

PT Quarterly Ministry Report January – March 2008

Increasing Awareness & Growing Hunger for Biblical Ministry

In Uganda, the last four years have seen unprecedented media coverage of scandals in the church. Church leaders have been in the news for all wrong reasons, ranging from infidelity, rape, sodomy, to autocratic leadership and financial mismanagement. Greed and lust among power hungry church leaders has been the talk of the day. Staged-managed miracles, witchcraft, and the involvements in Africa's spirit-world have marked our expectation for the next news paper headline. Extortion and manipulation have shaped sermons on "Giving" as the "prosperity gospel" flourishes to its climax in Uganda's version of materialism. Self-styled super prophets, "prophetesses" and "anointed apostles" are on air waves competing for potential members. A pastor in my home region just finished serving an 18-month jail sentence for attempting to rape a young girl right in his office! He was released from prison only two weeks ago.

While secular society is entertained to this kind of drama, media companies make large sums in profit from exposing the ungodly undertakings among God's people in the church. The immediate outcome of such an exposure is that the gospel message is often blurred due to the messengers' character. Some people have given up on God and his people, arguing that religion is unhelpful. There are places where we may feel uncomfortable to introduce ourselves as "pastor" - a title that now sends vibes through the nerves of a suspicious society. On the other hand, many who cannot shake off the reality of God's existence, power and love have begun a new journey. They are now asking deeper and relevant questions. Some of them who are church leaders have developed a fresh hunger for Bible knowledge, cultivating godly character, and practicing ministry along God's prescribed methods.

The tragedy of exposing evils in the church and her leaders has indeed unleashed shame on Christ's church, but it is also serving as a wake-up call. It is loudly sounding the trumpet which now warns untrained, unskilled, unqualified pastors, warning them of the dreadful fate that awaits any self-asserting and masquerading ministers. Some pastors have now developed a fresh awareness to the consequences of their overriding human scheme in a divine agenda. Others have not humbled themselves enough, but many are increasingly flocking Christian institutions to receive help. It is in this current wind of change that **PT** is also utilizing the tragedy-turned-to-opportunity by reaching pastors, training them and organizing them for an on-going training in a regional equipping prospectus. Jesus Christ is much in charge of his church, that even "public shame" is serving to warn and rebuild "private lives"!

PT Ministry Activity

For us in ministry, the activities have so far been sustained by sporadic involvements in which we as instructors make trips to various regions. Apart from a few local places, the pastoral-training effort has always gone on as long as we make such a visit, concluded by our departure. The main ministry activity during this epoch is to consolidate what **PT** has done in the last eight years, by directly charging **PT** trainees to sustain the training work. This move does not put off our travels to the regions, but instead increases the frequency of our visits to monitor, supervise and assess progress. This is when the work seems to require full throttle for a take off that will uphold it on this foundational activity.

We are now forming **Regional Training Teams (RTT)** and we hope to cover Uganda's eight regions in the next two years. These teams are an outcome of **PT** work among preaching leaders in the local church since 2000. Some among those we have trained so far are now able to train other pastors, and we are grouping them to sustain the work in their home regions. We work with them to assess regional training needs specifically and generally, in order to develop biblically relevant courses to feed their growing colleagues with the full benefits of regional context (language, culture, customs, worldview etc). The **RTTs** will also pioneer the establishment of training institutions (Bible Schools, regional libraries, leadership and ministry resource centers) in their regions. It is through these leaders that the "biblical preachers' movement" will continue to take root and grow among the new cadres for expository preaching in feeding the flock. Three **RTTs** are already in place now (Bufumbira, Teso, Bugisu). Upcoming ones are in the regions of Busoga, and Buvuma Islands.

Summary Training Report

Date	Training Event	Pastors Reached	Region
Feb	Bible Exposition Conference (Joint effort)	39	National Scope
March	Pastors' Seminar & RTT Strategy	32	Soroti (Teso)
March	Pastors' Seminar & RTT Strategy	16	Buweswa (Mbale)
March	Pastors' Seminar & RTT Strategy	8	Butiru (Manafwa)
March	Pastors' Seminar & RTT Strategy	28	Munamba (Manafwa)
March	RTT Strategy, meeting with leaders	3	Iganga (Busoga)
March	Pastors' Seminar	36	Mityana (Buganda)
April	Bible Exposition Conference (Joint effort)	57	National Scope

Out of the four training events in four regions we had planned for the January-March quarter, we held 6 in three regions, reaching about 197 church leaders. We were unable to carry out training in the West and North East due to transport problems and inadequate preparation on the part of regional coordinators.

But now with much required travel to these regions, how would we ever accomplish anything without reliable ministry vehicle for transport? And that's where I begin our vehicle-acquisition testimony:

PT Ministry Transport Facilitation

We are so thrilled to report that funds for a new ministry vehicle became available and a suitable vehicle was purchased on2008. This vehicle came to us at the high point of implementing the new-phase strategies to consolidate the work through RTT formation. Used of God for the cause of providing this vehicle are ministry partners in **Cross Connections / Rock Foundation**. Our faithful brother, David Jackman of the Proclamation Trust, has worked tirelessly to keep a warm linkage and fellowship in ministry with the dear brethren who serve God through **Cross Connections**. They provided enough money to get us the best vehicle that we can find in Uganda, suitable for our kind of ministry. We now have a 4-wheel drive Toyota van, 7-seater, comprehensively insured and now serving us perfectly. The provision of a ministry vehicle has made our joy complete in a very long time to come, given the greater heights to which we must take pastoral training. What had remained on the list of our prayer requests in the last four years is today on the list of answered prayers; initially as "wait" and finally as "yes". Please rejoice with us as we give thanks to God for this great provision.

We are so grateful to **Cross Connections** for this expressed generosity with a deep interest and concern for the work of training preachers in Uganda. Their contribution to this ministry will go along way in strengthening the Church of Christ in Uganda.

KEST Ministry Aspect

A joint effort between KEST and PT continues to evolve in practice. I serve through KEST as Head of Department for *Biblical, Theological and Pastoral Studies*. This ministry involvement has put me on a better ground to follow through pastor-training work in a double effort. Some background to this partnership has to do with PT's ministry association with the Langham Partnership International (LPI) some years back. LPI's effort through its arm of Langham Preaching (LP) has sustained a partnership with KEST, greatly helping in training handlers of God's Word in Uganda. I had been part of the Bible Exposition Conferences (BEC) long before I joined KEST as staff. My involvement with LP and BEC in the KEST context while establishing PT has brought the vision of training preachers closer over the years. A growing need for KEST Extension programs to reach PT (and other) trainees in their regions is now heightening the requirement for this unfolding co-workmanship. KEST wants utilize the channels already established by PT to reach out with the programs, because KEST and LP perceive PT to be an appropriate channel for taking the training to regions. This extension is to include LP's vision for a "Preaching Movement" following about six years of annual BECs. The main objectives of stakeholders are considerably merging into congruent interests that build God's Kingdom with a better worked out synergy. The stakeholders will not need to lose their identities in this partnership, but will be seeking to utilize the benefits of ministry contact points.

The KEST administration made a deliberate, bold and strategic step to appoint me to this department in order to align my ministry planning and involvement in ways that are envisaged to build KEST as well as stabilize the PT training program. I will serve as the point-person in carrying both the KEST and PT vision to the same end. Through KEST, PT will also benefit from better instructors for regional pastors, training materials (such as the books we got from Langham Literature) and synergize for a greater impact. As KEST works through PT training channels, there will be a combined impact on the regional work done. In the past, LPI has encouraged both KEST and PT towards this effort since they know major engagements of both ministries. Sharing ideas and praying still goes on and we will keep you updated.

In what looks like the way forward, PT is currently establishing RTTs for the next two years. We will expand the scope of RTTs to broaden the equipping of pastors through the training agenda with KEST. The primary links to this joint effort are PT trainees and BEC's Year III graduates. We hope to affirm "preach-leading" as the core of all training. KEST and PT will draw the training curricula that are customized to specific regions in terms of the local needs and church context, and enlist prospective instructors who can make trips to the regions.

Prospects for Julius' further training

The last lap in formal training for ministry is in the offing. I secured an admission to pursue a PhD in Theology with Akrofi-Christaller Institute for Mission, Theology & Culture in Accra, Ghana. It was always my preference and desire to study further to this level while handling research on the African continent in order to heighten my relevance here. If I succeeded in this, I would be better placed to contribute to Africa's evangelical Christian Mission. We are now praying to God for financial support to take me through this.

Praise and Prayer

- Join us to give thanks to God for those he continues to use in providing for as a family and in running the ministry. Give thanks our newly-acquired means of transport (the vehicle).
- Give thanks to God for the safety he has given us on the road, out on long journeys and back in one piece to our families.
- Pray in regard to prospects of the PT-KEST-LP joint effort.
- Pray for me in regard to further training, that if it is God's will, I may commence on the Doctorate program this year. Pray for God's provision.

We appreciate you for all you mean to us as friends and all you do for the ministry as partners with us in Kingdom work.

Report by

Julius Twongyeirwe,

National Director

Proclamation Task

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT TO THE PT MINISTRY; AND YOUR ENDURING LOVE FOR US AS GOD'S SERVANTS.