

## PT News Update January – March 2021

Just like all Gospel workers the world over, we face an existential challenge to keep abreast with ministry amidst the pandemic. Corona measures have turned our traditional ways of interaction into virtual relationships.

With our trust and confidence in God as sovereign over all things, we in PT have made a slow emerging of ministry amidst the pandemic and ministry is going on to a considerable measure.

We completed the 15-week Bible Seminar online for 18 students on March 1. We also taught online and saw 25 students complete the Perspectives Study Program (PSP) on Feb 26. Right at the PT Center, we completed another class of 14 students on Jan 29. We had held a PSP Class at Kyambogo University where 20 students successfully completed the course in 2019, and had not been commissioned due the lockdown during much of 2020.



On March 6, we hosted 135 people at the PT Center, in a colorful commissioning ceremony for these, more than 70 trainees. It was the second time of holding such a ceremony at the Center, and we were so thrilled by the turn up and the encouragement from our local partners in ministry.

With our facilities in a much better shape, our guests enjoyed their stay and did not want to leave the dinning premises! The food was great and enough for all. We heard the testimony of Mr. Filbert Gizaza – our first international missionary, sent to UAE in November last year.

Filbert was trained and commissioned at the PT Center. With heartfelt gratitude to God, we recognized Rose his wife and their four children who are still in Uganda. They are members of our church, Berea Baptist.

The PT Institute is currently running a class at Lugogo Baptist Church since March 23 with about 25 students and assisting the 15 students of Graduate Studies Certificate to complete their papers and other assignments for marking, grading and hopefully, commencement.



### **Taking the PT Institute to trainees country-wide**

We have always taken our non-formal training (in form of seminars, conferences and workshops) all over Uganda, and parts of East Africa. But the furthest we have taken formal training (as creditable educational program) has been Mbarara, about 167 miles (270 kilometers) south west of Kampala. We held two 17-week classes in 2018 and 2019, being on the road every week, to “take the PT Institute” to the people who face a theological famine. Our second class in Mbarara could not be completed through physically meeting due to the pandemic, but was completed online by fewer students, of those who had enrolled.

Now in plan, is to revive the class in Mbarara, but also extend the training to Rukungiri, 240 miles (or 383 kms) in the far western region of Uganda, close to D. R. Congo. Mobilization has been going on to begin with PT’s *Short Term Apprenticeship Training* (STAT) and then do the PSP orientation at the same time. Then the class would begin in August. With the help of two of our four ministry interns (Amos and Joshua) who hail from that region, we have scheduled the week of April 19-24, to go and do this among the 50 prospective students. This requires resources, and a strong vehicle on our bad roads.

The hunger for Christian education and training for ministry is increasingly felt, because many who set out earlier, to serve without being equipped are warning others not to do the same. There are many pastors and leaders of para-church organizations with decades of service under their belt, who are warning and exhorting all Gospel workers to receive training, even for meaningful local involvement. Serving God without basic training is getting outdated.

### **Shalom Women’s Conference: May 24 – 28**

Grace is leading our entire team in preparing for the upcoming Women’s Conference. From May 2020 when we could not hold this annual event, we have still kept in touch with the women, sending school fees support for the children as schools reopened. Apart from inability to meet face to face, we remain in touch with most of the 220 ladies on our training list, from various regions of our country. We have kept looking forward to this next opportunity of getting together and arrangements are under way to host up to 70 women, due to our pandemic-changed situation.

But we are thinking of strategies that can keep this ministry growing deep for quality lives in Christ, and growing wide for more women to be touched. These include more visits to smaller groups of women which are representative of their communities, and working through their leaders to see that instruction can sustainably take place. We want to largely depend on the work of regional women leaders to ensure that teaching is ongoing, and that if we have resources, they are share to transform families as we usually do.

Their families were so touched last year 2020, when we reverted the funds that were meant to be used in hosting them, distributing the money to them as COVID-19 relief in their homes. Their husbands and children have continuously called us to appreciate that move. We are currently supporting 15 children from these homes with school fees and we wish to support some more – with medical and general welfare.

### **PT Center Facilities**

Our facilities have taken on a fabulous outlook, making the PT Center a place where people love to be, even for a retreat.







We are ever thankful to God for the generosity of our donors, and remain humbled that you would be used of God with such consistency and measure.

The cooking and baking equipment in the Kitchen is all in place, and the cooking gas system was recently tested and approved. We are now waiting for installation of the TOTAL Gas Tank just a few meters outside the Kitchen.

It is currently under construction. We feel so delayed that until now, the Kitchen and Dining are not yet connected to the electricity mains, hindering the immediate use of our Kitchen.



But the Dining is used on a daily basis, and its beauty attracts us to hold both the training there, as well as enjoy the meals therein.

It is spacious with good lighting, a beautiful floor and a wonderful ceiling. Our Staff Board Room is great, but we prefer holding partnership meetings here in the Dining, which has become a more convenient place for interaction, and for very good reasons.



The IT Office was built to the slab level with the funds we had allocated it. When funds become available we will resume construction, and with the slab on top, we will be able to start using the ground floor.



The Administration block got connected to the mains, and our comfort has been elevated as we work. The Pit Latrine was all tiled, plumbed and almost ready for use.



Paving the grounds is still going on and improving mobility and beauty.

We have trained young men in the skill of making pavers on site, and we are now able to do our own pavers, in the quality we prefer.



In that way, we find delight in helping young people who need jobs that enable them to provide for their families.



The Wall Fence has been the major project in the recent months. The North side, East side and South side are all raised and we feel safer than before. We have also done about 20 percent of the West side and work is slowing down in the last few weeks, as the funds too, are running out.



We have reduced the number of construction workers, and scaled everything else down, to realize the last dollar in the fence. We foresee a halt in construction by end of next week, until God unfolds his hand to give like he always has – we are thankful to Him!



**Grace** remains busy as the assistant teaching leader for Bible Study Fellowship, especially during this time when the teaching leader has been on leave.

So she spends many hours preparing, discussing with Group leaders and then recording her lecture and transmitting it to over 200 women who are part of her group.



She also rears pigs, and they are doing well. She still finds time to cook wonderful food for us, clean the house and take very good care of the home, making it a comfortable habitation for us.





With Grace's help, Isabel is growing in her mothering skills, and young Luka brings smiles and laughter to us a family. We all love to take care of Luka and we all enjoy holding him, though he is getting heavier each week – for he feeds quite well! Isabel has some legal jobs and assignments that she can do on line, allowing her to give necessary attention to this 8-month old lad. She often leaves Luka with us for days.

**Isaac** returned to Kenya early this year to complete his Degree program, and he thinks he will be done by end of May. Kenya has been hit hard once again by the COVID-19 infections and deaths in the last few weeks and they are in a near-total lockdown, which slows Isaac once again. School have been shut down completely. But we get to talk to him often by phone, and sought to keep with him more on Wednesday as we celebrated his 25<sup>th</sup> birth day.

**Isaiah** is also back to school and very busy with writing papers, completing his third year. The semesters became short and his school is devising intense measures to recover lost time and level their program once again.

Isaiah has had to find some residence near the school, so that he can easily access library and be part of discussion groups. He is able to join us every Sunday for worship, and a meal cooked by his mother, before he returns to his “cave” to study.



**Abigail** is also in session, now completing her 8<sup>th</sup> Grade in about two months, to begin Grade 9 in the Fall. She is very active in the church, especially in the Music ministry.

She has a good voice that favors music and she is learning to play a violin. She is also very helpful at home, helping her mother in keeping it clean and comfortable.





I also remain immersed in the work, especially with pulpit ministry every Sunday, teaching at the PT Institute on Tuesdays and Thursdays and in Board meetings as well as raising partnerships.



### PT Staff and Ministry Interns

We are a total of 14 staff at the PT Office. And there are four ministry interns – individuals who come to spend with at least six months for Short Term Experience in Ministry (STEM). They serve with us under a customized arrangement for them to learn through mentoring. **Joshua** is focused on expository preaching; **Amos** is focused on Youth / Students Ministry; **Anne** is giving attention to Family Life Ministry, concentrating on Women and Children; and **Fred** is focused on developing skills for Bible Study among rural youth.

The staff who have joined us lately are Ms. **Mercy** Atim and Mr. **Enoch** Okimait. They are both into their third month of probation period. They will complete probation in the next three months. Mercy is coming in as our Media and Communication Specialist. Enoch has come in to replace Godfrey Asimwe for our IT work. Godfrey moved on from PT at end of December, but he is still very helpful at church, handling our sound equipment.

Please,

- Thank God with us, in light of all this progress on many fronts
- Pray for the endeavor of renewing the Mbarara class and establishing one in Rukungiri
- Pray for provision to complete our IT Office and equip it for more efficient online service.
- Pray for provision to complete the Wall Fence
- Pray for sufficient and sustained upkeep for staff, so that they are well provided for.
- Pray for Isaac to complete his program this year and to be kept safe in Kenya.
- Pray for much more as you feel led by the Spirit, building on our relationship and what we now share, so that in all ways, we may “keep in step with the Spirit” as we live and serve the Lord for the complete joy of all God’s people and utter gladness in Christ.

And let us know how we too can keep before God in prayer concerning you. AMEN