

PT Ministry Update July-September 2011

July 2011

At the beginning of July we joined team members in Mbarara for facilitators' training for the Preaching Movement. This effort is directed to pastors but also beyond the pastors, to lay preachers and group Bible Study leaders. The goal of including all that what we refer to as "Bible handlers" is to build teaching and preaching capacity in the local church body, aiding an all-member word ministry. The opportunity to do this comes on the forum and with the facilitation of Langham Preaching, our long-time partners in training for Bible exposition among preachers. For this training, we were joined by co-workers from Kenya, just across the border.

This engagement is one of our trusted facets in training preachers and is structured in such a way that we can combine the giving of Bible content, literal analysis, historical and biblical contexts as well as the distinct way in which a particular Bible passage ought to be studied and preached.

At the end of July, we traveled to Bushenyi, 80 miles north-west of Mbarara to introduce this same program. A team of four facilitators spent three days among eager people who have longed for this "Bible study and preaching" help for a long time. The participants were drawn from the Anglican clergy and lay readers, but mostly from institute-based chaplaincy. The learning was dynamic and the eagerness to keep the program going was evident.

August 2011

During the best part of August I (Julius) was preparing to leave for USA. So the time was characterized by Board meetings, correspondence, arrangements to keep ministry going while I am away, student visa chase, air travel arrangements and farewell meetings. During this time we also organized the John R. Stott Memorial Service in Kampala, which turned out as a great time and opportunity to reflect on the life of a man and his devotion in the Master's in service.

Proc Task

In our Board meeting of 11th August, it was agreed that the pastoral-training work will go on mainly at regional level, depending on the regional initiative. It was also suggested that if there is need to bring regional facilitators together for a "training of trainers" seminar, this can be centrally organized by Peter Muriuki, especially in view of curriculum development.

As soon as we communicated this to the regional coordinators, the training in Mbale went underway, with two instructors from Soroti (Paul Etolu and Moses Elebu) traveling south to help our brother Patrick Kunyu run a seminar of 28 pastors. As the training went on, Patrick called me to update me, and shared with me concerning the great learning and cooperation that was taking place in Munamba and we were overjoyed, that PT had come this far – where pastors can organize among themselves and carry out across-the-region training.

Training is also going on in Kisoro at Rutare Bible School, and in Bugiri at Namayingo Bible School. Courses are organized in Buvuma periodically and Mpigi at Mmembe. The most training activity is in Teso region where about 8 Bible Schools are actively teaching and training church workers. We have more resource people (trainers) in this region than any other. Pray that this regional work may grow and increase its influence in the church.

UEMA

Leaders of PT have an assignment from the *Evangelical Fellowship of Uganda* (EFU), to give a functional structure to the *Uganda Evangelical Mission Agency* and operationalize its work in Uganda. A booklet that explains the objectives and work of UEMA was printed in August and a volunteer coordinator for the work appointed.

He has been working on the UEMA activation strategy, beginning with the Missions Ten-Missions Exposure training for churches in order to build awareness and rally sending churches behind this cross-cultural endeavor of getting local efforts in the global Christian mission work. The coordinator, Mr. Grace Noowe, is working closely with Mr. Peter Asimwe who doubles as Chairman of PT and UEMA.

Berea Church

Our local church was the most engaging in all my arrangements to go away for further studies. This is because in its growth phase, the church has come to a point of consolidation that combines grounding members in sound teaching while expressing the espoused biblical ideals in responsible membership that is marked by involvement in service. Therefore, there was quite a lot to share and think through structurally and organically on how the church would sustain its growth pace and strengthening members through pastoral nurture. Gladly, one of the elders, Peter Muriuki became available to take up this ministry on a full time basis, and this resolved what seemed to be a dilemma. He is assisted by another elder, Thomas Obunde, along other gifted men and women that God has blessed Berea with.

We remain in touch with Peter and several church members, and Berea is doing well under his leadership.

PT Center Building Progress

Even as I prepared to leave Uganda for USA, work on erecting classroom walls was going on at the PT Center, and the building continued for five days after my departure. This project arrests our hearts during this time because of its significance in PT's phase of training church leaders. We have been supplementing strategies of training with a move from depending solely on training events (seminars and conferences) to a cohesive training program. This has been in our 20-year strategic plan (2000-2020) which envisaged that by 2008, we should be asking questions and finding solutions to qualify and standardize instructors of PT's Regional Bible Schools.

Sporadic training events will stay because they serve a unique purpose in introducing PT where it has not been operational. But as PT work takes root in a particular region, there is need to ask what change we ought to see in a life and ministry of a pastor who sticks with us for three years or five years. This leads to a buildup of a program and eventually to a permanent training agenda in the region. For now, this permanency is seen in established Bible Schools that train beyond the limitations of visiting instructors and contextual issues.

For the reason of multiplying able instructors for all regions, the PT Center is an urgent need and a significant step. We are making all attempts to have the first classroom block at the PT Center's 10 acres property. If we get a roof on the now raised walls, and if windows and doors become available, this single building can meet the current PT need. The roof and shutters may require \$29,000. And may our God continue his provisions to sustain the work.

Strategic Reflection

In 2014, we hope to cross borders, launching out to train very needy church leaders beginning in Southern Sudan, then D R Congo and Rwanda. This will require more resources but it is a worthwhile response in light of the relentless invitations for PT to help out in these needy areas.

Julius in USA

It is now one month since I came, and for the last three weeks I have been studying. Doctoral studies are quite different from what I have known as education, in that those who guide you, do so as whistle-blowers. Apart from this, the study cause belongs to the student, so is the topic, so is the passion and so is the gain. Even the completion plan is his. Thus it calls for great discipline on my

part. I have completed two class-sessions of “gateway courses” and I am currently doing post class assignments which I should complete by end of October. I will begin two more classes in November and complete the assignments by end of that month.

My topic is: “A Quest to Match Uganda’s Growing Christian Presence with an Appropriate Christian Efficacy: Toward a Transformative Spirituality”.

Under this topic I will be recognizing that while we may not expect perfection in matching the Christian claim with Christian practice, the chasm between the acclaimed orthodoxy and the prevailing orthopraxy in Uganda is noteworthy and of great concern. You may recall that Christian workers have even echoed this circumstance in the expression that “Christianity in Africa is one mile long and only an inch deep”.

Thus, there is need to explore whether the unhealthy chasm between Christian presence and Christian impact is a result of “pastoral blind spots” among the shepherds of Africa’s church, and account for the framework of Gospel operation in regard to the African thought-pattern, idioms and learning styles – aspects that lay a basis for transformative spirituality.

Twongyeirwe Family

I have remained in touch with Grace and children; and gladly, they are doing fine, though we miss each other. The children are all in school and grace is back to teaching the Bible among women as well as helping with the Ladies Ministry at Berea. She desires to bring in another batch of birds (for her chicken farm), having suspended the project for the last eight months due to a bad and unpredictable economy in Uganda. She also desires to diversify into mushroom farming, utilizing one or two of the rooms available. But her returns went into helping us to make the PT Office habitable at that point of that urgent need along other needs at home. So, as she desires and hopes to begin again, keep her in prayer that she may gather enough resources to get her started again.

Grace’s mother is back in hospital, and has been there for several days now. A blood transfusion was carried out and she has started another cycle of chemotherapy. She is weaker with a swollen abdomen that brings much discomfort to her, breathing difficulty and feeding problems. I was able to speak to her a few days ago, and we are still encouraged by her faith and hope in Christ. Please keep her and us as a family in prayer on this matter.

Current Prayer Requests (Personal & ministry related)

As a point person, while Julius is receiving further education at Western Seminary here in Portland, praise the Lord that the work goes on. Please pray for Peter Muriuki, for Grace Noowe and the PT Regional Coordinators as they make every effort to sustain the ministry impetus in all aspects of this work.

Please pray for a broader base for partnership, so that this vital work may be shared with many, making the burden less for the few, and bringing great joy to more others.

Please pray for Julius and his family who have to live apart while he receives education here. The family released Julius gladly for this venture along his call, but it remains a felt sacrifice for them. Pray for God’s grace in this. And pray for family provision, while thanking God for the concern shown by friends here.

Thank you for sustaining your partnership with us in this work, for greater and greater eternal benefits. *Report by Julius Two*

"Bringing biblical solutions to the church's missional challenges"