



FIELD NOTES

writing to you from Kampala, Uganda

November 2009

FACTS IN FOCUS

Luganda

Luganda has prefixes, suffixes, & infixes in its verbs. Let's look at a sample to demonstrate. I want to say "I did not see you".*

okulaba: to see

This is the infinitive form of the verb. It breaks down like this:

- *o* - the lead vowel
- *ku* - the infinitive marker
- *laba* - the root/stem

ndaba: I see

To conjugate the verb, we prefix a person-marker to the root. In the first-person singular, we add "n-" Unfortunately, "n" cannot adjoin some letters, the "l" of the root "laba" being one of them. *n + laba → ndaba.*

*nalabye: I saw**

Tense is indicated by infixes and suffixes. In this case, an "a" is infixed after the person-marker and an "e" is suffixed. The infix *a* undoes the *n + laba* issue from above. Vowels cannot stand together, and the *-a + e* suffix goes to *ye* when following the letter *b*. *n+a+laba+e → nalabye.*

*salabye: I did not see**

Negation in this tense and for this person is indicated by changing the person-marker "n" to "si." The infixed "a" from the tense, though, is a stronger vowel than the "l" from "si," so the "l" is dropped.

*sakulabye: I did not see you**

The direct object is infixed between the tense infix and the root. The direct object for the 2nd person singular "you" is "ku."

*between 6 and 24 hours ago

TEE—Preaching

"When you threw that stack of paper on the floor and dumped those pens on top, you didn't even need to say any more—I understood exactly what you were saying!" Despite this compliment Shauen received a few months ago after preaching at a wedding, he isn't an exceptional preacher. He's inexperienced and is maturing only slowly. He doesn't exactly get the same kind of opportunities to preach that a more traditional vicarage or parish assignment would bring. But, when given advance notice and time to prepare, he does enjoy the opportunity to bring God's Word to His people.

One of the TEE students commented after that same wedding sermon: "Someday, Pastor, I will preach like that—I want you to teach me to preach like that!" Was it the content of the sermon that moved this man so much? The delivery? The masterful rhetoric? No. It was, in fact, the presentation of the sermon (with translation) in less than 20 minutes. As any good wedding sermon should be, it had been short (relatively). Ugandans aren't known for their short sermons. So for this student to hear a short sermon that still included a solid message was a new experience.

The TEE students often just don't have adequate time to dedicate to the preaching task. Every one of our students is fully occupied during the week. Some are teachers, some farmers, salesmen, videographers, college students, or laborers. Some work from dawn until the sun sets. Many don't have electricity in their homes, so working at night means working by candlelight or lamplight. None of them have a computer or any other sermon

preparation resources except their Bibles. It may be simply a lack of opportunity and technique that keeps a man from being able to dedicate the time necessary for sermon preparation. If they can find a way to carve out some time, the men must be able to use it efficiently and effectively.

So for TEE this weekend, Shauen took up all the lectures. He began with the basics of preaching and chose a text to use throughout the weekend. He took the students through examination of the text itself—the immediate context, the purpose and audience of the book, outlining the text, and then moving to the study notes in their Bibles, parallel passages and cross references, and culminating in the exegetical statement—a clear, concise summary of the text.

From there, Shauen led the class in the next step: what the text has to say to the people hearing the sermon. This in-

cludes thinking a bit about the church year, about the congregation, forming a goal for the sermon, and using the goal to identify a malady and then the means by which Christ and the Gospel message speak to this particular malady, all of which culminates in the central thought of the sermon.

Finally, Shauen showed the students how to fit the work they had done thus far into a simple structure called the Lowry Loop, which results in a narrative-style sermon that is simple and basic and lends itself well to the traditional Lutheran Law/Gospel paradigm. Praise the Lord for these lay leaders striving to bring God's Word to His people!



Shauen lectures on the Lowry Loop Structure

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Prayer Requests

- For the continued health of both Krista and Baby Trump
- For Baby Trump's delivery in Kampala in December
- For comfort as we struggle with homesickness in the Christmas season

In Praise

- For the health of both Krista and Baby Trump thus far
- For Pastor Jerome's installation at Kampala Lutheran Congregation
- For the congregations and individuals who have brought us to tears with their generosity as we prepare for Baby Trump



Our First Thanksgiving in Uganda



We (mainly Krista) were slightly worried as our first Thanksgiving in Uganda approached. The logistics of figuring out where to get a turkey (not easily available) and other such traditional Thanksgiving food was a bit overwhelming. Fortunately, we were invited to a large gathering of about 30-35 people. This at least solved the problem of trying to find a turkey! We had an amazing dinner with turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, cranberry sauce, homemade apple sauce, green beans, carrot soufflé (a delicious substitute for sweet potato casserole), bread, salad, lima beans and sausage, onions in cream, maize (not sweet-corn) casserole, apple crisp, pecan pie and, of course, pumpkin pie! We were both so happy to have not only a traditional Thanksgiving meal, complete

with the traditional overeating, but to have friends to share the meal with. Although having a traditional Thanksgiving meal may be a silly thing to pray about, to us it was important and an answer to prayer as we had great food and fellowship celebrating this American holiday far from home. If it wasn't for the warm weather, the mosquitoes and the hum of the generator, we wouldn't have known we weren't back in the States!

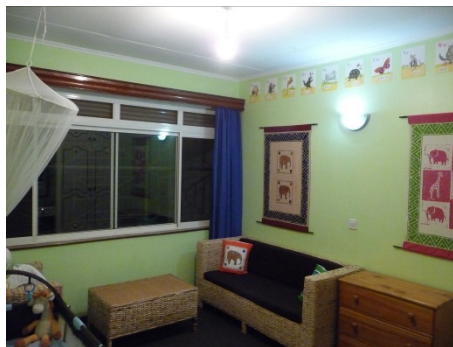


Krista on Thanksgiving day with a normal pumpkin (green), erroneously thinking the pumpkin must surely be bigger than her belly!

Preparing for Baby Trump

Believe it or not, this baby is coming soon! While we've had our moments of panic (are we ready for this?), we are slowly preparing for delivering Baby Trump here in Kampala and bringing him home from the hospital.

We've enjoyed painting and decorating the nursery (which used to be Shauen's office). There were a few special considerations—like where to hang the mosquito net so it could cover the baby and also a chair for nursing. We aren't using a crib yet—the used crib we had a lead on here had a



recall against it and we aren't too confident in the cribs that are made in the small shack on the side of the road. Fortunately, Krista's Bible Study group chipped in for a Pack-n-Play. When we show the nursery to our Ugandan friends they're a bit confused. "The baby should sleep with you until he is old enough to talk" they say. Well, you know, we are Americans, and we do things a bit different. Baby will sleep here in his own room after just a few weeks! Overall we're very happy with Baby Trump's room. Let's hope he is too!