

# Joe and Lois Ovenden

## Ovenden Update

August 2020

[www.bmsworldmission.org/jloviden](http://www.bmsworldmission.org/jloviden)



Dear Friends,

Warmest of hellos to you all. We trust this letter finds you well, and if it doesn't, we pray that you are on the road to recovery. All is well for us as a family, it has been a very positive couple of months, thank you all for your love and support. Schools and churches remain closed, but things are slowly opening up again here, and we are very pleased to report that the number of cases here in Uganda is still incredibly low. People are now allowed to travel on public transport and bodas again. One of the most exciting things (for us) is that the postal service has reopened (hint-hint)! The cubs have been particularly excited about this, as marmite is now on the menu again.

The education radio shows with READ for Life continue to go well, by the end of July, they had produced 206 live lessons and over 70 recorded lessons. Lois has written over 80 stories, and with schools looking increasingly likely to be shut until next spring(!) please pray for continued energy for everyone involved in this project. The READ for Life team and our BMS colleague Val have worked so incredibly hard. Val, who is part of the Child Protection Project, is not only helping with the education programmes, but she and our colleague Jolly are also presenting programmes about child abuse. They have met with some difficulties getting these programmes aired, so please pray that they manage to get the airtime.

Radio has also been a new medium for Faith Over Fear (FOF) SLT. Last Saturday, Isaac, Mirriam and Lois, took to the airwaves to talk about their work, spreading the word about communication disability and speech therapy. Isaac was a natural! Initially, we were told we were being given 1 hour, but with 10 minutes left in the show, they said we could have another hour! This

airtime was a real gift, we had been trying to get some airtime with this particularly popular station but the cost was more than we could budget for. But then we were approached by an education working group, who offered us this primetime spot which had already been paid for! The timing is great as FOF reopened the clinic at St. Philips the first week in August, with patients already waiting at the door.



It has been a great harvest for all of the extra beans planted which were funded through the Covid appeal, and the farmers are already starting to do a second plant. Prayers would be appreciated for the new phase of the Agricultural Livelihoods Project which is looking to be a source of income generation. It is early days and prayers for wisdom and for the right doors to open would be appreciated.

Also, congratulations are in order for Genesis; he and his wife Sarah, welcomed a beautiful little boy, Gen, into the world on the 16th July (see picture). We thank God that all went well.



Gulu Globetrotters is finally registered! It's been a very long process. Although Globetrotters can't meet as a school at the moment, a few times each week the children are meeting in small groups at different locations for some much-needed social interaction and input. As we look to opening next Spring, finding teachers is still an ongoing prayer request. We don't charge international school fees and therefore aren't able to offer wages most international school teachers would be expecting. Please pray that the Lord would provide experienced teachers who have a heart to serve.

Although Covid itself has not been as serious as we thought it might, it is still casting a very long shadow. The concern of many is what will happen the millions of school children who look unlikely to return to school this

year. The disquiet is particularly great for teenage girls, who face an ever-increasing likelihood that they won't return at all, especially those from rural locations. Teenage pregnancy is skyrocketing and the pressures not to return to education will intensify for many girls. Domestic violence is also a problem that many face.

As a family, we are taking a much needed three weeks off in August. We are very much looking forward to taking a break, and we are hoping to get a few days in Murchison National Park. It will have been our first ever holiday the five of us have taken, just us, not hosting anyone, so please pray for refreshment. Holidays with wee ones can be great fun, but not always what one might call 'relaxing.' Joe is in particular need of mental downtime, so prayers that he would be able to truly rest would be appreciated!

Thank you, to all who prayed for the transition of Joe's grandfather moving in with Joe's parents. All has gone smoothly so far and for that we are very thankful. We are grateful for all that God has been doing during this time. The last few months were not what we anticipated, but we have felt God drawing us closer together and closer to Him. Thank you, for continuing to journey with us, and we'd love to hear your news too!

With much love and every blessing,

Joe, Lois, Connie, Reuben and Eleanor.

If you would like to support Joe and Lois Ovenden by prayer and committed regular giving, visit [bmsworldmission.org/partners](https://bmsworldmission.org/partners) or call 01235 517617 for a 24:7 Partners leaflet.



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