

Beautiful Feet Ministry

*"How beautiful are the feet
of those who bring good news!"*

- Romans 10:15



Beautiful Feet Ministry Year End 2024 Newsletter

December 12, 2024

Letter from the Executive Director Shawn Hermanson

Greetings friends! I have arrived safely home from the recent trip to Africa!

What an amazing trip and opportunity it was! Thank you all for your prayers and support!

As you know, it was a very busy itinerary which took Luke and I to five nations over the span of 31 days! Here is a recap of the highlights:

We began our journey in Northern Uganda in a city called "Kitgum". Here we joined our friends from the Regina Harvest City Church to observe and learn from their open-air crusade model that they have been doing in Uganda for the past 10 years! It was an incredible experience to be part of, and witness thousands of people coming to the soccer field to hear the gospel, and receive prayer, healing, and deliverance. Over the four nights, hundreds and hundreds of people surrendered their lives to Jesus and were set free from demonic strongholds! It is estimated that on the last night approximately 10,000 people attended! The crusade ended on such a high note with an incredible response to the altar call, and then it began to pour rain. Initially everyone started to scatter, but then immediately returned as spontaneous worship broke out with everyone singing and dancing and praising God in the mud and rain! It was such an amazing sight!

(Click on the link below or copy and paste into your browser to see video!)

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/lh1flmff1gndhqa11qr7a/Kitgum-Rain-Praise-1.MOV?rlkey=d73i92nk05zls57nhzdkok8n&st=99bctbfbk&dl=0>



Altar call at the crusade!

Pastor Joel Wells preaching!

Following the crusade, Luke and I joined our Ugandan team leaders (Ernest and Didi) to travel to various points in Uganda to meet up with BFM evangelists and encourage new church plants and pastors! We did a lot of driving, but it was good to see “Clair’s Crystal Well” in progress and being dug entirely by hand!!! They are currently at 110’ and believe they will hit water at 150’ or so. They lower one man down with a rope and pull the dirt up in buckets. I couldn’t convince Luke to go down! Haha! This well will provide clean and safe drinking water for the church and surrounding community!

Cranking up the dirt, and a labourer from the bottom of the well. Named “Clair’s Crystal Well” in honour of Clair, and another loved one of some donors who gave toward the well project!



The evangelists we met along the way are so committed to their calling! Travelling far from home and often having no where to sleep following the Jesus Film showings and preaching!

Saying good-bye to our Ugandan friends, we flew to Tanzania. We were very thankful for the new passenger train service they have from Dar Es Salaam to the capital city of Dodoma where our Tanzanian team is led by Florian. This train ride is a comfortable 4 hours vs. the treacherous 10 hour drive it has been in the past!

It was good to catch up with Florian, visit the church (1,000-seater) that they are constructing, and meet many of our BFM Jesus Film evangelists to encourage them, and hear about the fruitful evangelistic efforts they are involved in throughout Tanzania!

As you have heard me discuss in the past, BFM has been planning to host our own large-scale crusade in Dodoma, Tanzania in summer of 2025. It is a big decision, and huge undertaking. I would be lying if I said it doesn’t scare me...the costs, the planning, and the execution of such an event. When we were at the Ugandan crusade watching, I remember leaning over to Pastor Luke, and I asked him, “So Luke, are we doing one of these, or what?”. He answered immediately with, “Yes, definitely!”. So, I asked him if he was “all in”, and he intently looked at me and said, “Yes, I was picturing you up there preaching...I am all in! We are doing it!!” The Dodoma, Tanzania Freedom Crusade is booked for July 10-13, 2025!

We were then off to Malawi. Luke and I have both been there a couple of times before, but this was the first time to be able to leave the city and participate in rural evangelism throughout Malawi with the Jesus Film, open air preaching at soccer games, and preaching the gospel in the local churches. The response was overwhelming to accept Jesus!

The crowd fully surrounded us, and intently listened as we shared the story of Zacchaeus and shared the gospel with an opportunity to respond!



While visiting some of the churches, our Malawian Leader, Alec and his team had arranged for some mass baptisms. This was an incredible experience to be able to be involved with baptizing 120 new believers in a river. (This number grew to 150 by the end!) On another day, we were able to baptize about 40 new believers in Lake Malawi! The African pastors and evangelists are so good at encouraging and teaching new believers about the importance of being baptized!

One of the most amazing sights in the world...watching a new believer come up out of the water, just before their face breaks the surface!!



Click on the link below for an interesting video on the baptisms!

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/7cuk10a4brb2evi4wfl0h/VID-20241114-WA0010.mp4?rlkey=bk9lxn4lzo2xwlcrl0f8mouwc&st=93textu3&dl=0>

This was close to the mid-point of the trip, so it was nice to take the short trip over to Zambia to check in at BFM headquarters in Chongwe, visit Luke's wife Noria, visit the farm project, and check in with some of the evangelists. Luke and I took the opportunity to sit down with Pastor Davie, Luke's BFM Administrator, and reflect on 2024, and begin to plan and strategize for 2025.



At the Zambian Farm: Two solar wells pump water into these two tanks. There is room for seed and equipment storage below. They can accumulate water and drip irrigate the Maize, Cabbage, Tomatoes and Okra.

Pray for rain, for the entire region. It continues to be severe drought!

The Jesus Film Project conference was next! This took us to Ethiopia to the capital of Addis Ababa. This was part 2 of the conference we attended in March 2024. BFM was invited to be a contributor in developing strategies and combining resources with other ministries to reach the “Horn of Africa” with the gospel. This is a very closed region where Christianity is forbidden, or at the least, extremely persecuted. (Somalia, Djibouti, Eritrea, and parts of Ethiopia and Kenya). We received a lot of training in evangelism and in using the Jesus Film and other digital tools for evangelism and discipleship. We expanded our network and deepened some good friendships and ministry partnerships.



Our final leg of the journey saw us fly to NW Ethiopia to the city of Bahir Dar. We were led and hosted by Meseret, of Advancing Native Missions, who we had met at the two conferences. We have partnered with their ministry to bring BFM’s Jesus Film evangelist training and evangelism model to this region of Ethiopia. We put on a 3-day training course for 95 pastors and church leaders. From this group, Meseret had selected 8 of them to be BFM evangelists and receive Jesus Film Backpacks. We have 8 new backpacks ready for them. As of now they are sitting in customs at the airport in Ethiopia. **(Please pray that these Jesus Film backpacks are released soon!)**

This region of Ethiopia is less than 1% evangelical Christian! It is currently experiencing civil war, and the Christians face a lot of persecution from the Muslims and the Orthodox Church.

Evangelists learning how to use the Jesus Film equipment in Ethiopia!



Preparing for a feast on Lake Tana, the starting point of the Blue Nile River!

BFM has purchased 4000 Bibles in the Chichewa language! We partnered with Shareword Global on this, and Shareword contributed 4000 evangelism magazines and training. These will be distributed in Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia. Left to right, Alec (Malawi director), Luke (Zambian and African Director), John (Mozambique Director).



***** BFM 2024 Highlights *****

- 188 Jesus Film evangelists are currently serving with BFM. 136 of them have projectors and 80 have motorcycles!
- 6 new countries were added - Botswana, Zimbabwe, Angola, Namibia, Ethiopia, and one un-disclosed (for their safety – a Closed nation.) Each country has trained directors, and evangelists in place.
- 46 more Jesus Film Packs will be activated with trained evangelists in January 2025! They are currently in Zambia awaiting delivery to the new countries!
- 36 Jesus Film Backpacks are ordered and scheduled to arrive in Africa in the spring of 2025.
- **In the first 10 months of 2024:**
 - **1,779,617** people heard the gospel!
 - **404,519** people surrendered their hearts to Jesus! (in 2023 - 115,000 accepted Christ)
 - **27,031** believers were baptized
 - **135** new churches were started!

These numbers are so encouraging, and the harvest in Africa is truly plentiful! We are so thankful for the faithful workers on the ground there, and for each one of you that is supporting BFM with your prayers and offering! We join you in giving all glory to God for the abundant fruit that it is bearing!

There is so much work to be done, and we trust the Lord to continue to provide the resources needed to keep our pastors and evangelists going, training and discipling new believers, planting more churches, educating and providing for the children, and feeding the poor and needy!

As we look forward into 2025, and beyond, I am so excited to see what God has in store for this ministry! The vision that God gave to BFM founder Clair Ziolkowski, was amazing. We remember him fondly and miss him so much. This week marked the 2nd anniversary of his passing. The model that he put in place before he went to be with Jesus is incredible and is working! It is fruitful and replicable! We continue to pray that God guides us and gives us discernment over the many opportunities to continue to expand the work into the remainder of Africa, and even other continents! (We just received a request from Nepal!)



A typical scene of a Jesus Film Showing!

As you pray and consider giving this year, here are some of the immediate needs:

- Funds and favour to position the new backpacks into the hands of the new evangelists throughout Africa. (Customs, taxes and freight can often get expensive and corrupt).
- Monthly support for our Jesus Film Evangelists. As you know we provide each one with approximately \$100 CDN per month fuel allowance for their travel costs. Would you consider “adopting” one or more with a pre-authorized monthly donation? We are thankful for the many more evangelists, and it is greatly increasing our need for monthly funding! We would also like to begin to support our national leaders to some extent to help cover their costs of managing the BFM teams in their countries.
- More motorcycles! We desperately need more bikes for the evangelists to cover more ground safely and efficiently. A motorcycle costs \$2500 on average.
- Tents and sleeping bags for the evangelists. They are often gone until very late at night and have no place to sleep after the Jesus Film showings and preaching.
- Funds for Training conferences, bibles, materials, and travel. We hope to have a strong emphasis on training and development of new pastors and Church Leaders in 2025. This will help us grow the churches and disciple all the new believers. We have appointed Mike Opiyo (our Kenyan Director) to be BFM’s African Director of Training and Development. I envision Mike being able to travel to visit our teams and put on 3-day training courses in many different countries.
- Funds for travel. I plan to travel to Africa again in April, and July to continue to be present there, assess ministry needs, encourage and train the churches, assist in the Crusade plans, and then participate in the Tanzanian crusade in July.
- Funding for the Tanzanian Crusade.
- Ongoing Christian educational commitments to the bible schools we support in Zambia, Malawi, and Rwanda.

The list is endless!

I wish I could sit down with you all and tell you story after story! God is good!

Thank you so much for joining us in this amazing opportunity to be part of fulfilling the Great Commission!

On behalf of my family, and the board of Beautiful Feet Ministry, I want to wish you all the best and Merriest Christmas! God bless you and increase your Faith, Hope and Love!

God bless you,

Shawn Hermanson
Executive Director - Beautiful Feet Ministry

P.S. Please help us spread the word and share the excitement of BFM in Africa! Pass this along to family and friends!

Phone: 306-665-1089

Email: beautifulfeetcanada@gmail.com

Website: beautifulfeet.ca

Facebook: BeautifulFeet

Instagram: @beautifulfeetcd

DONATION FORM

Cheques can be made out to **Beautiful Feet Ministry** and mailed to:

Beautiful Feet Ministry, 119 Tucker Cres., Saskatoon, SK S7H 3H7

E-transfers can be emailed to: beautifulfeetcanada@gmail.com

In the Note box, please indicate the project you want to support, along with your name and address.

Credit Card donations on-line through Canada Helps (one time or monthly donations):

www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/beautiful-feet-ministry-inc

Pre-authorized Debit (PAD) for monthly donations – please see attached PAD agreement

☐ Where most needed

☐ 2025 Tanzania Crusade

☐ April Mission Trip

☐ motorcycle (\$2,500/ea.)

☐ Motorcycle fuel (\$100/mo.)

(ALL GIFTS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Thank you so much for your continued support & prayers and your prompt response as God leads!

Bringing Hope

beautifulfeet.ca