

## PT SHALOM - BUSEMBATIA TRIP



On August 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, Mrs. Grace Twongyeirwe and Ms. Rebecca Nkore joined over 45 women in Busembatia, in an annual gathering where PT Shalom has an opportunity to teach the Bible and fellowship with the Pastors' wives and other women who are partners in Ministry.



This conference was hosted by Mrs. Dina Kibumba of Faith Baptist Church who invited Pastors' wives and other participants from the neighboring districts of Iganga, Bugiri and Namutumba.

### **Building Women up for Gospel work**

PT Shalom Effort has maintained a discipleship program with the women, which makes an effort to boost their ministry through working with them to support their ministering husbands through Bible study, productivity and small scale enterprise. Having attended the PT Shalom May 2018 Conference, where the women had gathered to study the Word of God, the cross cutting prayerful ambition threefold:

- To reach women and their families with the Gospel to transform lives for eternity
- To improve household income through the Shalom small projects
- To further equip them for effective Gospel work in their church and families

Mrs. Grace Twongyeirwe shared with the ladies concerning our spiritual life in Christ - spiritual birth, spiritual growth, spiritual maturity and answered questions biblically concerning spiritual gifts. She also encouraged them to keep consistent in Bible study and the word of God, which is a point of reference in every area of their life.

### **Anchored in God's Word**



In a region where the plight of women is noticeable in stories of illiteracy, materially needy, and domestic violence, the gathering of such women under the word of God with PT Shalom opens a space for them to share heart to heart who God is to them in their various situations - at home, at church and in the community.

**Margaret Byawano** from Nangalama Baptist Church, Bugiri shared a heart wrenching testimony of enduring domestic violence and persecution in her home gladly, because of the treasure she has found in Christ. Sharing her lot as she goes about working hard for her family, she hopes this labor of Love will be a witness to those around her, in making Christ known.

*"I have clung to Christ amidst all this because hearing and gathering under His word has been like a river of peace amidst the storm, like a million shillings amidst the lack, and I hope others can see all this and know that it is because of what Jesus works and enables in me", she testified.*



In embracing this difficult struggle as a mother and wife, while looking to God has helped her build godly character and nurtured in her a serving heart. The women were encouraged in the Word as they testified of how it has not only continued to transform their homes, Churches and communities, but helped them to grow in Faith.



Mrs. Dinah Kibumba (regional coordinator for ministry to women) echoed the testimonies of several during her thanksgiving remarks. *“PT Shalom has taught us and inspired interest in us to be deliberate in the study of God’s word, not only by ourselves as individuals, but collectively together as women, while also utilizing every God-given skill and opportunity to work hard as unto Him”,* she said.

### **“What is in your hand?”**

Mrs. Grace Twongyeirwe has overtime been mobilizing pastors’ wives and seeking understanding on how to help uplift them from socio-spiritual and economic hindrances that express themselves through mental resignation, material poverty, and spiritual confusion. These hold back their own joy in Christ, hamper their potential in Christian witness and keep the church weak in her mission in communities. Whenever these become the portrait of the pastor’s own family, he no longer has a message to give in regard to exemplary hard work, productivity, or bringing hope to his hearers.

The women therefore were encouraged to endeavor towards godly stewardship and hard work for domestic provisions, church growth and though involvement in Ministry as partners. They work in their gardens and trade in a small commercial enterprise, vending, knitting, sewing, crafts, animal rearing, catering services and others. There were testimonies of how this effort creates an avenue to provide for their families, while being a discipleship channel wherever they are.



**Annette Lubogo** from Busesa, Iganga district appreciated how her PT Shalom support allocation which has helped her to set up an income generating project. She was capitalized to sell firewood. Now she has saved enough to also contribute towards the construction of a pit latrine at their church premise, with a vision of later hosting groups for Bible study and even conferences.



### **Self-Sustainability as Kingdom Witness**

PT Shalom has made recapitalizations and support allocations to different homes in different measures according to conviction, need and feasibility. Some keep pigs and goats, others trade in firewood, others have food catering business, while others farm the land. Evaluation of these projects will continue as to encourage godly stewardship and feasibility, as well as training through seminars that will help resolve the question: “What is in your hand?” These support allocations were made in July-August 2018.



**Loy Nabirye** from Musisi Grace Baptist Church in Jinja shared how “What is in your hand?” and the support received has given her a wide discipleship ground, to stand well enough to help others stand provided for.

*“My farming and piggery project, which has been supported with feeds to last months, has now grown with the addition of 12 piglets, where each goes for (\$25). This will help me in paying school fees for my children, improving on the project, and sharing skills of rearing in my community”.*

### **Growth in ministry collaboration**

The crowning of the Conference in Busembatia was the visible growth, evident in not only in number, but also in the way the women are collaborating with each other, from different regions and backgrounds in studying the Bible, and sharing how practicing “What is in your hand?” towards sustainable livelihood, has worked to gather them towards Gospel causes.

### **Godly commitment**

As the gathering in Busembatia grows in number, the women testified that their most persistent prayer, going forward, is to bring to more women God’s word through discipleship of other women, and young girls who are committed to set their hearts and hands to work, as unto God, to make him known.

The PT shalom Busembatya trip realized the achievement of;

- Teaching and admonishing women in the Word of God.
- Bringing more women together from different regions.
- Following up on the women with small incomes to improve their livelihood and aspire to be more deliberate in gospel work.

From the interaction, fellowship and sharing we heard from the Women, lives and homes and churches are being transformed by the grace of God. To Him is the Glory.

Report compiled by Rebecca K. Nkore  
Coordinator, PT Shalom Women’s Ministry