

## June-August 2014 PT Ministry Update

Here is a preview of how Jesus Christ's Kingdom influence is bringing hope to those he has assigned to us for ministry, and how he is teaching and changing us in turn. We share this with great joy and call you to join in giving thanks to God especially as you get to grasp what your contribution means for this work. Thank you for sharing proprietorship in these earthly and vital labors as Christ's privileged 'Bride' in this East African region gets to image her blessed Groom more and better.

As the Twongyeirwe family, God has sustained us in his work and kept us abreast in Kingdom endeavors. Grace has been on holiday from BSF, giving more time for home, children, church and chicken. She is now back among women in BSF, teaching the Bible. All the children are back in school now, Isaiah and Abigail having resumed today (Mon Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>). Isaiah just turned 16 yesterday. Isabel has been involved in a heavy preparation to represent her university at the Africa Continent Moot for Law students in Nairobi since May. She just returned from Kenya on Saturday night and she is back to school for the semester. She was the youngest and the only one who has ever been selected for this during their first year at Law School. She and the 4<sup>th</sup> year student who went, performed fourth best out of 42 universities that gathered in the Kenyan capital from all over Africa. We are glad for that God-granted opportunity for her.

As May was coming to its end, we held the missionary-training (Kairos) course and we were also glad to receive and fellowship with the Gerry and Sherry Breshears who were visiting Uganda during that time. Although we began June with an eager anticipation to make some trips up country for pastoral training, our hearts remained affixed unto the prospects of continued construction of the PT Center facility, with eagerness to see it functional. With some funds that had become available, we put off travels to concentrate on the building.



Local ministry at Berea Church along speaking engagements and Board meetings of the organizations where we make input as members became the main activities for June.

With a deliberate stance to teach God's Word at every opportunity, Berea Church has become the best setting for us who serve. We are especially working with younger people who are fresh from university and new in their jobs, or still in college. God has availed these dear ones for grooming into mature Christians whether in full time Christian work or in the market place where they are to shine the light of Christ in this generation.

*Men study the Bible at Berea before worship service*

From the pulpit through Bible Study groups, people groups (such as Youth, Ladies, Men, Children, Couples) to prayer meetings, the teaching of God's word continues to ground Bereans in the truth, and it shows in their life style. We thank God for that.



*Youth prepare for their day out*



*The Iron-Men's Apprenticeship Meeting*



My involvement in the Uganda Jubilee Network (UJN) was a fresh engagement where we have joined other church leaders (or spiritual fathers as we refer to ourselves) in a church-led vision for national transformation code-named Vision 2062. Having gained its independence from the British in 1962, the vision is to make a portrait of a Gospel-saturated, God-honoring Uganda in 100 years at that time.

*One of the UJN Prayer Rally to dedicate Uganda to God*

For July, we hosted two major events – members of the Africa Missions Association (AfMA) from various African countries (Ghana, Nigeria, Burundi and Uganda) and a Biblical Preachers' Conference 2014. Both events went well as assessed along good planning and forecast for AfMA and great learning during the conference.



*Some members of AfMA at the PT Center*

As July was coming to an end, I lost two close relatives around the same time, and this became a difficult time for us as family, calling for serious adjustment in my role. God was so gracious and he took us through it albeit in deep pain.



August began with the wonderful visit of our Worldview partners who joined us for ministry among pastors. Dr. Mark Hedinger and Rev. Fred Lewis arrived in Uganda and made a five-day trip to Kisoro and Kasese where they interacted with church leaders in order to better comprehend their role in serving among us.

They spent their remaining days training pastors for cross-cultural work. The participating church leaders represented 75% of Uganda.

*Mark and Fred interact with pastors in Kisoro*

Even though Fred had served in Uganda since the mid 80's until the early 90's, this visit was a unique one. As our partners, they needed to assess the challenges in implementing ministry among our tribes, so that adjusted efforts can meet contextual needs for the church and her leaders in this region.



*Mark, during one of the training sessions*



*The sitting arrangement for our training sessions*

Within Africa's typical fragments of tribes and ethnic settings where the church looks like the tribe, there is now a felt challenge and readiness for the church at least in Uganda, to break ground in crossing cultures for Gospel work.



*And as good missionaries, they also adjusted well to the African dance rhythm with real strokes!!*



*Above: Julius emphasizes a point in rallying church leaders to the urgency of cross-cultural mission*



*Left: Dr. Hedinger shares a meal with the Twongyeirwe family at their home*

*Below: A group picture of some of the pastors who participated*

As August was coming to an end, we were ready for the second Kairos training for prospective missionaries. This event that took place at the Uganda Christian University in Mukono, just 23 kilometers east of Kampala. There is a wonderful Christian history to this location, we have a strong feeling that in our generation, a new reformation characterized by a strong sense of outreach may originate here.



*Left: Participants of the Kairos Course display their certificates upon completion of the course on Friday August 29<sup>th</sup>*

Many engagements to teach, to counsel, to preach come our way and we rejoice in such God-given opportunities where we bring God's mind to bear on his people and their situations for a redemptive purpose in Christ.



*Julius preaches during one of the prayer breakfast meetings at Trinity School*

Berea Church has had frequent opportunities to conduct Youth Gospel Rallies and Prayer Breakfast at Trinity Schools – Kindergarten, Primary and Secondary School where the church is hosted. During these sessions, we find the greatest opportunity to share the Gospel with people from all walks of life including teachers, students, staff workers and sometimes parents.

All ministry planning and much of the implementation still take place at the PT Office right on our home premises. On Monday there are counseling sessions; on Tuesday evening there is a prayer meeting; On Wednesday there is an apprenticeship meeting for Berea men - to develop preachers and leaders; on some Fridays there is Berea ministry planning meetings; on Saturday there is choir practice, men's monthly meetings, youth activities that take advantage of large compound and overnight prayer meetings.



*The PT Office*

All the time at the office, there is PT ministry work by staff, and periodical PT Board and other meetings. Evangelistic outreaches for members of our community take place here around November and December. It is a busy place and we thank God for the premises he graciously gave to us, now serving his purposes. We were greatly helped to put up this structure by Intown Presbyterian church in Portland, when they sent Josh to help with construction at our home. We praise God for people's generosity through which God continues to accomplish much for his people here.

### **PT Center**

All through since June, we have combined whatever else in our ministry with construction at the PT Center. During this time all plastering of the two structures (main classroom block and toilet / bathrooms) was completed.



It was our goal to make sure all shutter fixtures were in place. While windows and portions of some doors are still without glasses, the frames are in place and we are glad about that.



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A view from below the hill reveals that what remains on site within the proximity of the structures to make them more usable with greater comfort is landscaping. For this, we embarked on a retainer wall in preparation for good grounds and stairs between the main structure and the bathrooms below.

All major work on plumbing has been done including laying of main pipes for septic tank, soak pit and building of 21 man-holes along the way down. What remains are inside fixtures that will make the toilet and bathroom fully functional.



*A Retainer Wall, A man-hole and the septic tank* (still under construction)

Once the PT Center facility becomes functional, then the PT Institute will also be operational. We are praying to God that resources may be available to make final touches which will allow the facility to hold trainees on site.

Our initial trainees are already listed. They are pioneers of Bible Schools and similar training centers in Uganda's regions. Our engagement with these will be to qualify them as trainers within the PT framework of education philosophy, contextual for African pastors and Gospel missionaries. The facility will be used with a conviction that the Gospel battle cry is an educational undertaking in contemporary Africa where Gospel workers are the least knowledgeable and minimally skilled yet the most needed work force who will determine Africa's transformation.



In our vision of a church with biblical solutions for the critical challenges which are faced in fulfilling her mandate in the world, our mission remains to help the local church establish biblical priorities in the message and methods for the Christian mission, centered on the prominence of diligent study, effective preaching and faithful application of God's Word in all life and service.

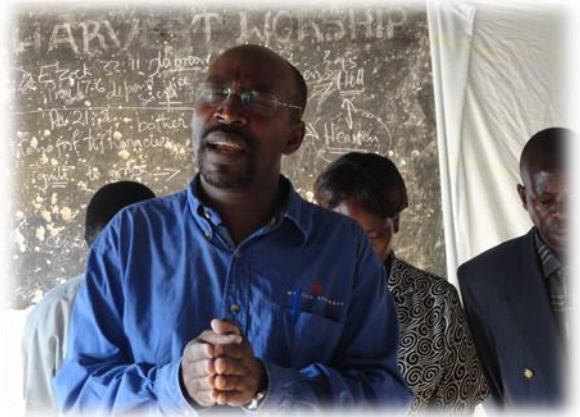
Practically we will continue to facilitate strategic Christian mission initiatives, biblically harmonized to transform Africa and the world through:

1. training local church leaders and church planting missionaries, (educational effort for the individual)
2. incisive research, as basic in bridging the Word to the world, (grasping the context) and
3. coordinating the church's missional aspects in engaging society with the Gospel of Jesus Christ (deploying skilled laborers)

As we continue to lay down strategic priority areas we also appreciate the challenge, in order to progressively formulate the needed response in our generation. In embracing the task we are

- Polishing the structure for our core curriculum,
- Developing a business plan for the PT Institute framework and its local base
- Developing a Library Resource Plan (we are glad about the pending shipment of books)
- Developing a network plan to include a web page – God willing
- Developing structures for a comprehensive academic record system for The PT Institute,
- Creating a plan for PT-I public relations and advancement (development) with particular attention to foundation, funding, and
- Formation of a Training-Of-Trainers Network

As we keep our minds on the PT Institute, our prayer and guiding inquiry remains: "What refines pastor-training in Uganda and Africa?" With this before us, we are setting program values and standards for the PT-I, and drawing portraits of instructors and training facilitators – teachers and mentors who will model biblical spiritual leadership.



Cautious of the common academic programs that fill the head without changing the hearts or skilling Gospel practitioners, we strongly desire to equip an integrated person for ministry, through an integrated curriculum, using inductive and deductive methods to heighten structural and systemic thinking, while encouraging self-directed and experiential learning so that trainees may indeed 'learn to learn' through life.

We hope to keep a balanced combination of pastor-training with regional vision-casting expressed through church-based training so that ideally, the pastor or missionary realizes his 'living theology' in a real context of people and their situations in regard to God's salvation through Christ.

As the PT-Institute nears launching, we are also reviewing the PT Organizational Structure - the Board, the staff, their roles and expected input as well as output, with a constant reflection, review and repositioning around the fundamentals by which PT has accomplished work so far, and by the ideals that have come to identify this entity in its journey to indigenize ministry. We are focusing on appropriate inclusion and involvement of partners along this thinking. We are glad to see that some of the established training centers in Uganda, are already engaged in preparing of pastor-teachers.



### **The Shalom Effort**

The Shalom Effort continues to be a wonderful platform to encourage women. Grace just returned from Namayingo area where she was able to assess needs and now planning how best to support some families by getting them started. The Shalom Effort is not a sudden relief such as Red Cross or Oxfam would handle it; it is grounded in relationships whose goal is biblical discipleship and whose practical hands-on-life comes through supported hard work, encouraged innovation and learning to share resources along the biblical teaching.

Those who were first helped to begin projects now confess that they have experienced God's favor through the generosity extended to them and now required of them. God has employed the setting of Shalom for more than "poverty eradication" or "material prosperity". We are glad to see that God is using felt needs among women and their families to point them to real spiritual needs so that they are truly disciplined in receiving and sharing life's necessities.



Grace just brought in a new batch of chickens, 250 in all. They were one-day old when they arrived four days ago. Through her generated profits, she will support more women on her waiting list to start domestic income-generating endeavors to feed their families and improve welfare. Grace has mainly been supported to handle this work by our close friends in Portland - whose exceeding generosity is now bearing fruit in rural areas of Uganda under home-based initiatives. We are thankful to God for you all and for upholding such partnerships.

**"Coming together in Christ is only a beginning;  
Staying together in Christ's service is actual progress;  
Thinking together according to Christ's mind is real unity; and  
Working together along Christ's measure is tangible success."**

Ministry report prepared by Julius Twongyeirwe,  
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