

PT Quarterly Ministry Report
Jan-mid June 2011

Gerald Tanner Visits

I (Julius) held a meeting for partnership prospects with Rev. Gerald Tanner of Project Timothy on 31st Jan 2011 in Kampala. The main aim of Project Timothy is to facilitate the involvement of preachers and churches from Britain in a long term regular ministry among the same group abroad. In this way relationships can be forged and an understanding of the culture and situation developed to benefit both the trainees and the trainers.

We are to keep in touch as we explore how and when Bible teachers can come and help young churches associated with PT and their leaders to teach and apply Scriptures in our Ugandan context.

Planning for Langham Preaching (LP)

On 7th February, a meeting of local facilitators was held to discuss the way forward for the preaching movement in Uganda. There is a shared facilitation for Bible teachers and preachers in Uganda with like-minded entities, and the relationship between PT and LP brings out this venture very well in practical terms. With relatively varying approaches, the some of the same instructors serve on both platforms to meet pastoral needs in a more enriching way. PT enjoys and delights in such partnerships.

Kisiizi Training

A biblical preachers' seminar was conducted in Kisiizi (March 3rd -5th) with a very good response. There is a good foundation in this location, where we have intensified training with frequent follow up visits. Our training was focused on how to handle Old Testament Bible narratives. In such sessions we have teaching sessions, group work, and a model Bible exposition which is evaluated by the entire class on three areas: On whether the preacher was faithful to the text; on whether the message was clear; and on how the message is relevant to us today. Through such exercises, we have seen many trainees gain both the biblical understanding as well as the skills to expound God's word.

Training to Prepare Missionaries

On 10th March, I had an opportunity to instruct prospective missionaries under the theme: "Preparing Missionaries for the Mission field" with World Trumpet Mission (WTM). The event was put together in partnership with local churches that are desirous of sending some of their members in an outreach effort. WTM has a close working relationship with UEMA, the mission agency that perfectly completes PT's effort among pastors and local churches. Any achievement by PT in the local church is tested not by the seating capacity of the church, but by the church's sending capacity. In the mission mind of PT, we are careful not to make the gathered church the chief end of our effort, but actually to focus on the well-planned and orderly scattering of God's people wherever he wants them. Both PT and UEMA are under the directorship of my (Julius), and now share office space at PT's new office premise.

Meeting with Josiah and Sarah Bokma

On 18th March, I was glad to meet the Bokmas who serve with Teaching Ministry Team (TMT). TMT desires to connect local teachers with local students, with the emphasis of activating those who have much to share. Josiah and Sarah desire to connect teachers from Canada and America with our preachers in Uganda. Josiah recognizes that many of the students in Uganda easily trust the foreign teachers but need to realize the giftedness and insights of their own leaders. His hope is to work with PT in rethinking how we train pastors and leaders in ways that are manageable, affordable and sustainable in the African context. Josiah would like to bring educated and passionate teachers of Scripture in contact with thirsty students, from a variety of churches and denominational backgrounds. We are keeping in touch to see how this unfolds for the benefit of God's kingdom.

Local facilitators' training in Mbarara

From 24th to 26th March a small group of local facilitators went through what it takes for one to position himself and actually play a godly role as a Local Facilitator. In our effort to multiply instructors, we are doing work among ourselves to uplift each other as trainers of other trainers, and realize that the work will grow along these lines in scope and depth. We had three people join us from Kenya who are part of a similar program (Langham Preaching). Mercy Ireri, their team leader, had helpful insights to share with us from their country, in view of encouraging us for the work in Uganda.

Pastor-training in Mbale

From 13 to 16th April, PT conducted a pastor-training event in Munamba, Mbale region. At last, the pastors in this region came together not only to learn, but to think of the way forward in training upcoming under-shepherds of the church here. It had always been a divided ministry, but for the first time, the leaders recognized that no single church will handle the task on its own. They covenanted to find land, raise resources and put up a Bible training institution to support the church in this region. Work is going on, and we ought to keep them in prayer in this fresh start. PT has been active in this part of Uganda for over seven years, and this was a milestone indeed.

FOCUS Students Retreat

From 22nd – 25th April PT (through Julius & Grace) was involved in facilitating training during a Camp Retreat organized by FOCUS (equivalent of IFES world-wide) doing Bible expositions. Among the 300 student leaders, we sought to bring out Apostle Paul's call, passion, message, ministry and accomplishments. The goal was to handle the expositions in such a way that the life of Paul as a Bible character may model prospective missionaries in this group. On Easter Monday we commissioned 32 local missionaries in tertiary institutions. It was a moving moment as we guided the charge.

Students' Ministry in Rukungiri

From 27th to 30th April we held a unique ministry in Rukungiri at Makerere Colleges of Business Studies. It was a wonderful time for us, with the young people on our team. About 18 students came to a saving faith in Christ. Those who are already saved were encouraged through the teaching and instruction from God's word. Others were powerfully challenged to consider their way of life without Christ, and we are continually hearing of responses since we left. Opportunities such as this are often rare, but leading young people to Christ and helping to disciple them is quite strengthening for the church.

Reformed Theological College

From 23rd to 25th May 2011 PT/UEMA through Peter and Julius, facilitated a workshop on missions. The theme for the conference was *"Developing Spiritual Leadership for World Missions"* and the purpose was to inspire and challenge outgoing students with a vision to train true disciples of Jesus, to raise pioneer missionaries of the gospel, and evangelize unreached peoples of Uganda, Africa and the world. This event was placed towards their graduation as a purposeful send off. Not only were the students challenged to carry the good news, but the work of PT and UEMA got to be appreciated and partnership discussions continue among stakeholders to this day.

Discipleship Across Denominations

For three consecutive Fridays (6th, 13th and 20th May) we taught the Bible among several Christians who gathered at St. Andrew's Bukoto, from different Christian denominations as yearning disciples. We answered questions and brought biblical solutions to life's critical challenges in applying faith to daily living. As PT, we are glad to be part of such efforts in growing and strengthening the church of Christ at its roots. We hope to continue doing this in future.

West Nile

From 29th May to 3rd June, we trained about 57 church leaders who registered for a biblical preachers' seminar in Arua, West Nile. This five-day seminar laid a good foundation for continued work in this region and could perhaps launch us into Southern Sudan in line with our desire. We were supported by Langham Preaching for this work. There was also an opportunity to share our work (PT, LP and UEMA) through the airwaves on a Christian radio station (Voice of Life) that hosted us as special visitors in this region.

Don Olden visits us in Uganda

From 8th to 14th June, we had a privilege of hosting one of our enduring friends and partner, Don Olden who is an Elder at Koinonia Independent Evangelical Church in Andover, UK. As a family living in UK (1998-99) we visited Koinonia where I preached a few times. Since then, we have enjoyed a fellowship with this congregation and it was a desire satisfied for us to host Don. Don and I, along with two more ministers on our team traveled to Mbarara for a pastor-training event. It was eye-opening for Don to see firsthand, what we are engaged in doing among pastors. Don appreciated the effort and he in turn brought the word to us at Berea on Sunday 12th in a challenge to true biblical discipleship that Bereans appreciated deeply.

Mbarara Baptist Pastors' training

From 9th to 11th June we conducted training for Baptist pastors of Western and South-Western Uganda. It was a land mark for PT in its 11 years of engagement, having been conceived in this Baptist environment. PT had had challenges in carrying out training among these pastors, for whom it was primarily formed and among whom it was initially nurtured. But the opening of space and appreciation has gradually been evident, with this one as a major step.

These were the top leaders of the Baptist church in the entire Western and South-Western Uganda who serve as pastors, Associational leaders and regional overseers. Out of this interaction, similar invitations have been extended for us to support training in Kasese, Kigumba, Kyangwali (a Refugee Settlement), and Isingiro where pastors lead large congregations but remain in dire need for training. God willing, the PT team will handle training in Kigumba and Kyangwali during the same week we go back to Arua (July 25th – 30th).

On the Horizon

We are preparing for the Africa Center For Apologetics and Research (ACFAR) Board Meeting and Seminar 17th – 18th June. I serve on the Board of ACFAR. I am also preparing for the training in Soroti in Eastern Uganda from Thursday 23rd thru Saturday, with a Sunday service in the area. We will return to Kampala on Monday 27th. A team of us is also putting training materials together to return to Mbarara for the Langham Preaching. I will be helping participants on how to preach from the Law. We will be in Mbarara from 3rd to 8th July.

Thank you so much for standing with us and supporting us to accomplish this work in strengthening the church of Christ. Our love and prayers remain with you, as you endeavor to live for Christ wherever he has placed you, serving an eternal purpose while this earthly life lasts.

Report by:

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