

PT NEWS UPDATE

April – October 2020

The last seven months have remained unpredictable following the dawn of COVID-19, the resulting lockdown and the aftermath in the new normal of operation. For PT, it remains a time of evaluating and adjusting methods we use for ministry. The transition to the new normal is in itself so demanding, requiring creativity and the kind of innovation which does not come to mind easily. So, the transition to new ways is assessed just as the ministry itself.

Globally, the confirmed cases are nearing 50 million with 1.2 million deaths while 35 million have recovered. As of today (Nov. 7) there are 13,852 COVID-19 cases in Uganda of which 7,645 have recovered while sadly, over 131 have died. Some people may argue that this is negligible compared to other countries, but the effects of COVID-19 are deeply felt and cause overwhelming fear and anxiety still.

Under the pandemic lockdown, many Christians have had to reconsider how “church” is indeed more than a building and how ministry is about turning challenges into missional opportunity. For us in PT, we are learning to navigate how “digital ministry” can become part of our lives. The pandemic has changed so much about the way in which the Christian mission will advance henceforth.

MINISTRY ENGAGEMENT

We have kept busy and realized great Kingdom fruit through door to door evangelism wherever our staff are placed. Within our city neighborhood, we have 23 converts who turn up every Sunday evening at our home to study the Bible. Further away from the city, a total of 83 people come through the week in three arranged programs at the PT Center, where the PT staff are doing a great job of teaching the Bible and spiritual nurture.

By the time the pandemic sought to immobilize us, we had trained 30 instructors and coordinators of the Perspectives Course, our main mobilization tool for Christians and Gospel workers from various evangelical denominations. We had also launched a class at St. James chapel – Makerere Business School (MUBS) with 15 trainees and Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) with 40 trainees that included church leaders, students and market place professionals.

During this time, we are teaching one class of 20 students which meets physically at the PT Center and handling 48 students online. During the class sessions that meet physically, our training sessions are being recorded and uploaded for online students. We anticipate a continuation of online training incorporated both with physical training. Some of these students are continuing to complete the course following the lockdown interruption, while others are totally new to us.

We have held meetings with leaders of Africa Inland Mission (AIM) to further discuss partnership prospects, especially in the area of mission mobilization through training. We have also commissioned and sent a missionary to United Arab Emirates (UAE), and continue to train him online every week, so that he can engage effectively.

With AIM, we envisage greater ministry partnership in training missionaries that will be sent out by AIM as professional workers, but supplementing our teaching with a course (the Spirituality of Work) whose course syllabus we are currently working on.

Our efforts to bring renewal in the church has seen us engaged with church leaders of the Anglican church in western Uganda where a selected group of missionaries and pulpit ministers (especially school and hospital chaplains) are set to receive training through our planned trips of early next year.

We will be conducting this training at Kisiizi Missionary Hospital, with students coming from hospitals where they are medical workers and schools where they are teachers, in a radius of 30 kilometers. We believe that the Perspectives Study Program will be a catalyst to awaken the spiritual life and ministry within the Anglican Church and set it on a strategic participation in God's worldwide mission.

Being online has allowed us to participate and teach students beyond Uganda. Through our global links, we have taught in Malaysia, in Rwanda and Kenya. We envisage a stronger partnership and more opportunities to collaborate out of such ventures.

Kitchen / Dining Hospitality Project (Vision Casting)

Tied into the kind of services we would like to offer, and the returns we anticipate, we have enrolled 35 young people, who are out of school and mainly without jobs, to gain skills in cooking, serving food and giving care as hosts. Our Kitchen and Dining facilities have taken good shape enough for us to use them in this venture. Some of these may be retained in future, to serve with us, while others shall move on to find jobs elsewhere, once they are skilled.

Our aim is to have people from the community around us be part of the PT Ministry and Institute in any means possible, primarily for evangelistic purposes, and also provide an opportunity for employment to the community and income to the institute.

We have sustained our training links and preaching efforts with many local partners through mission conferences and leadership seminars. In September we participated during the Mission Week organized St. Kakumba Chapel – Kyambogo University. We also taught in sessions during the East Africa Christian Teachers Conference, a forum that brings together Christian teachers in the East African region to equip them for strategic kingdom purposes in secondary schools beyond their professions as teachers.

We anticipate that if the teachers are equipped for this purpose, children will understand the gospel early and gain deeper discipleship, be sent as missionaries in universities and colleges.

For the entire month of October we taught among other instructors at the Haggai National Leadership Seminar, aimed at equipping Christians especially in the market place with a Biblical Mandate for Evangelism, Discipline and integrity of a leader, Setting and achieving goals for evangelism, communicating effectively for Evangelism, Writing skills for Evangelism, communicating the Gospel to the Next Generation and, Stewardship; Mobilizing and Utilizing Resources for Evangelism.

We visualize an opportunity for the PT Institute to offer further training for market place professionals that desire to have a kingdom impact in their placements. We envisage that through

such opportunities, the PT Institute will have more opportunity to train as many gospel workers as possible both on an informal, non-formal and a formal level.

Just yesterday, we were approached by Mrs. Irene K. Kisaka and in her request,

“Why don't I mobilize a class and you teach us the Bible. It can be an online class that we pay for and commit to be part of. Like 12 of us. You teach us the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. Let me know what you think so that I begin mobilizing. I can call you and we talk more about but kindly think about it”.

Irene is a wonderful Christian and a highly placed official in the Uganda government. She serves as the Principal Assistant Secretary/Personal Assistant to the First Lady (Mrs. Janet K. Museveni) who is also the Cabinet Minister of Education and Sports. We replied that we will be very glad to teach her and her team as per the request.

We held a wonderful evangelistic outreach meeting for professional workers one week ago. We invited and hosted the entire staff of a Bank branch, and other individuals for a meal at our house. We are now following each up to make sure their objections to Christian faith are removed through understanding.

PT Literature and Publications

We are reviewing the content of the Uganda Mission Journal to match our current and near future times regarding the issues and trends in missions. We are giving attention to trend lines behind headlines, needed for strategic Gospel engagement. We are not sure when this will be completed, since it is a peer review project, led by the PT Institute.

So, the objective is to address the effect on witness and missions of issues, such as the demographic changes, politics, the economy, globalization, technology, and the inevitable materialistic pull for everyone in our age.

We still want to complete our publication on Pastoral Theology which we began as we prepared to welcome Dr. John Johnson early this year. That did not happen. Under the encouragement of Dr. Steve Hawthorne, we are putting together a course, “The Story of His Glory” in a format of PSP that will be feasible for younger people in high school.

Other publications we are working include Spiritual Warfare, the Spirituality of Work, a 2nd Edition of God's Grace-, God's Mind on Feminism, and arranging discipleship material for new converts, given our heightened zeal for evangelism.

We envisage a publication on each of the issues that will be handled in our seminars, which will act as extra reading materials for students with points of inquiry into deeper study and research. The publications will also enrich our library as resources that support theological research, rigorous scholarship, and life-long learning throughout the Institute's sphere of influence.

Since we are driven by what we foresee God unfold in the future, we must be deliberate in placing our lives in his hands as instruments for his use.

Our Church Reopened

On October 25 we reopened Berea Church for congregational worship after seven months of lockdown. We reopened to resume our worship services, under a discipline built into our faith in

God. On one hand, we are guarding against a faithless and anxious fear of the coronavirus that Satan can use to kill the ministry. And on the other hand, we are guarding against a reckless and irresponsible attitude in our physical interaction that can practically put us and our people at health risk. So, we are seeking God in order to maintain this spiritual and physical discipline.

MINISTRY EVALUATION

We are currently focused on the lasting implications of the pandemic in the future this Hybrid Ministry, because the pandemic has really impacted church attendance and engagement. We are continually thinking of the strategies which will work well in the digital ministry, adapting traditions and ceremonies for this new context. We are convinced that disciple making must continue and building lives in Christ should go on beyond this difficult year.

The world is changing, and we know that we are not facing these changes alone, but with brothers and sisters across the globe, from whose experiences we are also learning, adapting and growing together as God's army.

Central to ministry evaluation is our capacity to avail training courses online, and our ministry will continually be evaluated, including how this evolves.

We are still thinking of the most viable way to mobilize instructors, preferably some on a full-time basis. Our income cannot sustain this at the moment, and we are praying for capitalization still. Ministry evaluation takes into account who the teachers are in order to ascertain the quality of training.

We want to continue working and perfecting our course syllabi in custom formats – formal, non-formal and informal ways, so that at every prompt of training opportunity we are ready to deliver. Our ministry will continue to be evaluated along these lines too.

We are so blessed to have facilities that are only getting better and improved every passing day. God has provided for us to keep the construction going, and now with more funds to complete the Kitchen and Dining. Evaluation will factor in the nature of our facilities, where people come for this training and whether it is a worthy place to be.

We still struggle with resources to sustain our staff in form of remuneration and welfare. Our evaluation in this aspect implies that we may have to cut down on the number of workers, and we are still looking at how to do that with minimal interruption or draw back of the ministry.

MINISTRY FORECAST

We are now officially members of the Association for Christian Theological Education in Africa (ACTEA) <http://acteaweb.org/> having applied and receiving assessment and paying the \$120 subscription for a Correspondent Certificate. As our education system and structure take shape, we will upgrade to full accreditation.

We have ongoing non-formal training arrangements, not knowing how long the pandemic will still hold us down. But we know that nothing surprises him, confuses him, or baffles him. His infinite power rests in the hands of infinite holiness and righteousness and goodness—and wisdom.

That God reigns is good news. Why? Because God is holy and righteous and good. And he is infinitely wise. “With God are wisdom and might; he has counsel and understanding” (Job 12:13). “His understanding is beyond measure” (Ps. 147:5). “Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!” (Rom. 11:33). His great aim is that “the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places” (Eph. 3:10).

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INCOME & EXPENDITURE

Income

Apr 6	5,991.50
Apr 21	667.50
May 5	566.50
May 12	430.00
May 19	873.75
May 29	1,424.65
Jun 29	13,622.45
Jul 15	531.35
Jul 27	9,780.00
Aug 12	38,192.50
Aug 12	466.60
Aug 24	1,230.00
Sep 3	709.00
Sep 28	517.50
Oct 30	1921.48
PSP Reader and other Literature	3,300.00
Local Donations / In borrowed funds	2,760.00
PT Farming Livestock / Agriculture	340.00
TOTAL	84,324.78

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Expenditure

Administration

ASPECT	RATE	AMOUNT
Staff Salaries	3,288 per month	23,016
Apprentice Facilitation	360 per month	2520
General welfare for 12 workers	Payments in arrears	1800
Office Equipment (Photo copier, computers)	150 per month	1050
Utilities – Water	80 per month	560
Utilities – Electricity	110 per month	770
Utilities – Internet, Email & Telephone	130 per month	1110
Office Equipment and Accessories		360

URA Expenses		285
Publishing, Stationary & Printing		1370
Office Facilities Repair		173
Transport (Gasoline, Insurance, Maintenance)	411 per month	2877
Fees & Commissions - Bank Charges		63
Fees & Commissions - Post Office Box	75 per year	75
NSSF Staff Deductions	120 per month	840
TOTAL		34,869

Organic Ministry

ASPECT	RATE	AMOUNT
Payment of PSP Text Book (Course Reader)		3,200
Perspectives Course (Administration)	55	550
Perspectives Course (Hiring Recording Equipment)	10 sessions @ \$90	900
Discipleship: Local Church Support		750
Farming investment: Piggery and cultivation		970
Training Youth in Hospitality / Cookery		1,260
TOTAL		7,630

Construction: carried on forward & ongoing (Approx. Exp. between April and October)

ASPECT	RATE	AMOUNT
Dinning (12,005) and Kitchen (10,200)		22,205
Plumbing services		901
Landscaping and stone work		1100
Ramps		1424
Kitchen: Cooling Equipment		11,800
Retaining Wall		2,396
TOTAL		39,826

