

PT Ministry Report Second Quarter (April-June) 2009

This ministry report covers three months of the second quarter 2009 - April, May and June. During this period we had planned to engage pastors in the east and north-eastern part of Uganda. We were to hold at least three training seminars that would serve as a launching pad for continuity of training in that region. This plan was not implemented due to the famine that is looming in this area. Even though I (Julius) was out of the country for a greater part of this quarter, trainers were ready to get going with this work if the situation had allowed. Pastor Alfred Obote, our coordinator for one of the seminars called the training team in Kampala to put a halt to the event because of the anxiety over starvation. At the time he called, three deaths had already occurred due to this draught-caused famine. The region has not yet recovered, but government efforts are making a little difference in preserving life there. Please be in prayer for the people of this area.

Training Trip to Kisiizi

Training of Bible handlers that included faithful Christians some of whom are Bible teachers, preachers, small group facilitators began on the evening of Friday June 19th and the last session was on the evening of 21st. It was the first time PT reached out in this area. Participants became enthusiastic within the first three sessions especially as the “authority and sufficiency of Scripture” discussion got under way. From this premise, we set out with reverence into “who can / should handle God’s Word” and “how should we approach the Bible” to understand it for our benefit, to prepare to teach others and preach and apply God’s timeless truth. This was good ground to establish, for people this hungry and ready for this training agenda.

In Kisiizi, we did not do as earlier planned, namely, to enroll and train all participants as Level One. The reason was that there was preliminary need to introduce them to the program. Only four out of the 73 participants were familiar with the structure. So we prepared them this time, but for Level One the next time we rejoin them. They desire to have us return to do the training before this year ends. Tentative plan to do this training stands around September 2009.

Visiting Partners: The Urquharts

Roddy, his wife Evelien and their son Niels made a trip to Uganda. They came to see us and also visit Johann their first born who is a teacher in Uganda. We came to know the Urquharts in 1999 when we lived in UK, and a friendship has grown since then. They are a great support to us as a family and their church appreciates and prays for PT work. They visited places and served alongside Ugandans at Agape Children’s Village and Word of Life. It was nice to have this family visit us in Uganda. Roddy is PT’s point person in the UK.

Julius’ Training for Evangelism Leadership

Between 25th April and 25th May I was in Maui, Hawaii at the Haggai Institute for Leadership. It was a wonderful time of learning and interaction with 28 men from about 17 countries. The training at HI is all to do with evangelism. We were taken through 14 classes and 77 sessions of organizing, coordinating and implementing evangelism in our contexts. The experience left a great impact on me as I got to hear and learn from others and what they are doing in their home countries. There is a lot to put in practice from this training and I have begun to implement. I promised myself to train at least 40 evangelists before the year ends. I am trying to make sure I am on target.

PT Model Church: Berea Ministry Progress

As the new church-plant grows, ministry demands are also increasing. So, I am giving more and more time to Berea and we are all excited about the way God is gathering us and leading us. We

have two ordained elders and they are very able men, skillful spiritual leaders. One of the aspects in which my up-country travels have been adjusted is that I can only be out training pastors between Monday and Friday, because I want to be at Berea on Sunday. Berea was privileged to send out two missionaries to Kenya, commissioned on 7th June. This outlook helps us grow as a “Great Commission” church. Berea is now registered as a legal entity in Uganda. Land has been identified and there are on-going efforts by the church to secure it.

Administratively, we are also exploring ways in which PT, Berea and possibly UEMA can find and share office space. It has become increasingly necessary that we coordinate the ministry of Berea and PT from a central and more public place not at our home where the PT and Berea office are located. So as the ministry demands and activity increase, there is a need to relocate. This relocation will also release a part of our house which has been serving as office / storage for PT and Berea. Berea has hired an administrator to help me in handling the ministry errands.

Readjustments to PT Plans for Formal Training

Things have greatly taken a different shape at KEST, requiring us to rethink the future of formal training. With an on-going financial limp for some years, the global credit crunch could not allow KEST to sustain its formal programs. We held a graduation ceremony on 5th June and temporarily concluded formal programs. The prevailing alternative is to do informal, seminar-like intensive courses beginning August 2009. My time at KEST was to build a partnership through which I would direct the work of extension programs congruent to PT as I introduce formal training among PT trainees. At least for now, KEST cannot be the launching pad. This has reinvigorated our once-shelved idea of launching formal programs as PT. So as KEST goes into some kind of hibernation, the year 2013 resurfaces as a target to which we as PT should set out on formal training. The PT school program is in line with our 20-year strategic flow. The challenge we face to this moment is the venue. What we have available is 10 acres of land; no building yet.

Peripheral Ministry

There is always a gospel call for ministers to respond to, even outside our direct responsibilities. Grace and I give counsel to those who seek it; we take up speaking and preaching engagements, and get involved in other ministries to give support to Kingdom workers. In the recent past I preached at St. Paul’s (Anglican) Church-Mulago and spent the rest of the afternoon with couples, answering their questions according to God’s design, structure and purpose for marriage and parenting. I did the same thing for St. Luke’s (Anglican) Ntinda at their two-day retreat. One woman gave her life to Christ during the sessions. I am also lined up to preach at Gayaza High School (Isabel’s school) on 2nd August. Other ministry involvements include Word of Life, Haggai Institute (Uganda Chapter), UEMA, wedding couples and helping young men and women who intend to start homes. We are happy to be useful in that way.

Looking Ahead to End of 2009

I hope to travel to Mbarara at end of July for a two-day PT regional planning meeting. In August, I will spend about two weeks with Entebbe Pentecostal Church during their “Missions Month” to preach and handle training sessions for their prospective missionaries. I will be handling that work from UEMA point of action. UEMA is Uganda Evangelical Missionary Agency. I will then go to northern Uganda (Gulu 23rd – 28th) for a pastors’ conference in partnership with Bethel Seminary and return to Kampala for another (1st – 4th Sept). For these two, we have already begun registration. We expect to enlist 500 pastors and we will train them at seminary level in these two conferences.

During the remaining part of September, I may make another trip to Kisiizi and then travel to USA through UK, beginning the journey on 24th September and arriving in Portland on 5th October. I will be in Portland only, at the invitation of Dr. Smith (with WLGC) to join other brethren in the effort of coming up with a curriculum for WLGC

Returning around 21st October, I will ready myself for Buvuma Islands where we will hold a graduation ceremony on 24th, for the pastors we have been training in the last three years. (I am the key note speaker on this graduation). Then there may be a trip to Tanzania to train pastors in Mwanza, then our annual Preach-Leadership Conference in mid November concluding our active PT training calendar for 2009.

Don & Lori Top, and their children will be coming to visit us in Uganda around Christmas. The Tops are members at Intown Church where Brian and Faith Jenssen also fellowship. Intown has sustained great support for us in the pastor-training ministry, and the Tops are coming to encourage us, and to have first-hand experience of how we live and what we do. We look forward to their visit.

Prayer Points

Pray for us:

- That we may secure office space for PT and Berea
- That we can put up the first building for PT school program by 2013
- That the curriculum-writing team at IICC may bring forth worthwhile work in October.
- That we may be able to follow only God's prompting in the face of many invitations for "peripheral ministry". I know that I cannot do everything I am invited to handle, however important these assignments may be in God's kingdom.

- Continue to pray for Grace and I - that we may respond with good assessment and utter sensitivity to the urgent, important and needful agendas. Pray that we make quality time to keep us strong as a ministering couple.

- Thank God with us for our children: Isabel is more bold and wiser in sharing the Gospel at her school. She leads a Bible Study group. Isaac has greatly changed for better in his relationship with God since he changed school. His questions and discipline for quiet time, and love for God's Word are all encouraging stances. Isaiah continues to be a disciplined boy and aims at leading his classmates to Christ. He has led two, including a former Moslem boy. Abigail is growing well and her vocabulary is a "pain-reliever" for even the greatest pain. No pain can withstand the laughter triggered by her utterances! She is such a joy to us.

- Thank God with us – Grace's chicken are doing very well. They lay five trays of eggs daily and we are glad that this project is promising. Pray for us that our housing project can be completed and that we can be able to generate income from house rent.

- And let us know how we can also pray for you in turn.

Report by Julius Twongyeirwe

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