

PT Ministry Update June – September 2021

We live under a constant conviction that people need to be converted and Christians everywhere need to be disciplined and spiritually nurtured for their joy and God's glory. They need to be nourished in the Word by mature mentors who model the Word in life under the Spirit of God. So, how do we live up to our conviction today, when many Christians are isolated and scattered due to the lockdown in countering the spread of COVID-19?

We do not have a clear answer to this, but we never cease to plan and hope in God who is sovereign. The pandemic remains stressful to the ministry of the church and of course to the wider world in many ways, but under God's sovereignty, it may also be as purifying as the church needed in this hour. So the church may emerge small in numbers at the end of the pandemic, but pretenders and institutionalists may necessarily lose a foot hold in these difficult times. We are convinced that the "church organic" will thrive under Christ's pledge: **"I will build my church"**; the "church institutional" will struggle and be shaken under its human framing until Kingdom priorities are brought back in place, against the odds of secularism and nominalism. Those who have perceived the church as a mere power base (convenient constituency), employment center, social utility, or a large building with a cross on top or club, are faced with a need to redefine what the church or Christ really is.

In Uganda, Christians have not gathered in church buildings for their regular Sunday worship services since June! So, will the isolated and often culturally marginalized Christians find the opportunities to serve and to grow? We have great hope. In his sovereign ways, God is providing creative solutions to us in PT, ACEMU and BERECA to face today's missional challenges by maximizing them for Gospel opportunities as we point people the priority need (Matt. 6:33) for wholesome living. Thus far, we seek God's wisdom, as the skilled application of acquired knowledge in the overall understanding of this unique situation thereof. So, may God help us!



For now, we are very excited about the growth of ministry here – both the quality of the training we offer and the hunger for the Gospel that drives it far and broad.

We now foresee greater involvement through existing and new partnerships in Uganda, under ACEMU (*A Consortium of Evangelical Missions in Uganda*) in which I serve as the Executive Secretary, AFMA (*Africa Missions*

Association) in which I serve as the General Secretary and the WLU (*World Link University*) which links mission training and mobilization across south America, Africa and Asia. I serve as Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs for this entity.

We believe that we are well placed to bring the Gospel far and wide under the guidance of Christ our Lord. Our persuasion has always been that before we fly the all over the globe for Christ, there be a **"model national Gospel movement"** in Uganda. So our training is geared towards achieving a broad impact especially in cross cultural and international terms. We have already completed the orientation for the next class in Rukungiri for mission mobilization through training. We now prepare to trek the 840 kilometers return journey there once every week for 15 weeks.



On the Horizon

During **October 2021**, which is traditionally our *Protestant Reformation Recall Month* we will be preaching and teaching under the theme, “**The Authority of the Word of God**” concluding in a Roundtable Talk for church leaders on the “Protestant Reformation & the authority of God’s Word”.

November being our Missions Emphasis month, we will preach and teach on how the Church on Mission must embrace the fact that today’s desperate times require desperate means in regard to creativity in ministry methods. This will culminate into a Seminar on Missions: “**the Proclaimed word and the Proclaimers’ lifestyle**” on Saturday 27th. The dates for PSP Instructors and Coordinators' training are 8 – 19, and this is what will give us teachers to deploy in Kigezi, West Nile, and eastern regions of Uganda.

December is traditionally our *Advent Attention Month* and our Christmas series are around “*God has spoken to reveal himself*”. Some members of our staff will travel to minister during a conference in Arua (West Nile), 26th - 28th.

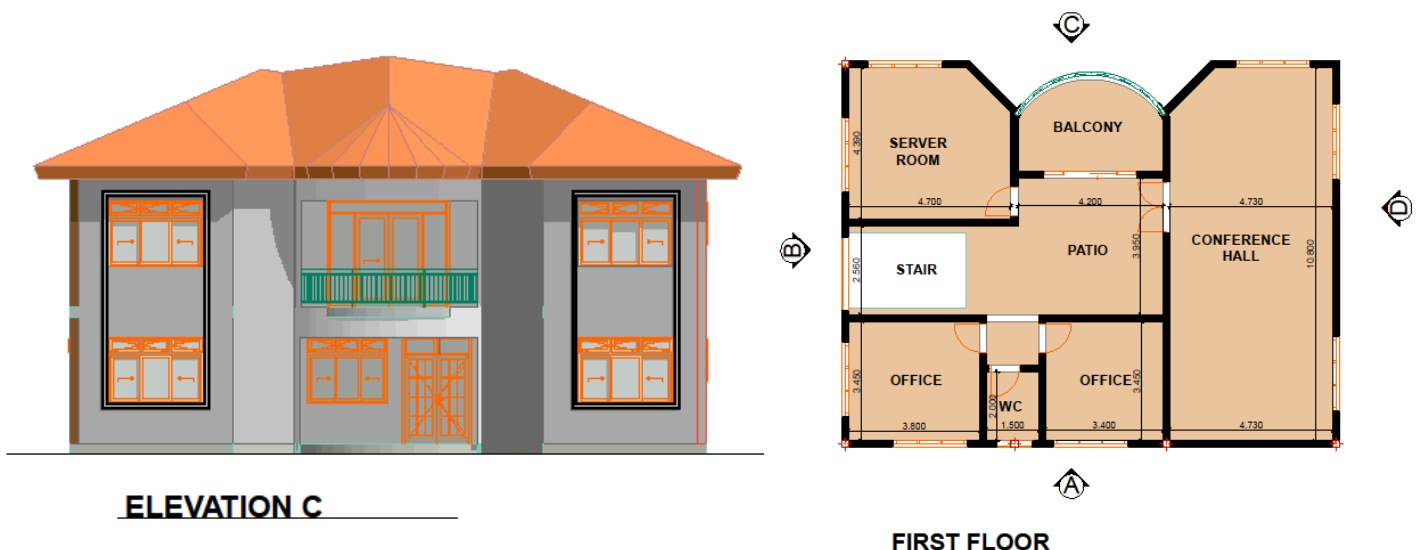
Enter the **New Year 2022**, and upcountry travels begin, the intake of new ministry interns and a lineup of five flagship conferences as well as three, 15-week classes of Perspectives Study Program (PSP). Flagship Conferences include the Theological Think Tank for church leaders (March), the Shalom Women’s Conference (June 6th – 10th), the Bible Exposition Conference for Preachers (July), the Perspectives Huddle (August), the Students’ Conference (September) and the Christian Writers’ Conference (November).

We are thinking deeply on how to strategically incorporate our non-formal seminars, the Perspectives Study Program, STAT (*Short Term Apprenticeship Training*) in the rural areas, STEM (*Short Term Experience in Ministry*) of interns at the PT Institute and formal programs such as in between the flagship conferences. Please keep in prayer over this strategizing, for God’s wisdom and guidance.

Construction Pictorial

The Information Technology Center

The IT Center is actively under construction and progressing well. We are now roofing it and plastering the lower ceiling. The rendering below shows the front outlook and the first floor. It is planned well for media and communication that include recording, processing data, editing, uploading and broad cast of courses, sermons, announcements as the need may be.





The Kitchen and Dining

The Kitchen is ready to be used because everything has been tested – gas, electricity and the entire equipment. We are simply waiting for TOTAL to fill our cooking Gas Tank, then we will launch functionality by cooking a meal that will be shared by those who supplied the equipment, those installed them, those who did the electric work and those who did the gas-piping system. We would like to switch on and launch in that small function, and declare our Kitchen operational.



Electricity Connection to Mains



Cooking Gas (LPG) Tank



Our office Block

Our Office Block is serving us very well, with a spacious Board Room for our devotions and ministry planning. The staff enjoy to work from their rooms uninterrupted and then head out to the Dining for their meals. It is very helpful to have this facility. The PT Center has really taken very good shape and is progressively functional, except that we do not have proper housing for more residential occupants.



There is some income from our facilities, but on during-the-day basis since we lack sufficient residence. Our rural women and other younger students do not mind using classrooms in our improvisation, but people who would pay some money will find it unviable.

The PT Residential duplex (the only residence on site) can host only up to six more people who would not mind sharing rooms with our already six resident staff members.



The Residential duplex

With the Classroom Block in place, Administration block in place, Dining & Kitchen in place, IT Center under construction and the Wall Fence progressing, the pressing need is to be able to host at least 40 people in residence at any one time.



The Wall Fence

Construction work on the Wall Fence, to close off the areas that had not been bounded resumed two weeks ago, with generous support from our partners. With their donation, we will be able to enclose our facilities, and look forward to the main gate that can keep us as safe as can be.



The Need for Improved Transport

Plans for this coming year include so much travel in new places, and our two vehicles are not as promising as we would like. We have a 21-year-old Toyota which is currently our most reliable.

And then we have a 23-year old Toyota HIACE Van. Both are still running but not good enough for upcountry trips that we have laid out to the far south-west, the far North-West (Arua) and the east in taking the training programs of our Institute to the church in rural Uganda which is in great need, and full of potential for contextual mission movement.

In difficult or slippery terrain, we have often used this 31-year old Land Rover (not ours) which belongs to one of our church members. It proves stronger than reconditioned Japanese cars on rough roads, but it is indeed old and lacks spare parts in Uganda compared to its newer models. In light of ministry expansion, we are praying for a vehicle that fits our bad roads and difficult terrain.





The Need for More Residence

The grounds for such residential structure were cleared so that we can always stand in place to petition our loving God for it. The architectural plans were also drawn, and we will continue to wait on God for this structure that can conveniently host 40 people. With such residence, we can utilize everything else better.

Our Ministry Internship is proving fruitful. Through ministry visits, STAT is held in various parts of Uganda. Selected graduates who feel called to full time Gospel ministry are enrolled for STEM for at least six months. Then they are redeployed as networkers for continued training in their regions as representatives of training programs. In that way, the PT Institute relays courses and other resources through these regional leaders to support their ministry effort in partnership with us.



To the left is **Joshua Ayebare**, one of the four apprentices that began with STAT last year (2020). He has now spent seven months with us studying and serving. He together with three others will be redeployed in their home regions to carry on ministry through a constant partnership with the PT Institute. We will provide and administer courses, train instructors for Bible teaching sites and provide other resources. **Joshua** has been a school teacher, but in the last few months with us, he has strongly felt a call to full time Gospel work. Wonderful young man he is.

We have also resumed holding physical classes, although we are completing one more class online.

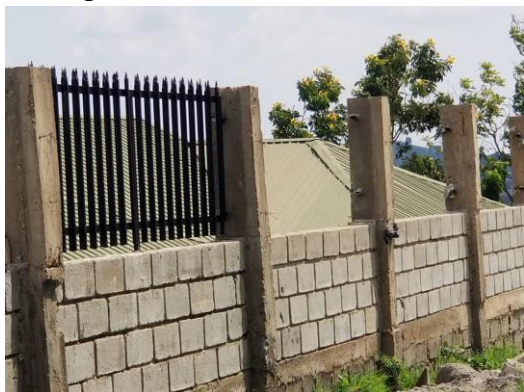




In the process of clearing a place for the future plan to improve residence on the PT Center, we also redirected the access road, something we have always wanted to do.

The physical plan will now take better shape with orderly terraces, the green area, parking space, street lighting and so on.

Working on timber for roofing is going on and soon we will have the roof for the IT Building. Then plastering the walls will be next, then the floor, electricity, plumbing and the facility will be ready for use, God willing.

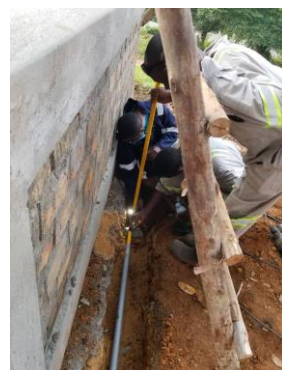


Here to the left, we are attempting to fix metal barriers in our perimeter fence, and beginning right behind the IT Block as a priority.

We have been involved in testing the Kitchen equipment to ensure both safety and functionality.



Construction activity to ensure LGP fixtures and utility. The Gas pipe is laid





The Gas Tank Cage is also built.



Three phase electricity supply is now in place and ready for use in our Kitchen.



All the while as we build structures, we are intent that we do not miss the high point of all our endeavor: **making disciples of all nations**. So, we reach the community and gather young people, women, and children for weekly Bible Study and fellowship. It is a wonderful opportunity for our ministry interns to get to real Gospel work, learning by doing.





But classes are going on as we complete particular courses for this year, and ready to train instructors in order to multiply teachers who can swiftly be deployed in different places.

As reported by Julius Twongyeirwe
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