waffle

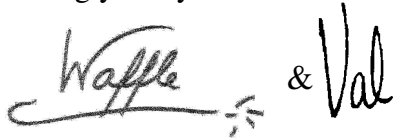
Val and I are back "into" Uganda and the work here with the CLIDE team, working hard to reach the north of Uganda. The work is tiring and needs to be undergirded with prayer and letters of encouragement. The USA Churches that have come on board in prayer and support are very encouraging to us. We are still looking for more support for the CLIDE team and the good work they do. May that rain come as well. Here rain is the blessing for the crops and fields. The rain has not come and we are already considering what must be planned for the lean months ahead. Another blessing that has come is that some of the unwed Pastors were married with us at our wedding, but there are others who are now going to have the wedding

ceremony at the end of July. We rejoice that they have been able to complete their wedding plans and can now be legally wed as they lead their congregations. A special thanks to those who provided wedding gowns! Another praise /challenge is the peace village, the school has grown since February from 400 to now 800 students. The building and the facilities are now outgrown, and teachers are few for such a large number of students. There is joy knowing that with some education they may have better lives and improve their own families and communities. Now how do we improve the quality?

Please pray for the following: The office is working out budgets because some finances did not come in, that would allow us to utilize the full staff. Instead of raises we have laid off 3 people so that we could give some increase in salaries to the remainder. This is to compensate for the large inflation rate here in Uganda. The honeymoon year with Val is awesome. (Hope the rest of our lives goes this wonderful.) Val is the most amazing woman. You would so enjoy watching her love and work with the folks here. What an awesome blessing that God has given me to Val and her to me. Each day is better than the last. Pray for Val and I to continue to grow closer under the pressures of my being a new missionary, new husband, with a new boss, new country, new home, life.....well you get the idea...there may be "a little bit" of stress there but God is soooooo good.

The "rain" for me is here. Home in Uganda, with Val. Please pray for the blessings to be poured out on the Ugandans also. Spiritually and torrentially they have great need for refreshing. Lord, please bring the "latter rains"! May God bless you with "the rain" as well.

Loving you By Him!

Handwritten signature of Waffle and Val. The name 'Waffle' is written in a cursive script with a flourish underneath. To its right is an ampersand '&' followed by the name 'Val' also in a cursive script.

Waffle and Val Lomilo

Pray for:

- Rain and Crops
- Pastors Weddings and Mentoring
- Settling into Uganda
- School Development
- Budgets
- Husband and Wife
- Stresses
- Spiritual Rain.....

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Saidi (Saa-ee-dee), age 19 is no longer allowed in school. Recent events devastated his life, leaving him broken, dying on the inside. With only a year left to complete his teaching certificate, another student began to hassle him. One day as Saidi was cutting drafting paper, the student came up from behind and threatened to strike him. Saidi quickly swung around, stabbing the other boy in the hand with the scissors, and then panicked. Instead of facing things, he took off.

Rumors spread that he'd attempted murder. He was guilty until proven otherwise... fourteen days in a dark cell feeling so abandoned, so hopeless. There Saidi remembered the many cards and letters from praying, caring sponsors in his Timothy project. He prayed, remembering that God loves him, even when life seems hopeless. God forgives and restores our hearts and lives.

You sponsors can see our Timothy kids have a very rough life. Some are orphaned by HIV or tribal warfare; others were beggars or thieves on the streets. You give them a "fighting chance"! We encouraged Saidi to finish his last year of school. Otherwise he might join the homeless or drunken, wandering the streets, looking for menial jobs or handouts. Pray for him and all the Timothy kids. Send a note of encouragement to CVM Seattle, or check out our webpage www.cvmusa.org/africavet. Your notes from there mean the world to those here. Also pray for me (Waffle), as I mentor young men like Saidi and draw them closer to our Savior's loving arms.

Another "young man" is also going through a lot. Ok...so it's me, Waffle. Imagine: life in the wilds of Africa, a new job, new wife (and wow what a great wife), new country, culture and life style (if I could just fix the refrigerator! But that's in Soroti; we're rarely there). After all my years of camping...now it's our lifestyle. Like for Saidi, every letter, email, and encouraging note means a very great deal to Val and me. Many of you know—getting things done here can be difficult. It challenges my ingenuity and persistence; some I will win and some, well... I will keep trying. But when I think of you, that's when I feel the most encouraged. Your notes from there mean the world to those here. Even the funny notes some of you put on the CVM slips sent for contribution (we read every one) are cherished. Thanks for caring and praying.

- With all of our projects going, Val and I are rarely in one place very long. For example:
- Conducting a week-long training in northern Uganda for pastors and lay persons to help them integrate spiritual growth into their social programs for the LRA victims.
- Planting aloe vera with our friends Andrew and Olesya, and designing a culvert at the construction site of our new Moroto office.
- St. Mark's Church roof construction (we are really enjoying having Commander Steve here!)
- Doing a site survey and designing our "home to be" in the peace village (so looking forward to other Construction Teams coming)
- Designing discipleship materials and trying them out, getting ready for discipleship teams to visit and conduct the discipleship trainings with us.
- Budgeting and setting up our finances (we need to work on our support raising still)
- Participating in CLIDE team meetings, planning meetings and Board meetings
- Organizing language learning materials, amidst the excitement of speaking a new language
- Setting up some adventure times for the high school students on the Timothy Retreat

I knew being married to Val would be an adventure but “wow”, I didn’t know I would have to hold on with both hands! So please keep praying and sending notes. Your notes from there mean the world to those here. Those who send the “green notes”....we stretch every one to make it count the most for God’s kingdom. We love you all and appreciate your sacrifices for us. At this time both “young men” mentioned above are looking to God for how He is going to lead. The future has so many possibilities...all it needs is prayer and encouragement.

Life has really changed for us both! I (Val) really enjoy having such a wonderful, godly man for a husband!! It’s great to have someone to talk to, plan with, and begin to imagine a real home together (in the Peace Villages). Thanks for your years of praying for us. We will celebrate our first, amazing year of marriage on January 18th, 19th and 20th! (three wedding celebrations for different tribes and churches, plus the US wedding in March) Please continue to pray for our adjustments to married life, that our love for each other and for God will continue to spill over into the lives of those around us. We don’t have any kids of our own yet, but we have a special monkey (who everybody says looks like Waffle!) named Ezekiel. He and our poodles and doodles claim us as family. They can always use your prayers too.

Our first Christmas together, we will travel up the lush mountain road to Kapchorwa, a cool, relaxing place for a break, celebrating our Lord’s birth. Our prayer for you in this New Year: “We constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of His calling and that by His power He may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ”. II Thes. 1:11-12

...Loving You By Him!
Waffle and Dr. Val Lomilo and “family”



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