“Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed… Nothing will be impossible for you.”
Jesus in Matthew 17:20

“Mission Possible” all starts between our ears, with a choice. Whether we are reading in a soft recliner in the USA or cooking over a three stone fire squatted on red African dirt, we choose our attitude. Attitude is one of the eight key ingredients in FARM STEW’s recipe for abundant life.

Amazingly, our attitude determines our destiny. The stories I’ve witnessed in Africa, and hear weekly from our FARM STEW trainers in the field, demonstrate the power of shifting attitudes.

Your choice to live with a generous attitude (as evidenced by your gifts to FARM STEW) empowers some of the world’s poorest people. We’ve already invested $27,952 in our team in South Sudan that is directly impacting more than 10 villages, 500 families.

I hope you are inspired by theses stories and that maybe, just maybe, it will help you to keep making great choices about your attitude too! Be blessed!

A Gift Of Beauty You Made Possible!

Mary is one of nine FARM STEW volunteers in Jinja, Uganda who are working to take the message of FARM STEW to their villages. Our 20 full time paid African FARM STEW trainers are each assigned to mobilize volunteers in 5-9 communities, thus exponentially multiplying the impact of our work. When Betty and I joined them to hear their stories, I was so blessed by Mary’s gift. She took the base of a papaya as a vase and made one of the most beautiful bouquets I’ve ever seen. It’s a gift I want to share with all of you who make this work possible through your generosity!
Robbery leads to Enterprise!
Wilson is an innovator by necessity!
(From Daniel, FARM STEW Iganga Team Leader)

When Joy Kauffman first went to Namungalwe, Uganda in October 2015, it created quite a stir. It was one of the first villages she ever trained in before FARM STEW even existed. It was just a little cluster of homes built along the side of a dirt road that 

bustled with curious people and hungry kids.

Now, thanks to your generosity, our Iganga based FARM STEW team has trained in Namungalwe eight times, helping to create a shift in the community that is yielding great results. Wilson Mudoola’s story is one of many I’d love to share.

Wilson chose to join the Local Development Association which FARM STEW helped to start in 2017. Most of the other new member were women, but he didn’t let that faze him. As a 71-year-old married father of six children, Wilson wanted to learn and leave a legacy.

He’s a doer, not merely a hearer (James 1:22). Wilson shared, “When I acquired the skill of making tippy-taps from FARM STEW trainers, I went home and successfully made two on my own. One was placed at the latrine entry and another one near my dish drying stand.” (Two of the essential parts of FARM STEW’s Sanitation message to prevent disease transmission).

“But to a great disappointment when I woke up next morning, I found both tippy-taps were stolen.” Apparently, local thieves want to be clean too!

“I didn’t let this discourage me; instead it gave me another challenge,” Wilson said with a smile. “I thought of making mobile tippy-tap stands, and for sure this idea has worked out for me.”

Wilson’s necessity became the mother of invention! He is now very happy because he designed a mobile tippy-tap that can be taken into the home at night as a small project to boost his income. He is selling each at the cost of 2000 Ugandan Shillings (55 cents) to his community members and 3000 (85 cents) to non-community members. Many people are buying them.

“I thank FARM STEW for opening my eyes to see the available opportunities to improve my family’s health and my income. These mobile tippy-tap stands are now on high demand and this has become my business enterprise.”

The combination of “ingredients” Attitude + Sanitation = Enterprise. That’s FARM STEW, a new equation for life!

What is a tippy-tap?

Over 3000 years ago the Bible included the specific instructions to wash under “running water” to prevent the spread of disease (Leviticus 15:13). The tippy-tap is a hands-free way to wash your hands that is especially appropriate for rural areas where there is no running water. It uses only 40 millimeters of water to wash hands compared to 500 ml using a mug. That’s important when water is far away!

It’s (normally) made from sticks pounded into the ground from which a jug is suspended. It is operated by a foot lever and thus reduces the chance for bacterial transmission as the user only touches the soap or wood ash (a free, readily available soap alternative). The UN says washing hands is “the most cost-effective intervention for the worldwide control of disease.” By teaching this ancient Biblical wisdom, FARM STEW, through your gifts, saves lives!
You’ve Equipped our Teams for Life!

Not far from the source of the awesome Nile River in Uganda, our FARM STEW Jinja Team (pictured right) is thrilled to be equipped for life. Thanks to your generous support, this quarter they purchased 17 cans of non-GMO vegetable seed that they repack into hundreds of tiny pouches and sell in the rural communities for around 6 cents each. With these seeds and the skills they bring in organic agriculture, they help some of the world’s most impoverished families and vulnerable people grow a rainbow of vegetables that will nourish them and provide income as well. You made it possible for each of our teams to help hundreds of families in this first quarter of 2019!

Women are shouting for joy! Mr. Otto’s Choice is Changing His Village!

(From Doreen, the FARM STEW South Sudan Team Leader)

Before long, the ladies started shouting and thanking FARM STEW for this attitude transforming training. The women and the men who were at the training were very eager to try Mr. Otto’s food, and all were amazed at how well prepared and delicious was his meal.

Now Mr. Otto even cooks at home, and his wife is very grateful. He has become a model in the village for other men who are not helping at home.

One of the most challenging changes to effect is that of attitude, built on long years of cultural practices. On Friday, February 15th, 2019, the team of FARM STEW trainers YOU launched conducted training at Labato village in Obbo of Ayaci County, in South Sudan. The training was on the extraction of soy milk and the preparation of mixed vegetables of various colors resulting in a beautiful and nutritious ‘rainbow dish’.

In this village, culturally men do not cook. When men have to cook, they do not do it where women can see them. However, before starting the training our FARM STEW team discussed with the villagers about Attitudes that block progress. We challenged them to think differently!

As the training commenced, some men joined, although they sat at the fringes behind the women. (See photo.) As the training captivated the learners, one brave man moved and sat together with the women, an act that surprised the women themselves. Mr. Otto (not his real name) found himself cutting the vegetables and extracting soy milk with the women while talking and laughing. In this cultural context, what was taking place would be considered to be impossible.

Mr. Otto didn’t let that stop him. He lit the fire, washed the saucepan for cooking, and finally, prepared the rainbow dish of colorful vegetables. He participated in everything!

Rather than criticizing aspects of a culture or individuals in a community, the FARM STEW way is to highlight positive examples like Mr. Otto. It’s called Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) as we focus on drawing attention to what we seek to multiply.

Mr. Otto now appreciates FARM STEW for impacting him and his family positively. He looks forward to more training that will be conducted and has become a FARM STEW volunteer in the village.

Thank you for launching us in South Sudan!
Latif is spreading the Gospel!

One young deaf man named Latif, from a harsh Muslim family, starting coming to the Jinja SDA Church because of the deaf outreach program lead by Daniel, a sign language interpreter. Latif chose to accept Jesus and was baptized recently. He is one of many!

Your generosity made it possible to for FARM STEW to hire both Daniel and Juliet, a young woman who is deaf. Together they conducted training at Latif’s home. After learning about sanitation, soy milk making, and garden preparation, Latif is now a FARM STEW Volunteer in his community, teaching others how to do these helpful things.

Because of your generosity and Latif’s efforts, over twenty handwashing stations (tippy-taps) and many kitchen gardens are now in his local community. Praise God that the gospel of abundant life is going forth in this way. May you be abundantly blessed for making it possible!

FS Women’s Alliance; 1st Chapter Launches!

The FARM STEW Women’s Alliance is a network of mission-minded women who want to share a recipe for abundant life. On Sunday, March 31st, 24 women gathered in a home in Berrien Springs, Michigan to show their support.

Silvia Bacchiocchi, who chairs the FS Womens Alliance-Berrien Springs Chapter says, “It has been a pleasure to work with Joy, Cherri, and other alliance members to help ensure more of our brothers and sisters in Africa are empowered to choose abundant living for themselves and their families. We pray daily that more will join our numbers!”

Using the power of collective philanthropy, members are asked to donate annually, organize events, and invite others to do the same! Members earn voting rights by giving $1000 yearly before their chapter’s annual Impact Event. At that event, voting members decide which FARM STEW initiatives to fund with their cumulative donations.

If you are interested in joining or forming a Women’s Alliance Chapter in your area, please call/text Cherri Olin at 815-878-4897 or Cherri@farmstew.org.

Your gifts can be sent to: P.O. Box 291 • Princeton, IL 61356 or give online at: www.farmstew.org

Because YOU said “YES” to Mission Possible...

This quarter FARM STEW has hired, trained, and mobilized 9 new African staff, totaling 20 full-time trainers. They have trained 2,110 just this quarter, totaling 52,110 people so far. It’s still just Cherri and I, working from our homes, in the USA, so you know where your money is going!

In January we officially launched trainings in South Sudan, the country officially ranked as the unhappiest place in the world by the United Nations. What a great place to impact attitudes!

In February, you made it possible for me to be in Africa. Together with our African leaders, we provided a 4-day intensive training with all the new staff. I can tell you, they are incredible! We also bought 1800 Kg (two tons) of non-GMO soya seed, 75 tins of vegetable seeds, and a vehicle that can travel on the terrible roads in South Sudan.

In March, many of you chose to give Freedom from Shame to girls. We received $6,750 which will allow us to reach 450 girls. We still have 2,550 to go, but are hopeful!!

Each week, we see God’s mighty hand and outstretched arm in the work of FARM STEW. Thank you, beloved donors, board members, volunteers and friends, for lending your hand as well.

To meet Baby Joy go to: www.farmstew.org/news/blog