

MINISTRY UPDATE

July - Sept 2022

The recent months have been a roller coaster for us in PT, with the ever increasing ministry opportunities, while we went low on our staff because of the ongoing restructuring of the ministry. From the usual work force of 15 staff members, we were reduced to six. Even then, we have had to do our best in meeting the fore-laid out work plan. Sharing the enormous work has led the few of us to try things we had never attempted before, and this remains a testimony of God's grace upon us.

Without sufficient staff and especially without an Administrator, I have been submerged by Financial Audits, Tax Returns, Company Updates with various Government agencies and other annual compliances.

The Family

We are generally well and delightfully serving the Lord. It was nice to be together as a family once again some days ago when Isaac spent one week in Uganda where he had come to renew his passport.



We have enjoyed spending days with Luka, our grandson. He made two on Sept. 4. He loves chicken, and we are not surprised about the "meat-tooth". He is growing well and his mother (Isabel) is also holding on to faith in a satisfactory way. She travels a long journey from her home to join us and

lead worship on Sundays, with Abigail and Isaiah and others in our music team.

Vehicle Replacement

Our travel has been made much easier and greatly comfortable, by our new vehicle. A Toyota Land Cruiser, Station Wagon was purchased on July 6 and got comprehensive insurance on July 13. This transport facilitation has improved the planning of our ministry which require mobility and long upcountry trips.

We now do the planning and the implementation with more settled hearts, in light of this vehicle which is in the best condition we ever have had. We are so grateful to God for this wonderful provision, through the generosity of his people, who now make it possible for us to move places safely and comfortably for the cause of the Gospel.



The Perspectives Study Program

Since May, it became urgent that we resume the Mission Mobilization Classes that had been going since February 2022 (in Rukungiri and Mbarara) as well as the class in Kampala (which had begun in April 2022).



We are glad to share that these classes were completed successfully and 22 trainees will be awarded certificates Saturday November 5, following a two-day intensive “Instructors & Coordinators Training” on November 3 and 4, 2022. With this, we will have raised a workforce that is likely to sustain this work in this region of Uganda.

A ground-breaking trip to a very new region (Fort Portal) at the end of August allowed us to do a Class Orientation for Christians in that region, and we are looking at Feb 2023 to start the weekly trips to train these Gospel workers.

Restructuring PT for Greater Impact in Future

As current labourers, we are seeking to initiate working ourselves out of office in a very organized, measured and thoughtful way, without waiting for a crisis to force anything on us or the ministry and its health or growth. We are aware that there is no success without vital succession, and we want to be deliberate and intentional on preparing future leaders of the PT ministry in a deeper and broader way. The resultant changes in work structure and operations are also linked to leveraging partnership opportunities

We know that God is not honoured by poor planning, misdirected ventures, sloppy management, or a sense of confusion. Rather, the beauty of His own character is more clearly reflected when we envision wise, holy purposes, and follow carefully prepared plans to achieve them. Undertaken with prayer, discernment, wisdom, and a spirit of obedience, planning helps wed our goals to God's purposes.

Our Vision is to realize....

A biblically healthy church, sustainably growing in numbers and vitality to complete Christ's mission in the world.

Our Mission is thus,

To educate those who proclaim the Bible message, to establish biblical priorities in:

- the message they proclaim in handling the Christian mission,
- the motivation that guides them in the mission endeavor, and
- the methods they employ for the Christian mission.

and ***Our Mandate*** is...

To facilitate strategic Christian mission initiatives, biblically harmonized to transform the world through

- training local church leaders and church planting missionaries,
- incisive research, as basic in bridging the Word to the world, and
- coordinating the church's missional aspects in engaging society with the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Change is inevitable and changes are never easy, but they are always crucial for an operational entity to enable setting up new departments, fresh management and to allow fresh leadership styles to cater for new situations. We would like to continue what we are already doing, but streamline training by going as specific as possible in regard to course content, course quality, course duration and course schedule. Please keep in prayer for this vital exercise.

A Comprehensive Touch to Streamline Our Curriculum

The training we have offered over that last 22 years has mainly been shaped by the needs we find, and rightly so. Our response has had a deliberate adjustment to contextual realities, so that the trainees find maximum benefit. Through these various responses, we in PT have also learned and become familiar with the realities on the ground, the dynamics of teaching and the current trends for the kind of education that fits the Great Commission.

One of our realizations is that in many training institutions, courses for the Christian “mission” have been made distinct and almost disconnected from biblical “theology” courses. In turn, this disconnect between theology and mission, delivered to the local church through commissioned leaders, has negatively affected the mission structures of the local church. The dichotomy between theology and mission has created such things as “missions department” or “mission events” or “mission committees”. In this way, mission is perceived as separate and distinct from the usual, normal activities of the church. But what other engagement is there for the local except mission? The effect has been a gap between the theological academia (theory) and the church (practice), creating a view that renders that church less missional.

Over the years, PT has devised a curriculum that rightly upholds “the local church”, “biblical theology” and the “Christian mission” in unison, since they are inseparable.

We are convinced that all biblical discipleship draws thrust from mission, and is geared to mission. Biblical studies are for mission, theology is for mission, counselling is for mission, hermeneutics is for mission, apologetics is for mission, history is for mission, cultural studies are for mission. Along the foundations of our training, we are currently streamlining in a curriculum to offer Mission Theology by focusing on

1. The leaders for task (pastoral preaching and spiritual leadership) – which already offer
2. The task itself (the message, the motive, the methods) – which already offer
3. The context (our culture, communication) – which we already handle
4. The strategic opportunities (social and global trends) – which we already deal with
5. The people for the task – whom we already reach in their segments

The demographic approach that is already in place for smoother mobilization and training will now take on the “a pastoral understanding” so that the local church is active in edifying, equipping and sending Gospel workers as God’s key agency, supported by the parachurch involvement. Thus, we are being intentional in training, to bring a pastoral understanding of men on mission, a pastoral understanding of women on mission, a pastoral understanding of youth on mission, a pastoral understanding of children as a heritage in God’s mission, a pastoral understanding of the family as the foundational mission unit, and a pastoral understanding of the church as God’s human instrumentation for mission.

The courses developed from this concept will be framed into five departments: of Biblical Studies and Theology, of Culture and Communication, of History and Philosophy, of Strategic Studies and Leadership, and of Development and Transformation. A five-year course scheduling will be done, to help us draw intake for each year, and allow us recruit instructors accordingly. This streamlining is also going to allow us offer a bachelor of arts degree, without scaling back on the Masters level courses, which we rely on, to multiply “teachers for the Great Commission”. Please keep us in prayer as we think of the best way to make Christ known and worship in this needy world!



Growing Ministry in Rural Uganda

From inception 22 years ago, PT had the “untrained rural pastor” in view. Over the years, PT has diversified in order to broaden outreach and heighten biblical impact. As the PT Institute continues to take shape, the idea of “taking the Institute” to the rural Gospel workers has remained implementable as instructors make trips far and wide within Uganda.

Engaging along

the current ministry aspects, instructors have taken the PT Institute to train Women, to minister to Students, to train Pastors, to mobilize the church for mission through the Perspectives Study Program as well as the Short Term Apprenticeship Training (STAT). A set of ten booklets will allow students to be in regular “life in the Word” meetings within their school settings and enable broader outreach.





Out of this rural outreach, a school for the Kyomera community is under construction. Right on the venue, a group of mainly new converts meets every Saturday for Bible Study. It is very exciting to see the Bible studied and taught in areas which were characterized by witchcraft, conflicts, broken relationships, land wrangles, abject poverty and spiritual blindness.



Through community mobilization, people are contributing to this project with willing hearts, which are now open to Jesus. We have now arranged a discipleship program fit for secondary schools in rural areas.



The Shalom Women's Ministry

Under this aspect of our ministry, women continue to be enriched through meetings, fellowships, short seminars in their local communities. Some among them are direct beneficiaries of start-up funds which have helped them to improve livelihood in their homes. From a number of homes, 12 young people are being supported with school fees from elementary up to university, which is a transforming endeavor pin the home.

Jessica is one such a child, from an impoverished family that would otherwise not send her to school. A very promising young girl, she is so bright that from a little-known setting in her rural school, she scored well enough to get to a prominent school on merit. We visited her recently to deliver some text books which we purchased for her use.



Grace continues to rear pigs and the project is doing very well, with profits

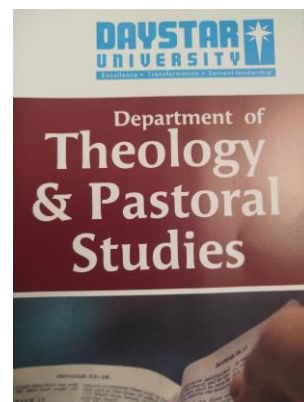
directed to women in need, who struggle to cater for their families, to start up their own home-based projects.



Training Partnerships

When it comes organic mission movements, the promising trend is pointing more to those unrestrained by traditional structures. Individuals are rallying and being rallied by heart and mind, rather than denominational identity or church ties. We recognize this trend, and are seeking to frame our partnerships within this reality. There enormous advantages to this, recognizing that God wills to forges unity among like-minded workers, rather than uniformity.

Some among the groups we are looking at include the SOMA Program (in Uganda and Kenya), Daystar University – Kenya, Creating Understanding International – Kenya, African Evangelistic Enterprise (AEE) – Uganda, Livingstone University – Mbale, in Uganda, Africa Bible Ministry (ABM) – Uganda, Africa Leadership and Reconciliation Ministry (ALARM) – Africa, Uganda Baptist Seminary – Jinja, Uganda, and Bishop Barham University – Kabale, Uganda. There is great potential in such partnerships, once we gain grip through mutually beneficial contact points.



Facilities and Construction

The 9-Unit Residential

Ample accommodation is the current missing link in our equation to enlist trainees, invite and host them, feed them and teach them to send them back to their duty stations. We are thankful to God that we are out of the deep ground of the foundation, and raising walls towards the next floor. We are grateful to God for His provision, and keep in prayer that that this work may not stall but progress.



Once this facility is functional, the PT Center will not be lacking any more, in fulfilling what God laid on our hearts 22 years ago – a training center with a training activity that draws from Africa and deploys Gospel workers in Africa and beyond, enabling Africa to change from a mission field, to a mission force.

The Kitchen and Dining

Our cooking locus and eating place are in sound frame, except for a replenishing with more utensils. We desire to up our catering services with more cookery equipment, serving utensils and kitchen accessories.

The IT Block

We are glad that the IT Blok is functional, although we still need a number of accessories for our recording studio and miscellaneous equipment such as Monitors, Studio Rack mounts, Power conditioner, Microphone Amp, Uninterruptible Power Supply, MIDI Controller.



Others include Microphone Deity D3, Software (Final cut pro X), Monitor Management, Microphone Stands, Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) like Avid Pro Tools, Control surface (Presonus Fader Port) and a Snake cable. With these, our recording of sessions and their dissemination would sail through to many who need to be equipped for Gospel work far and near.

The Gate

Now that the wall goes round our ten-acre premise, we wish we could enclose our property to keep everyone and everything safe.



The gradual urbanization of this community has increased vandalism, thuggery, theft and robbery.

The need for this main gate on our premises is increasingly pressing for us in terms of safety especially for our valuable our property, and easy-to-destroy assets such as the LPG Tank just outside our

Kitchen, which someone could put

ablaze for wicked reasons. Thus far, God has still protected these things that He Himself has enabled us to put in place. And we are fervently asking Him to keep doing so, even with the gate, so that we can comfortably and actively participate in His sovereign protection as His watchful and concerned stewards.



Oh! that God would provide for us to put this imagined structure in the open space, to serve as our main entry/exit.

On the Horizon

On Tuesday Oct 18th I plan to travel to Nairobi to join a small group gathering together to spend some days in prayer for the proposed School of Mission and Theology at Daystar. We are working on possible partnership with them and Dr. Don Smith (formerly at Western Seminary and Worldview Center) is leading us in this.

Then on Tuesday Oct 25, I plan to travel to Jakarta, Indonesia for a Global Council of Missions Consultation 2022, returning of Oct 29.

As a group of 16 people, we will travel to western Uganda for the Reformation Commemoration and graduation for PT trainees gathered from classes we have conducted since Feb 2022 - in Kampala, Mbarara and Rukungiri. We will use two days (Nov 3 – 4) to train new instructors and coordinators of the courses we offer.

The Year 2023

We are praying and hoping that God will make financial provision that will allow us to consolidate and implement the restructuring of our ministry as it has now been laid out along a 5-year term.

If the restructuring takes shape, I would love to scale back from some of my usual assignments and give attention to writing course materials and other study books.

And if all goes according to plan, then we will be working at deepening the academic rigor for the Institute by ensuring instructional capacity and enlisting appropriate students and multiplying teachers for the Great Commission.

That God would avail funds to sustain staff workers and lead the ministry to a self-sustaining phase in the next five years – contextualized, indigenized and locally supported.

The Year 2024

We are thankful to God for yet affording Grace and I an opportunity to make a study trip, now to Israel in April 2024. It is also in plan for me to make a trip to USA for the PSP 50th celebration from July 17 to 20, 2024 at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, IL.

And in continuing the quite obedience, it is always a joy for me to baptize new converts in the Name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything our Lord Jesus commanded!

A poster for the 505 Protestant Reformation Commemoration 2022. The poster features a large '505' at the top, with 'PROTESTANT REFORMATION COMMEMORATION 2022' written below it. The ACEMU logo is prominently displayed in the center, with the text 'A Consortium of Evangelical Missions in Uganda' and 'PRESENTS' below it. The main title 'THE ANNUAL REFORMATION COMMEMORATION 2022' is written in bold, uppercase letters. The theme 'Theme "A passion for God's truth"' is written in a stylized font. The poster is divided into three columns: 'COMMISSIONING Perspectives 2022 CLASS', 'SATURDAY NOV • 5th • 2022 9:00 am - 1:00 pm', and 'VENUE Oxford inn hotel on Plot 12 Bananuka drive'. At the bottom, there is a URL 'http://bit.ly/505ProtestantReformation22' and contact information for Dr. Julius Twongyeirwe and Amos Ayebare. The ACEMU logo and the Perspectives logo are also at the bottom.

This ministry update, by **Julius Twongyeirwe**