

# TURNER'S Tracks in Uganda



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## Debbie and the Women she ministers too...

Over the years it's been a joy to mentor many women and see them grow in faith and maturity in Christ. Often God works through our trials to mature us. Let me tell you about Lillian and Diana, two of the university women I have mentored for seven years. They have teachable hearts and were eager to learn from God's Word how to be godly women and wives.



In September 2010 Lillian married Kennedy, a pastor of the university church, and in December 2010 Diana married Robert who just graduated from medical school. Both

couples love the Lord and are seeking to serve Him. Both couples are experiencing trials that are testing their faith in God.

Lillian and Kennedy strongly desire to have a child, but so far are childless. That may not sound like a big problem to you, but here in Uganda, a woman is not considered a real woman unless she can "produce a child". Some even think a barren woman is cursed, and for that she is ridiculed. Friends ask Lillian why she doesn't have children yet. Even her home pastor asked her why she was trying to be a "Muzungu" (a white western person). She shared how this has deeply hurt her, and yet she has come to a place of acceptance and peace in whatever God brings and is thankful for a caring, supportive husband. Typically, in this culture, a husband leaves his wife or gets a mistress in order to have a child if his wife can't "produce". They are still hoping for a child, but more than that, they are trusting God to do His refining work in their lives.

Diana and Robert were so excited to have their first child in February. Diana was healthy and her pregnancy went well. Finally the day arrived on February 7th when their precious baby boy, Caleb, was born by c-section. Something didn't seem right---he didn't cry--he looked a bit pale. They whisked him off to intensive care before Diana could see him. Then after 12 hours of struggle he died, and it was only then that Diana saw his sweet face. The shock, the pain, the denial, the questions, the agony all assaulted Diana and her husband as they tried to face the reality of their lifeless, little baby boy. Last week



they came to stay with us after Robert finished his last 2 months of med school in the throes of grief. Diana shared with me how hard it was to be in the hospital after her

baby died, to hear other babies cry, to have empty arms, and no baby to nurse at her breast. Yet, through tears she shared how thankful she is for God's grace that has carried her and how God has given them peace and comfort. Oh, yes, they still have unanswered questions and tears, but oh, how their faith in Christ is being refined like gold!

**Thanks for praying:** Often the plans of men are not the tinder of eternal fires. All men are



midgets and their eyesight too short to see the designs of Heaven. “Unless the Lord builds a house they that labor, labor in vain” These words, while a warning, are also words of comfort. For when men plan to do wrong, their plans will not stand the test of time. They and their plans will pass way... God’s will and ways endure forever! It is with such thoughts I too take comfort, as I watched and witnessed men who hold their interests above Christ’s interests, use half truths to establish themselves within the national organization of Baptist in Uganda. But while the “Fish Rots from the Head Down” (an African Proverb) there is still a lot of good to do with the body that remains.

I thank God that I have been privileged to work with men who are willing to put Christ and the needs of His Church first in their lives. Instead of taking they have given. Instead of worrying about their position or their power they have served in the ministry faithfully. And some of the men work and teach at Western Uganda Baptist Theological College at Kiburara, Uganda. They will pass on to the men who come to be trained as pastors their ethos of service as well as their skills in ministry. While others worry about titles and their authority we will “strengthen what remains” and just maybe by God’s good grace the “Fish that Rots from the Head down” will be the “Fish that get resurrected from the tail up!”...

I want to thank you all for praying for the Baptist Union of Uganda and the different meetings that were held over the last few weeks. Continue to pray that grace would abound to those who “Love Christ and His bride”. Pray that we will have wisdom in the midst of our labors... and that wisdom will be a blessing to those Christ has sent us to serve.

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## **Western Uganda Baptist Theological College:**

This month has seen the election of a new Board of Governors, the start of the



rainy season, and 18 Students in attendance. The irrigation system is 1/2 repaired from the thieves that took the control valves from the underground vaults, and some of the wiring in the new class building is completed. ( more still to do) This next month? George Crosby, an agricultural specialist, will be visiting and advising for the last 2 weeks of the month of May. He will be “camping out with Darrie” on the campus. Pray for wisdom and strength and safety as they work on solving some issues in “farming”.

Other things to pray about: The re-roofing of the teachers houses on campus.. ( need to start the truss fabrication) Extending the Elephant fence to another 6 acres of farm land which God has provided for WUBTC. This will make a total of 24 acres within the fence area for elephant free growing! :) Pray for good harvest, with rain at the right times... the maize is 16” tall and growing.