

Ministry Engagement
The Recent Past & On the Horizon
Mid-Year 2016

We can share one reality from the beginning: **All that we see through our ministry engagements show that people's hunger for God's Word is deepest in our times.** We have not witnessed this before. Many Christians are craving for sound teaching and are turning their backs to entertaining pulpits and charlatan preachers, looking for authentic Bible teachers who are so few and so rare. If only God would use us to fill this vacuum and multiply preachers of his Word in our generation!



Some of the highlights of our ministry engagement, involvement and participation are as follows:

Global Proclamation Congress for Pastoral Trainers

I participated. The GPro Congress was held in Bangkok, Thailand from June 15th to 23rd. Convened by the Ramesh Richard Evangelism and Church Health (RREACH), the objective was to explore with the more than participants, how we can accelerate not only church expansion but also church health worldwide. The guiding rationale is that pastoral health is systematically enhanced by better delivery of pastoral training along with coordinated follow up. Healthier pastors lead healthier churches, and healthier churches are more able to reach, serve and bless their communities in the, truth and life of the Lord Jesus Christ.

My greatest benefit in the GPro Congress was to be guided on reflecting how we in PT can integrate the Formal, Non-Formal and Informal training of pastoral church leaders in Africa. This reflection was shared with Ugandan pastors upon return during the PT Regional Leaders' Planning Meeting for PT Institute on 5th July, and the concept is exciting and feasible.

I also had an opportunity to make a presentation to a group of people about "turning the Christian presence in the majority world into Christian influence". Meeting fellow Gospel workers and linking up with them was another highlight. We are still in touch with many, and continue to learn from each other.

On-going Berea Church - Kampala

Berea has been learning "growth lessons" since end of 2015 in dealing with relationships as well as diligently handling ministry by members and among members. It has been a stretch for me, occasionally resulting in ill-health on my part, as I agonized before God, to preserve his people, restore the wandering sheep, uplift the struggling saints and build us into a God-loving, God-honoring congregation.

In order to guide church members, we laid out a preaching series on "the mind of Christ" early this year, and heightened opportunities for the "church in prayer" – on weekly, monthly and quarterly basis. We are now on our way up again, enlisting many to be trained and involved in

the ministry of our local church. We began preaching through Romans three months ago, now in chapter five of this great epistle.

Berea's spiritual health seems to rhyme with my physical health. As the church is increasingly settling to serve with joy, I have also experienced better health and serve unhindered by the ailments which had become a threat to me. I have not administered any medicine to my body, because no treatable illness was specifically identified. Berea is a wonderful church base which is nurturing all PT staff and many upcoming volunteers.

Trinity Secondary School Outreach Ministry – Bwebajja, Wakiso

As part of youth outreach, Berea was given an opportunity to take the Gospel to Trinity Secondary school. Young people sang and shared testimonies and I brought the Gospel call, with 25 students turning their lives to Christ. We now engage in follow up and discipleship to make sure these and others around them may stand firm in God's grace, now that they are justified (Rom. 5:1-2).

The PT Student Worker, Silver Nizeyimana, is also the youth leader at Berea and helping the church to invest time effort among such new believers. He is a hard-working young man who finished his probation with us in June, now serving as staff. He is mission minded and quite organized.

Training Preachers: PT and Living Word-Uganda, Wakiso (July 18-19, 2016)

Just like PT, Living Word-Uganda seeks to serve Christian university students by equipping them with faithful bible handling skills, particularly to develop among students in faithful exegesis and expository preaching.

We held a joint training, in which all PT Staff benefitted along other students. LWU is in partnership with Berea Church as one of the churches where apprentices are sent for mentored field ministry

The Global Theological Network (GTI) – Nairobi, Kenya (July 21-23, 2016).

GTI was hosted by the Association for Christian Theological Education in Africa (ACTEA) and White Horse Inn. GTI seeks to provide a forum for evangelical theological discussion on a number of issues, with a view to renew and strengthen the church in Africa.

About 37 of us from about 14 countries participated in this vital event, in which we were fully sponsored to attend. Meetings such as these put us in touch with one another as Gospel workers on the African continent, linking us well in mind and purpose.

St. Luke's Church – Ntinda (July 24th and 31st)

Returning to Uganda and arriving home from Kenya at 2:00 am, I needed a quick 4-hour rest and be at St. Luke in time for the first service at 7:00 am. St. Luke is a large Anglican urban church with middle class professionals in social terms. I had been invited to take to Sundays, preaching in all the three worship services (two in English and one in local language) about God's grace. They were prompted by the book I put together on the same subject. Receptive congregations were greatly encouraged over the two Sundays, first, to "understand God's

grace” and then to “embrace God’s grace in all its godly influence”. In all, the preaching reached about 6,000 people and we thank God for this opportunity that enhances the indigenization of PT.

One member of this church has supported PT Shalom with \$300 to purchase mattresses for the women’s conference, and more are picking interest in what more we do to extend and deepen Gospel influence in Uganda and beyond. About 60 books were also sold, helping complementing our administrative costs.

Training Staff Workers of FOCUS and PT - July 25th – 26th

From St. Luke’s, we were quickly engaged with all national staff of Fellowship of Christian Unions (FOCUS) where I trained these Gospel workers. Some of these serve in very difficult situations around Uganda and work with meager resources. We once again took advantage to include PT Staff in the training sessions, so that we can keep staff-development on a worthy pace.

FOCUS is a community of Christian Union students and graduates who are committed to being partners in national and global witness, known worldwide as International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES). We benefit greatly as PT through partnering with like-minded entities who have become aware of us and the God-given resources we have to offer in building their ministries as ours grows too.

Uganda Christian University (UCU) – Thursday July 28th

Soon after FOCUS, I was at Uganda Christian University for the institution’s community worship that brings staff, students and faculty, bringing God’s word to about 27000 people together. UCU (where Isabel is also a Law-student) is perhaps Uganda’s most influential university in terms of Gospel work.

They have always invited me to preach, teach the Bible to specific groups and train missionaries. Such partnerships have increased our work during this phase, as we seek to link up with university students for discipleship. We thank God for availing such unique opportunities where PT is increasingly being appreciated especially through the ‘reformed’ way in which we handle God’s word. Silver, our PT Staff in charge of Student Ministry is most active within this 6000-student body at UCU.

Doctors’ and Spouses Fellowship – July 31st

A wonderful connection with a dear sister in the Lord had already linked us to a fellowship of medical doctors and their spouses one week ahead of this wonderful interaction. Grace and I were invited to share a godly perspective to marriage and parenting. About 14 couples and some of their children turned up to hear God’s mind on godly priorities that fundamentally define us in life, and describe us in death. They were greatly challenged and encouraged to hear the Bible speak to the details of daily life’s engagement. With such links once again, the PT Market Place Ministry continues to gather many who desire to live godly lives as professionals in their social definition.

On the Horizon

Training preachers at St Stephen COU Kasangati - 14th August 2016

The training will focus on how different themes that are used each Sunday tie to the selected biblical texts. It will be a short exercise in Homiletics.

Preaching at the Provincial Assembly: Church of Uganda's (COU) – August 25th

I have been invited as the preacher during the Provincial Assembly of the COU. This is the largest Protestant denomination in Uganda and about third largest in the world after Nigeria, Great Britain and India. Church of Uganda is comprised of 34 dioceses and is governed by the Provincial Assembly, which meets every two years.

The Provincial Assembly is a legislative body consisting of a House of Laity, a House of Clergy, and a House of Bishops, with each diocese sending representatives to each House. Many bishops from North America and UK are ordained and linked to this denomination as the sending church, in order to preserve conservative values that are under attack in the West. The decisions made, direction taken and spiritual state of this denomination in Uganda is what majorly defines our nation through history.

An invitation extended to a Baptist preacher for such an assembly shows that Bible believing Christians are freer to cross denominations in search for resources and competent personnel or books. But it remains humbling for me and PT that I was asked to do this, shaping my prayer to the end that I may deliver God's words as I open God's Word to these "socially-perceived as the most influential" prelates.

PT Students Initiative: Students' Conference - September 2nd – 4th

We are planning to hold a two-day training for student Gospel workers from six Universities. It will be the first time students get to utilize the PT Center, where we would like them to come for retreat and other Gospel enhancing activities.

PT Shalom: Women's Regional Seminars – August & September

Grace has planned follow up training meetings in Busembatia (August 29th -31st), in Kisoro (Sept 12th – 14th) and Kasese (Sept 15th – 16th). Pastors' wives are looking forward to hosting her and other ladies that will be helping in teaching and encouraging them to serve faithfully at home, at church and in the community.

Baptist Union of Uganda (BUU) Ministry Partners Meeting - Sept 29th

PT serves across evangelical denominations and the majority of the pastors we train are from the Baptist denomination. A partners' meeting has been arranged for all stake holders to explore how we can bring our efforts closer to each other to avoid duplication, competition and monotony in our efforts to be a resource to the pastors and churches.

Ken & Joanie Wilmot to visit Uganda - October 12th – 19th

Although we did not get to see them in July as had been planned, Dr. Ken and Mrs. Joanie Wilmot will eventually come to Uganda in keeping with our shared desire in this important trip. We look forward to fellowship and ministry especially with us as family. They will hear from us in our context and use less of their imagination and more of the very experience of

trying our food and meeting other Ugandans. Dr. Wilmot will bring God's Words on Sunday 16th October at Berea Church in addition to a few other settings and interactions we will arrange during their time here.

Reformation Week - October 24th – 30th

We are already in high gear, arranging for the 2016 Reformation Week, using this commemoration of the 16th Century Protestant Reformation. We use this time to reach students and market place professionals with the Gospel, along the theme we chose for each year. The theme for this year is "Reformation and Missions" through a week of heightened engagement with students with a climax among professionals.

Looking at the Reformers' role in their context 500 years ago, and understanding the mission role in our own times today, what could be the enduring and timeless principles and methods for engaging in the global mission?

Aware of our evangelical mission challenge, what could the African church carry forward as biblical solutions from the Reformers view of mission, motivation to mission, and engagement in mission in Africa?

How would such a view to mission, motivation or engagement in mission, enhance a biblical mission in Uganda's cultural and socio-economic context in our own times?

A communiqué for the Uganda Evangelical Mission Association will be signed by all present on Saturday 29th October, as a statement articulating the state of affairs in Uganda regarding the missions, our role and resolution the effect of reaching near and far with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Berea's Missions Emphasis Month – November

The fire from the Reformation Week at the end of October will be sustained through the efforts of Berea to teach about mission, to reach out in mission, to give towards missions, and to think and discern correctly about what god is doing in the world as well as our role in it.

PT Pastors' Final Consultation Meeting – November 7th – 10th

As the final push to launch the PT Institute which will incorporate all our ministry aspects under a common philosophy and mission, the pastors will return to the PT Center to review the curriculum, enlist trainees, identify instructors, and affirm the training agenda.

Twongyeirwe Family

Grace and her BSF team are still on their holiday till September, but she has kept quite engaged with ladies for prayer and discipleship. She has often taken teams of women to PT Center to hold their fellowships there. She has had opportunities to teach God's Word to women of St. Luke (on their Mary Magdalene Sunday, October 31st); she has also trained women ministers at Kyebando Baptist Church. She is diligently caring for us at home including the livestock of about 500-chicken, from which she has started to sell.

Isabel is on holiday till end of August when she returns as a fourth year Law student. One great achievement for her during her holidays was that she was part of her school team which won moots in Nairobi. Competition was between 25 African universities and they brought the trophy to Uganda. She has also been busy writing songs and in studios recording her music. Above all, she makes sure we have the best worship experience at church through her musical skills. She is our worship team leader.

Isaac is in transition from High School to University. He was admitted to join Daystar University in Nairobi for “Governance & International Relations” Course which is four years. He thinks he may change it in the process to major in Communication. He too is gifted in music and the church will miss his contribution as a guitarist and singer. He is a good driver and a wonderful errands boys at home and church.

Isaiah is in senior five at Makerere College School doing History, Literature and Economics. He has so changed and matured spiritually that he is well loved for his words of wisdom among other students. He was appointed head boy of his 1500-student body. Usually, students are nominated and they campaign and compete for such positions. For him, students let him know that if he is willing to serve them, he will have no challenger. As a matter of fact, when two students who aspired for head boy position got to know that he was willing, they stepped down in his favor. As his family, we had never seen this trait of leadership in him. He stands before the entire school and addresses them with boldness, encouraging them to be godly. He is also performing well in his studies.

Abigail is in form four and loves studying. She is up by 5:00 am to prepare and we asset off at six to beat the traffic, so that I can be back in office by 7:00 am. She was also appointed prefect for her class and she is therefore a member of school council. She also loves to serve her young friends and loves the things of God.

Prayer points

Pray for us, that we may have more resources to thrust PT to the desired level of action. We would like to increase staff, so that the work is felt locally and supported by many who are getting to benefit from it. Looking at how the initial book has been welcome in Uganda, we strongly believe that if we were able to invest in publishing, we would actually offset a large portion of ministry running costs. For this to happen we need another kind of “Rachel in office”; but we would need a salary for the first 16 months before the very publications can support such a worker. An investment of \$8,000 over such a period would bring us to 25% of irreversible self-sustenance within two years. Pray for us in this.

We would like to continue building and improving the PT Center. Please pray that God may avail the resources to roof the dinning (it needs \$27,000) so that as pastors, their wives, students and others continue to utilize it, they may increasingly find comfort and be at home. We have invested in mattresses and for the first time when the pastors came, we did not pay to rent as we have often done. We also purchased 30 pairs of bed sheets. We would like to increase these from the current 30 pieces to 200 and each costs \$35. We would need 100 beds (at \$170 each) and more beddings.

The floor costs for the main building ate into dinning funds because of unforeseen overheads such (especially as hiring the Generator at \$155 per day and for several weeks. God has been faithful in providing for us for this project and we are grateful. The “Ebenezer” is that the PT Center can be used. Students will be there in September and pastors return in November.....and Oh how we looked forward to this utilization!

As Isaac prepares to go to school in Nairobi, we have some but not sufficient resources. He sets out at the same time Isabel returns and their school costs remain a challenge to us. We have received some support which went towards Abigail, Isaiah, and some remain for Isaac. Please pray for God’s provision to reach us in time, especially for Isaac who has to report in less than two weeks.

The book sales have helped and the chicken may also offset to some extent. But we share all resources with our increased number staff and volunteers, which stretches everything we get. We also believe that sustaining our staff for the next two years will increase our capacity towards self-sustenance.

Pray for two more staff with whom we can share the work, serving in PT Literature and PT Market Place outreach. Pray also that we may be able to take on Mr. Noowe and Mr. Asimwe as full time staff

	NAME	POSITION / ROLE	
		Proclamation Task	Berea Church
1	Dr. Julius Twongyeirwe	PT National Director	Church Pastor
2	Mrs. Grace Twongyeirwe	PT Shalom Coordinator	Women’s Ministry Leader
3	Mr. Dickson Okello	PT Administrator / Accountant	Finance and Administration
4	Mr. Silver Nizeyimana	PT Student’s Ministry Coordinator	Youth Ministry Leader
5	Mr. Boaz Atuheire	PT Ministry Integration Officer	Missions Mobilizer
6	Mr. Grace Noowe (Supporting Volunteer)	PT Training Program Coordinator	Teaching/Preaching Ministry
7		PT Literature & Resource Manager	Christian Literature & Church Librarian
8		PT Market Place Ministry Coordinator	Outreach Strategist among Professionals
9	Mr. Godfrey Asimwe (Supporting Volunteer)	PT Information Technician (IT)	Sound / Recording / Web/ Media

Grace and I are involved in gospel ministry on several fronts among like-minded organizations and while many opportunities come with this, it is often difficult for us to juggle and make satisfactory gain for the Kingdom in our assessment. We know that God uses us still and we would also be encouraged to see that we fully utilize every engagement that competes for our attention and energy.

A typical invitation from churches and groups that we receive here in PT is always an appeal to come and teach the Bible, to answer life's difficult questions biblically, or to train those who handle God's word.

This invitation has just come in

Dear Brother Julius,

Praise God. Following our telephone conversation, this is to invite you to St Stephen Church Of Uganda Kasangati as facilitator on Sunday, 14th August 2016 from 2.00pm to 5.00pm. We are conducting a training to equip members with skills which will enable them to appropriately share God's word during the services. The sharing would be based either on a theme or the lessons read during the service.

We have 3 services and we have realized that different themes are used each Sunday depending on the preacher. We would like the message to address the same key issues for the 3 services on a particular Sunday.

In this respect therefore, we need to be equipped on how to prepare a sermon and stay focused as we pass on the message. How do we link the message to the Diocesan theme of the year?

Secondly, we have started Home Cells. We would need help on how to formulate discussion questions basing on the lessons and the preaching.

In case there is a point that needs more clarifying, we shall be glad to do so.

God bless you. We look forward to being with you then.

Dr. Eunice Kateshumbwa
On behalf of the organisers.