



The work of mobilizing the church in Uganda through teaching the Bible and training for service continues to grow by way of trainees' numbers, local support appreciation / partnership development, volunteer workforce, staff development and facilities improvement.

There is a greater opportunity for us to bring God's voice to bear among our people, than in the years past. More questions are being asked and better inquiry is now made in regard to life in Christ, and from many people of all walks of life. For these open doors, we are truly thankful to God.

### **Ministry Engagements**

Under the Perspectives Study Program (PSP) for Uganda (administered by the PT Institute) we are running a class of 40 students in Mbarara. Thus we make weekly trips on this 270-kilometer journey, and we will do that for a total of 17 weeks. Invitations to teach the Bible, preaching in churches and speaking in other seminars are sufficiently numerous.

Our calendar is full, and some of our staff are gradually shaping up to the Gospel task, so we share these assignments amongst us.

We witness increasing initiatives on our part, and decreasing responses to usual invitation opportunities, and this is progress.

As we engage daily, we are fully aware that spiritual growth is not a passive activity. In Uganda, we see many church-goers who think their ordinary lives are not enough, who dream of really doing something for God.



But we also know the meagre Bible exposition that there is, in today's preaching to realize such a worthy dream for these people.

Many sincere believers still lack authentic Bible teaching and instead, they linger in spiritual stasis and self-deception.

Our assessment of the need around us, and the nature of our engagement take these realities into account.



## Ministry Evaluation

Last year (2019) we set out a pilot program for formal training at graduate level, for purposes of raising more instructors in various aspects of our ministry and the local church needs. We have many other Bible Schools in Uganda offering B. A. level studies, so did not need to repeat this. So, 35 students registered for our Graduate Studies Certificate (GSC) with the PT Institute, running from July 2019 to May 2020, modeled after programs at Western Seminary, Portland OR.



We can now confirm that 25 of these students will successfully complete the GSC.

It was a worthy attempt, because even at the moment, the instructors we assign among students, women, the

Perspectives Course or

Reformation activities, mission initiatives are mainly from this lot. This showed us what can be!

The students have given feedback of their 8 months of study in regard to this entire experience – the course syllabi, nature of instruction, reading materials, class discussions, course content, level of academic assessment – all of which point to a worthwhile attempt.



For now, we can really say that this kind of formal program is viable because students are interested and available, our facilities are now capable of holding residential classes, the curriculum is contextually rooted well, the need is great here in Africa, and our approach is outstanding – bringing disciplines into a missiological focus to prepare Gospel workers.



However, even though this graduate studies program would have been the best anchoring venture for the PT Institute, we still do not have enough instructors. The financial income is still too low and uncertain to hire teachers.

It is clear to us now, that there is a need for upfront

capitalization for such a formal program, sustainable for at least five initial years, in order to make it permanent and self-sustaining. And we believe this is possible, having tested the waters.





For the GSC, students' tuition amounted to 25 per cent in catering for the entire budget. Funds from other sources brought this to 75 percent for the entire GSC program.

We had prayed and hoped for student support in form of grants, to jumpstart us with the two thirds of their full amount. It did not come to pass as petitioned.

For now, we can only affirm that this kind of formal training is needed under our (PT) offer, but it is not possible at the moment, except for the PSP where the freewill offering from students can cater for the administration of the program.

We are now scaling back the GSC this year, taking in no new students since it still looks financially unsustainable at the moment.

Instead, we have planned to intensify our training effort through Formative Seminars in our prescribed non-formal approach, with hope that there can be a buildup, albeit slower than what upfront capitalization could do for our Institution.

So, as we continually build relationships, we are mindful that these are ministry context for sustained learning; learning requires teachers; and teachers need to be trained. We never cease to think of how best to go about this.



Our current hope is that graduate studies can be a smooth outcome of our non-formal engagement through seminars. If nothing else, we will know whether this really works in the next 4 to 5 years.



### **Ministry Planning**

We plan to intensify “the PTI flagship conferences” and “PTI formative seminars” benchmarking our training.

Hopefully, this will continue to enable sustained mobilization of future formal students, consolidation of our efforts so far and enhanced involvement for support, study and rallying more people around this training vision for the needed support.





The PTI Flagship Conferences (Bible initiative, 2 to 4 days) through the year will be:

- The Pastors' Conference – *during the last week of March*
- The Shalom Women's Conference – *during the last week of May*
- The Bible Exposition Conference – *during the last week of July*
- The Students' Conference – *during the first week of September*
- The Christian Writers' Conference – *during the first week of November*



The PTI Formative Seminars (1 to 3 days) will teach the Bible in socio-culturally initiated inquiry about contemporary issues faced in society.

Along these we will build biblical themes that allow people to hear God's mind on daily-faced issues. We already have 23 subjects listed as Seminars, coming from our partners, students, Christian leaders, para-church workers and others interest groups. The teaching follows this frame of reflection:

1. Why does / should the issue matter? Here we set it stage in modern culture, through history, the church's response and visible outcome of it.
2. What does the Bible teach in regard to the issue? Here we open the Scriptures to gain God's mind on the issue, and in principle.
3. How then should Christians respond to the issue or handle it for the glory of God, the joy of his people and wellness in our society?



Here, we grasp a biblical redefinition and adjustment, through which biblical faith can clearly be applied in daily Christian engagement.

According to our planning, our Formative Seminars will be time-framed in ways – the ***Weekend Rigor***, the ***Mid-Week Stretch*** and the ***Five-Day Intensive***.



### The Weekend Rigor

This is a one day residential workshop from Friday 7:00 pm to Saturday 5:30 pm, offering a general overview of the topic at hand and the needed thought process.

We do cover a lot of material, but in a fast-paced manner. To help comprehension, however, we have well-arranged seminar content which outlines key issues for knowledge, continued analysis, understanding and application.

### The Mid-Week Stretch

This is a three (3) day seminar running from Tuesday to Thursday from 8:00 am – 5:30 p.m. daily. These learning hours of class session include group discussions and reflective exercises toward comprehension and relevance, according to each individual's contextual needs and challenges. Their extended time allows building relationships that enhance helpful interpersonal exchange and learning beyond the Seminar duration.



### The Five-Day Intensive

The seminars in this category weave together major strands of philosophical clarification with contextual and relational dynamics in a deeper way.

The academic challenge is raised in order to engender the needed spiritual confrontation through a worthy and more deliberate reflection. Through these seminars, students who wish to earn academic credit may do so, provided they complete follow up assignments that include well researched and written projects.



### Mode of Training

We build relationships through follow up as our organic arrangement. We follow up trainees along need-specific talking points, assessing opportunities and interests, links and helpful networks.



Wonderful relationships lead to structural arrangement (positioning individuals for service). We take note of the unique settings and abilities such as rural and urban; teachers and learners; the materially needy and generous; the young and the old; the place of the local church – as the initial setting as well as final locale for all involved.





A strategic involvement is now allowing us to place individuals closer to the core team along our ministry aspects - Pastoral Workers, Women in Ministry, Students' Ministry, Market Place Outreach and Christian Writers - for ongoing mobilization, a continuous assessment and growing movement of Gospel workers.

Although the 'Five –Day Intensive' is available for all, those who enroll for Masters Level classes will have it as the only option through which they can handle their modular studies under the PT Institute program in future when we resume.

We are highly conscious of the education philosophy that will under guard the training of Gospel workers in Africa with the portrait of Gospel transformation ever before our eyes.

Thus in our planning, we keep a close watch on the curriculum with regard to potential students and instructors along the training schedule, the learning community-life and the best promotional strategy. All this call for an ongoing improvement of the Institute in regard to facilities, school amenities, equipment, Info Tech systems etc.



arrange, and invite the PT Institute, we schedule (dates, venue and the relevant curriculum) to make trips and train for Gospel work in various regions, as well as follow up trainees over time.

This has also allowed to keep our training effort tied to ongoing research. We believe this approach will continue to be an opportunity to train for teachers beyond learners.

### **Flexibility and mobility of the PT Institute**

The Bible-anchored training we offer, favors church workers as well as professional workers in the market place who can take off a weekend and do a rigorous study of the topic of interest.

Conversely, they organize a number of people in offices, their churches and we offer the course in a timing that is favorable for them. Our Seminars are therefore available upon request and we are able to offer these seminars at camps and conferences, through several flexible formats. If a group of twenty five (25) or more people





## **Our Ministry Personnel**

About two years ago, we had a staff membership of 15, 3 volunteers and 3 apprentices.

We now have 9 with 3 volunteers. They leave because we do not yet have the financial capacity to keep them remunerated as per our income. They have left usually when they begin homes.



Joy (our PT Institute Liaison Officer) whose wedding to Florian was on March 21) in Burundi, is leaving at the end of June 2020.

We could not keep Rosemary after a wonderful six-month apprenticeship with us; she had to find a paying job, though she had desired to stay and do ministry. Many of our staff also have financial obligations beyond themselves – paying school fees for their siblings, taking care of extended family and so on.

We remain with a challenge to raise monthly salaries (beyond the current \$189 lacking any other benefits) for each staff, which can keep our staff with us longer, especially after since have trained them. We keep in prayer for a 5-year capitalization enablement, which would remunerate our staff to \$500 per staff with Social Security). We would be in a self-sustaining mode after that.

Moses (now married to Brenda) had left, and then Dickson (former Admin) followed for that reason after their second child, and Silver (former Student Ministry Coordinator) left as he and Scovia expected their first, Boaz (former Missions Integration Officer) left two weeks ago; he and Christabel are expecting their first child soon;



Although some of them remain involved as once-in-a-while volunteers, their input at that level cannot be compared to the brain drain that comes with their departure.

Gladly, our team of volunteers is growing and much work is still accomplished though their lack of consistency, core planning, quality assurance and the stability that comes with a group of staff planning and executing ministry together over the years.



Also, the PT Center is almost set to generate some income through its beautiful facilities (especially the dinning and kitchen) and short courses.

As we envisage nationwide growth (according to the invitations we receive), we are praying to establish regional coordination centers in Mbarara (western Uganda), Soroti (eastern Uganda) and Arua (northern Uganda). With a staff on the ground in these regions, we can have sustained work, less trips and movements (which are costly) and better assessment of local and contextual needs to shape the training we offer.



### **Local Ministry Partnerships**

A number of people who have benefited from our ministry are currently listed as our local donors, sharing their finances and helpful items with us.



Our local support is increasing every passing year, encouraged by the improvements enabled by the generosity of our friends in USA.

What you have enabled to be visible and practical over the years, now encourages Ugandans to give towards improvement. We have received a number of people visiting us to see where we are and get to know better what we do.

### **Ministry Facilities at the PT Center**

In February we moved office premise to the PT Center, making a dream come true after 17 years of hoping. Seven of our staff also moved houses closer to our new duty station, with five living on site in our newly constructed *Residential Duplex*.



Once we furnish this residence with furniture, beds and appliances, we will now be able to host instructors who come to teach in various training activities right at the PT Center.



### ***The PT Administration Block***

As we kept thinking of fully establishing ourselves on this duty station, office space remained a constraint, until we dared to lay the foundation 11 months ago. Our office block is now functional, three times the size of where we had been squashed. No running water or electricity yet, but it is habitable enough as a better working environment.



We have received some desks and chairs as donations from generous individuals. We have also received a photocopying machine from another (though it needs servicing in order to be useful).



### ***The Dining Hall***

The 500-seater is looking better each day. The most recent undertaking was working on the floor, which is now complete. It looks spacious.

No dining tables or chairs yet, but those who use it now speak of the difference a beautiful floor makes for an eating venue. The main Kitchen is part of this structure, on the opposite end.

### ***The Outside Kitchen / Dry Food Store***

We have an outside structure that will take our energy-saving stoves and other bulk preparation of African food. Then we also have an adjacent structure that will serve as the Caterer's Office, Dry Food Store, receiving procurements, weighing, recording, requisition of portions to cook and changing attire for cooks with their bathrooms.





## Kitchen Equipment

When we ordered for kitchen equipment, the contracted company sent their order to Turkey, and this has delayed installation. We are working towards the cooking island as a priority, so that the Kitchen can be functional. Finally, the needed equipment arrived two weeks ago in Uganda.



With these items now in Uganda, we are reviewing prices (which changed upwards) to see which ones we must begin with, that fit well in what we had paid.

We aimed at a modern kitchen which can handle today's menu, for a large number of people, using long lasting utensils and other equipment. Our harbored plan is to use this facility also as an income-generating facility. The Bakery can produce bread that we can supply in our locality at a profit; the kitchen can remain active even after our training sessions, serving as a snack center or restaurant for the community, and thus create some employment with people who get to hear the Gospel as way of remaining in contact with world to make disciples.



## The Classroom Building

Nothing much has changed for many months on this, apart from a beautiful ceiling in one the classes and stairs that facilitate mobility up and down the administration block and toilet / bathrooms. This building also serves as our library in one of the rooms, and our accommodation in two of the rooms. We have also received some used bed covers as a donation from hotel proprietor who supports our work.







Generally, the PT Center is becoming more usable as it gradually experiences facelift on a number of fronts.

We have also constructed a pit latrine and we are working hard to see that this particular facility may be complete and thus usable in May, by the women who requested for it. These are mainly rural women who are more comfortable with this kind rather than the flush toilets.



### **Our Library**

We do not have a structure designated for Library, but we have improvised by using one of the classrooms and temporarily turned it into a functional Library.

What is crucial as we teach courses, is that our students can easily access the books for reference. There is also ample space to read from and handle assignments too.

### **We are still holding up in ministry as a ministering family**

Grace and I continue in our routines of ministry, with more engagements than ever before. Our home is open for at least three meetings per week on average. Isabel is now working in a Law Firm and moved out of home to be independent. Isaac is completing his 4-year degree program at Daystar this year.

Isaiah is in his second year as a Law student at Uganda Christian University. Abigail is with us at home, commuting daily to her school. She is fond of both the study program and the people in her grade 7.



In conclusion, we can only affirm that ministry is increasingly ripe – preparedness in us to serve, and the readiness in our context to receive God’s Word. Opportunities are great and the timing couldn’t be better.



Through our daily staff devotions at the beginning of the day, we hear hearts of young people as they take turns to lead us, yearning to be used of God.

We take great joy in watching them learn and change to be better servants.

We have a number of volunteers to call upon once in a while to join for some hours of voluntary work, but we ask God for sufficient, permanent core staff.



### On the Horizon

The Coronavirus has changed the landscape of the world as we knew it.

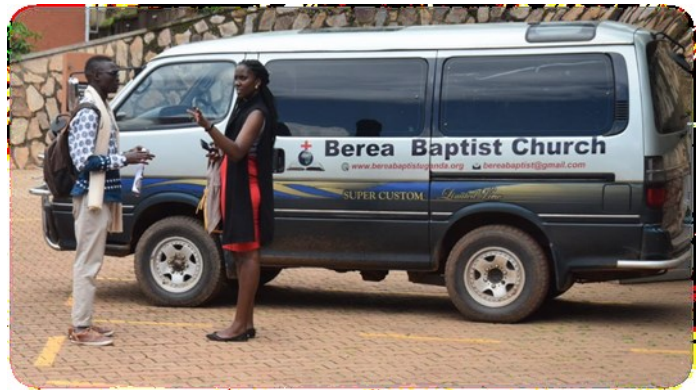
We have an inevitable postponement of **pastoral theology seminar** from April to Oct 2020, because our main instructor, Dr. John E. Johnson could not easily travel to East Africa during this time.

Grace and I have been looking forward to a **study trip to Turkey** (May 2-23) arranged by Dr. Johnson, and with help from our dear friends who pledged to make it possible for us to travel and study with them. Again, this will not happen as scheduled due to the lockdown in many parts of the world.

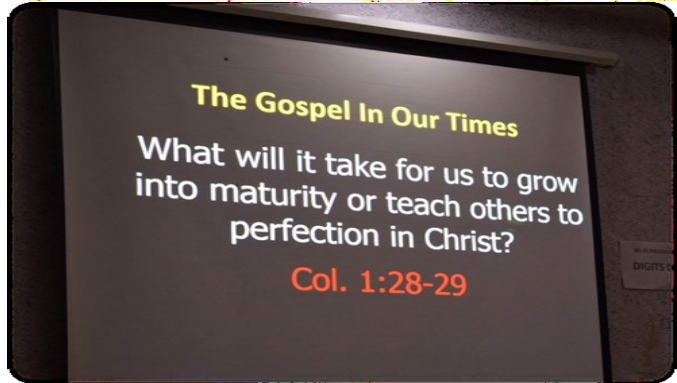
We still pray, plan and hope that the **Shalom Women’s Conference** (May 25-29) will take place in Uganda. When the women come in May, they will go back with helpful knowledge of Paul’s message to the Colossians. The theme is already outlined and ground work done.



We have a growing congregation at Berea Baptist Church, where I (Julius) preach and teach with other upcoming pulpit ministers, shepherding God's people on a daily basis. This is also home for our workforce, where they are nurtured and loved into service.



## Praise and Petition



- Please do join us to thank God for growth of ministry in quality and quantitative terms
- Give praise to God for our health and sustained vision, better methods and improved approaches
- Express gratitude to our God for a growing local partnership – a host of volunteers, givers, prayer partners who now surround us.
- Keep in praying for our young workers as they begin families during these years
- Join us to keep hope alive in God, that PT can be financially capitalized (a sort of grant) as an encouragement for a quicker take off (especially for our formal programs); staff salaries.
- Please pray for the May 2020 Shalom Women's Conference, that it may take place and that we may find the needed resources to make it possible.
- Please pray that PT Regional Centers may be established to ease the work and facilitate broader coverage in more enduring ways.
- Kindly, pray for our children that they may keep their faith in Christ, and grow stronger in the Lord. And let us know how we can pray for in turn.



Fields are ready for harvest (John 4:35); please do keep our hands in yours, held up (Exodus 17:12) so that together we may be adequately equal the Gospel task (2 Cor. 2:16), for the glory of Jesus Christ our Master, and the shared gladness of all his people (Psalm 68:3). Thank you for your faithfulness in this vital partnership for Kingdom work. In Christ,

**Julius and Grace Twongyeirwe, Proclamation Task – Uganda.**