

Proclamation Task JANUARY 2017 TO-DATE

As 2016 came to an end, we had a better grasp of what 2017 would look like, at least the first half of it. We have thus been engaged and involved in fruitful ministry endeavors since January. Our efforts are first and foremost, and on a weekly basis, directed to our local church which has proved to be a wonderful base and launch pad for everything else we do.



Berea Baptist Church provides for us the relational context and reality that resources us for every other ministry beyond it. From the local reality, we then scatter our efforts through PT, which is the main resultant engagement of national scope.

A foundational focus in Berea's ministry is to enlist every Berean in studying Scripture. Bible Study groups have proved to be wonderful "nursery beds" for the wider involvement in the life of the church – Men, women, youth and children.



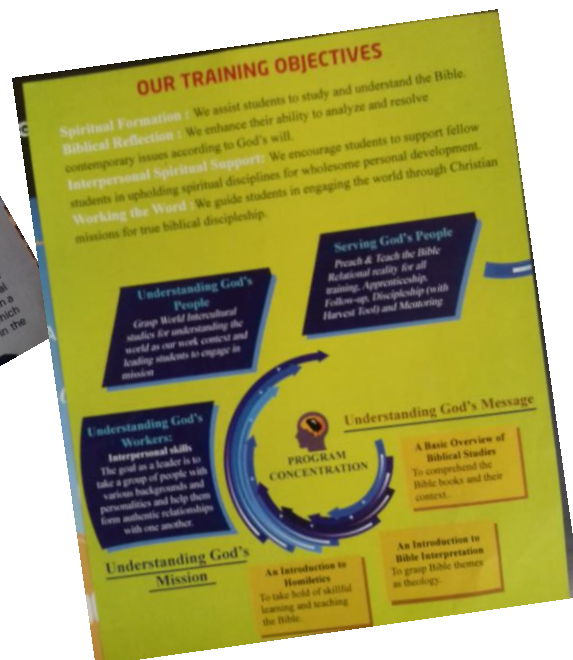
PT Staff and some volunteers hold weekly meetings to evaluate the ministry and lay strategies for coming months. We have learnt how to map out the entire year and work towards clear goals.




We have also gained good grasp in integrating our efforts without confusing various roles we each have as individuals.



With a wonderful graphics designer on the PT Staff, we have been able to develop informative flyers, brochures, hand bills and pull-ups that introduce our ministry to multitudes wherever we have been.



Organizing information about the ministry has also enabled the staff and volunteers to grasp the goals and objectives in each aspect, and how the interrelated ministry endeavors amount to a single vision and the ultimate mission of “teaching the Bible”.



STUDENTS INITIATIVE

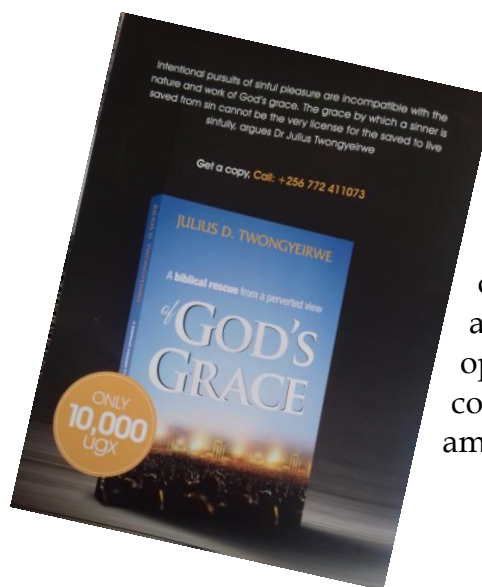
Teaching the Bible Message Among University Students
There is a profound change when students interact with one another around the study of God's Word

Bible Study
We design Bible Study in such a way that the exercise does not end in accumulation of head-information, but cause deep life transformation. Students are drawn into a more intimate walk with God, a closer walk with group members, and become productively involved in their local churches through responsible church membership.

Fellowship Accountability
We facilitate the coming together of students and help them form authentic relationships against the odds of various backgrounds, personalities and preferences. Students will need fellow students along this transformative journey, to make sure they progress in personal discipline, growth and the accruing responsibility which come with a better understanding of God's ways and his holy requirements.

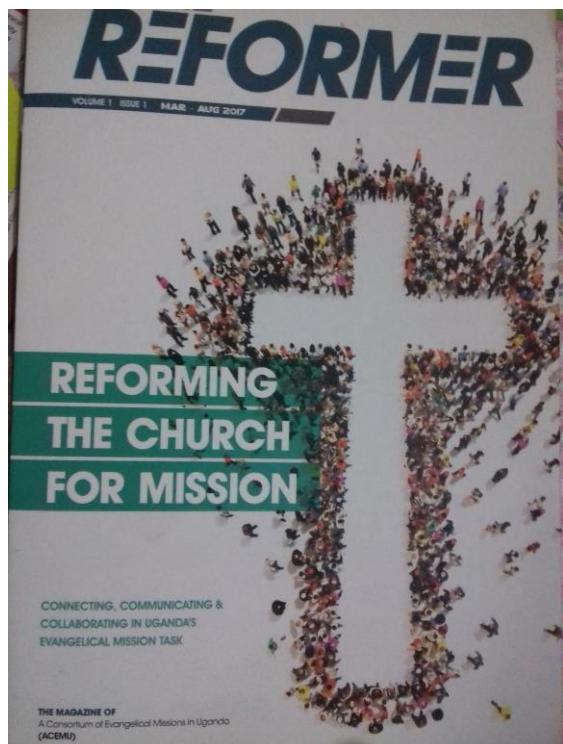
Spiritual Multiplication
As students increasingly delight in God's Word, their passion to teach others and uplift them is also heightened. An important dynamic of such small groups is their ability to raise competent members who bridge out this spiritual flow through group reproduction.

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This has increased interest among churches, students and professionals to open doors for us to come and minister among them.

We in PT have had wonderful opportunities to participate in major gatherings, where we have introduced our vision and our work.



For the last four months, Berea and PT have also served as a launch pad for A Consortium of Evangelical Missions in Uganda (ACEMU) for which we give all the glory and praise to our enabling God.

EDITORIAL

One of the most daunting phenomena in seeking to understand Christianity in Sub-Saharan Africa is the disparity between its strength by its numbers, and its scanty influence. This paradox continues to generate inquiry among Christian workers and scholars in the same measure, describing the church in Africa as "one mile long and only one inch deep".

The phenomenon is shared by Uganda's Christian populace of over 80% with a debatable level of Christian influence in public life. Challenging as it may be to measure the influence deemed appropriate for any particular size of a Christian populace on society, it is still paramount to analyze and describe the disparity between Christianity by numbers and its uneven influence on the Ugandan society for the purpose of effective mission.

Without analysis and a proper description, Gospel workers fail to propose a spiritually renewal measure - a kind that should bring about transformation and thrust the church into authentic mission. A quest for transformative spirituality must become a priority for pastors, theologians, mission workers, Christian parents and all God-fearing people across the entire strata of our society. There must be elaborate ways through which we can all enhance the current Christian presence with Christian influence in Uganda.

Where we stand today, it comes to light that a majoritarian confidence of "Christianity by numbers" may not guarantee socio-cultural transformation, unless "Christianity by quality" lowers the anchor and lays the anvil for vitality. It is the quest for such vitality - synonymous with transformative spirituality - which should be both the cause and letmotto of all Gospel engagement.

Through ACEMU, we now embrace a more collaborative way of thinking about mission - its origin, its message, its methods, its nature and its outcome. The numbers in the Christian faith must realize complementary efforts through which we can broadly act in synergy to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to the joy of all Gods people.

The Christian mission is too big a task for any single mission entity - whether church or para-church. Ugandan Christians need a networking platform to encourage and enable evangelical mission entities to effectively connect, communicate and collaborate in their various mission aspects for efficiency and quality ministry output.

ACEMU's overall aim will be to facilitate a sustainable common front for the evangelical Christians in Uganda to carry the missionary task within the country, and to the rest of the world. As a forum, ACEMU will serve to bring missions' awareness, support the coordination among mission entities, serve as missions' workforce developer and above all engender research in order to establish the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities of Christian work as well as threats to the church.

The evangelical church in Uganda is overdue in its effort to develop the needed global perspective while engaging locally, so as to come to terms with mission trends as well as its own role in the world where God has placed us at this time. May ACEMU serve this purpose to the ends of the earth, to the end of the age and to the praise of Gods glory Amen

Julius D. Twongyeirwe
Dr. Julius D. Twongyeirwe
Editor in Chief

On the basis of these and in lieu of them, we get to contribute to several other ministries through helpful partnerships and collaborations.

Ministry opportunities to teach the Bible have become available for PT on several fronts. Our work among University students has picked up well within the last one year.



We began by holding sporadic ministry events and these served the purpose of mobilizing the people, clarifying the agenda and anticipating areas of ministry methods and emphasis.

Not only are we reaching University students, but PT's school ministry has stretched our attention to the younger people in Primary and Secondary schools. We handle ministry in larger groups as well as smaller ones, and each setting is prearranged to bring maximum enrichment, by God's own grace.



The hunger for God's Word is felt through the questions that are posed by the young and the old - questions to do with what we should believe as Christians and how we should live as obedient followers of Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Savior.





Through worth partnerships, co-workmanship is continually yielding great fruit in our University outreach work.

We have several local partners with who we can now plan and carry out joint ventures in training Bible teachers.



With many young people committing their lives to Christ, new demands have come up: the intentional and deliberate discipleship that grounds them in Christ through the study of God's Word.



On a weekly basis, the PT Staff and some members of our church get to lead groups in different school locations to nurture and spiritually care for these pupils and students.



The PT Staff workers prepare weekly programs to visit schools for Gospel ministry. Some activities are evangelistic in nature, introducing Jesus Christ and his work on the cross to young people. Other activities are follow up meeting where the Bible is taught to resolve young believers at their points of doubt, objections and confusion.

The PT Women's Ministry has gained good momentum in regional follow up gatherings where Mrs. Grace Twongyeirwe keep in touch with pastors' wives who coordinate women's ministry in various regions.



Training meetings for urban preachers have also become common in our program. These are short and to the point, addressing a certain phenomenon or trend in biblical teaching or faith practice. PT contributes to these, from time to time.

From time to time, PT has helped bring together evangelical leaders from across denominations, to explore ways through which we can bring "fresh air in the pulpit" and run people-group ministry in our various churches.





The ministry among professional workers has also picked up well, with a wonderful network among medical doctors, Christian lawyers and business men and women in the market place.

Some meetings take place in their business centers where we are invited to teach the Bible. In this picture, a telecom company (MTN) office was turned into an auditorium, and I taught the “spirituality of work”.

The hunger for studying the Bible has reached great heights in Uganda. Every Friday evening, 40 young people (26-36 years) gather at our home to do a course which I am teaching.



The course will be concluded this coming Friday (17th March), and then plan on the next others.

These are mainly working class and are able to snake through the evening traffic of the city to come to our house from 6:00 – to 9:00 pm every Friday.

Once the PT Center is better equipped, such courses will be transferred to that larger and better venue and be made partially residential, since the courses are being offered under the PT Institute.



For the next steps, Homiletics is priority and the Perspectives course for young people who aspire to set out as missionaries. Bible interpretation is also a desired venture among these and we seem to be beginning well, even as we improve the training facilities at all times.

From this group of trainees, we are also mobilizing a workforce that will be framed well for volunteer work with us, especially among university students. We are convinced that grounding them biblically is the paramount capital in all their service to the Lord.



Although the PT Center is not yet complete enough to comfortably accommodate trainees, some of the categories have been able to use this venue. We launched the PT Institute in February 2017 with pastors who registered to do their first module.

Several meetings and training events can now take place at the PT Center, having roofed the main building and worked the floor. We have also gathered 80 mattresses and a few blankets and pillows.





The hunger and thirst to hear the voice of God through Bible exposition is gaining momentum, even among the clergy. We (and those we have trained) are often invited to open God's word in Christian conferences, interdenominational settings and similar gatherings.

I had a wonderful privilege to handle Bible expositions from the book of Ezra among these church leaders in Masaka in February, over three days of their deliberations.



I had a rare opportunity to teach the Bible, extrapolating the relationship of sexuality (our maleness and femaleness) and spirituality, with a focus on Song of Solomon and Hosea for this Valentine Dinner in February.

I am now able to respond to invitations to extend ministry beyond our church to other congregations, having trained upcoming preachers in Berea who now have the capacity to supply the pulpit and release me to serve elsewhere at the same time.





Among the fresh entrants on the pulpit we have a dear brother, Mr. Bernie Muluuta who took the Cornhill Training Course in London, the same preaching course that really got me on course to preach the Bible message.

Through our Homiletics class, more are coming up, and with preachers, planting churches will be possible in the coming years.

Great opportunities have come our way, to preach in many places. The partnership we enjoy with with (Anglican founded) Uganda Christian University gives us the best opportunities to reach many and a kind who are church leaders in a few years.



Other upcoming partnerships are with All Saints Cathedral – Kampala where about 15,000 people gather every Sunday through the four worship services.



In the Anglican Church this year, the theme is about building strong Christian families. In PT, we have developed notes that we are using among youth (especially sexual purity) singles ready for marriage, young couples, and parenting. We are teaching in church, in schools, in homes, in offices and through correspondence.

With improving technology, in large audiences where the preacher may not be easily visible to the audience, large screens are improvised to make the necessary nearness.



Mission conferences continue to link us up among several like-minded Gospel workers, with whom we are developing fellowship in ministry.



At a missions conference, from left: Mr. Godfrey Asimwe, PT IT Specialist, Mr. Silver Nizeyimana, PT Students' Ministry Coordinator, Julius and Mr. Boaz Atuheire, PT Missions Integration Officer.

We have developed a number of materials to fit a spectrum of those we reach and scheduled them according to varying durations.

We are also embarking on including among our Bible teaching materials, *The Word One to One*, developed by our partners in UK whom we know well. 1-2-1 is a useful tool and effective for a Christian to read the Bible with a non-Christian friend.

It is evangelistically designed to be used with people who have never read the Bible, so there is no expectation on them to know anything at all.

