

## **Mission Description**

*Schimke Family Update, April, 2024*

The Schimke's continue their work at ABU! So grateful for the 17 years that we have been allowed to serve in Uganda.

Kurt continues to lead the Biblical studies department with a full teaching schedule, all while developing the Aviation department, flying the ABU aircraft, and helping at New City Community Church. He and the team have been developing a new 2 year Diploma program that prepares students to qualify for the University level. It's been a super busy period.

Marlene is once again back in the classroom as a Speech teacher, but also super busy with homeschooling Lexi and leading the homeschool co-op that is based at ABU. Some parents have her teach their kids as examples in phonetics.

## **Complete Missions Update/Prayers/Praises**

Kurt is teaching through several New Testament Courses, and is teaching research methods to senior students. It's been a significant challenge to teach research methods in an effective way. As one often says, "a good teacher is always learning." On top of a full teaching schedule is the management and flying of the ABU aircraft, N517PC. It's been a super useful tool for helping staff to teach at conferences, promote ABU to potential students, and help with missions outreach in remote areas. ABU has been partnering with like-minded institutions so that this airplane is used effectively.

A huge time-consuming effort has been the development of the new Aviation Management degree that we hope to begin in August. We have had great help from experts both here in Uganda and from the USA. We're thankful to have an opportunity to bring the Biblical world and life view to the Aviation community.

Marlene has bravely taken the step back into the classroom after a few years' break. She really enjoys the students, and yet it's also a challenge to balance that time with homeschooling Lexi and working together with other homeschooling parents in a co-op that helps parents share their expertise. Despite the workload, we get to see all these homeschool kids get a really good education from the collective experience and training of great teachers.

ABU as a campus is enjoying a good healthy cooperative environment. It's a blessing to have a team that works together well. We are all working hard to make sure that the courses are taught well, and that we prepare ourselves to grow. A lot of work is going into recruiting students and the development of degrees that genuinely bring the Biblical world and life view into every area of life. We often get asked to preach in local churches and in many conferences.

## **Prayer**

1. For grown children, Zoe, and Nick, that they would grow in their faith.
2. For Nick, as he navigates where the Lord would have him study for University. He wants to study Mechanical Engineering and hopes to use that skill in a missions context in the future. He has been studying language in Germany and it's been a challenge to determine where is best for him.

3. For the ABU status with the government. The University Charter is fully settled, but also have an NGO status to maintain. It's been very difficult this time to renew, and its affecting many on campus who need to renew their work permits, including our family.
4. For our energy and strength, as our available time does not seem to fit the demands. We feel overwhelmed and often tired. Yet the Lord is faithful and he will sustain us.
5. For continued good relationships and a good community spirit on campus.
6. For our graduates trying to get into Masters degree programs, and those who are currently in them.
7. For continued safety and finances for the aircraft program.

### **Praises!**

1. For another good academic year. The Lord has been faithful, and we have great students, great teachers, and great reasons to believe that the Lord will grow us well.
2. For new families that have joined the ABU family, and for more coming to serve along side us.
3. For the new ABC President, Lee Sonius. We have been praying that the Lord would send us just the right person, and we are grateful for his leadership. He recently visited ABU, and it was encouraging.
4. For an excellent ABU Airplane dedication that took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> April (see photos). For flight safety!!
5. For the excellent homeschool environment that Lexi and the other MK's on campus and in the neighborhood have to enjoy.



Aircraft Dedication



Recent Video: <https://www.playbook.com/s/jj-media/VCh5WHB8RL3A4aAJWzd2or91>

Use only if you believe to be appropriate.



Our new ABC President, Lee Sonius