

PT News Update – July '06

Dear PT ministry partners,

Grace and I are back in Uganda to continue the ministry among pastors and their wives through the Proclamation Task. My time and effort in USA for the last two years was well invested and now so beneficial in the work that God impressed on our hearts eight years ago. I feel better prepared after the training I received at Western Seminary in Portland, Oregon, and look forward with a passionate enthusiasm to set out and continue the ministry of equipping shepherds of Christ's church in Uganda. I am already in a full-fledged involvement and ministry activity, having resumed on July 3rd 2006. I made a return trip of 1130 kilometres at the beginning of this week, to regain touch with pastors and seek legal endorsement from two districts in western Uganda in preparation to renew PT's NGO Certificate as required by the government.

Office Space & Home Group

We are currently setting up the PT Office in our house, moving it from one of the bed rooms where it has been hosted since December 2003. The new space will be used as offices and meeting venue for our home group fellowship and training for the future leaders of the local ministry - "the Berean Church" (Acts 17:11) – which will model the ministry philosophy of PT and demonstrate the practice. There is still work to be done on this part in order to ensure that our computers and ministry property is safe (locks, some doors, painting etc). We thank God that we have a place that can now serve as a launching pad for PT ministry during the time we have no resources to rent office space elsewhere. The home group meetings began on Friday July 7th marking a grand movement. We will be inviting more people to study the Word and fellowship at our home as weeks go by. God willing, this agenda will result in local church plant in the east part of Kampala where we desire to reach the unchurched middle class young families. We aim that the church serves as a model for expository preaching and servant leadership to authenticate the PT philosophy and training in the region.

Electric Power Crisis

We have a severe shortage of electric power in the whole country. The three-year drought in this region since 2003 lowered the water level of Lake Victoria by end of last year, greatly affecting hydro-electric power supply in Uganda. Power is now rationed for load-shedding. We have power at home for about 40% of the time except for hospitals, important installations and police stations. The government anticipates the power shortage will go on for the next 44 months during which two more dams may be built on the Nile River. The current solution for many is to acquire a portable power generator for those who can afford. Pray for us that we may acquire one, in order to run the ministry with minimum interruption.

PT-IICC Partnership

For the last 10 months we in PT have been exploring ways through which an effective ministry partnership with the International Institute for Christian Communication (IICC) can flourish and enhance the work of training pastors in Africa, beginning in Uganda. Founded in 1964, the IICC is a trusted and credible organization, and will hopefully bring ministry stability and growth to PT's work in Uganda. A partnership proposal was presented to the IICC Board and we are moving forward into a formalized Memorandum of Understanding which will define and affirm areas of mutual and individual responsibilities. This partnership in the offing is very advantageous for several reasons, among which there is a rich experience of IICC's ministry in the African church under the pioneer work of Dr. **Donald** and Mrs. **Faye Smith**. Through their missionary work in Africa of about 50 years, they were able to understand and apply the most appropriate ministry strategies in the African context. Under their vision and hard work, Daystar University (of which I am a graduate, 1990-94) was set up in Kenya, and now continues to serve its purpose of training Christian leaders on the African continent, now run entirely by Africans. In seeking to tap from such a rich experience and

knowledge, this partnership will carry forward the godly legacy to multiply the impact of such faithful service. Besides Daystar, ICC also founded the World View Center, the World View Institute and has formed the World Link Graduate Center among other efforts, all geared to Christian mission work world wide.

As a member of the Evangelical Council of Financial Accountability (ECFA), ICC will also receive and handle PT's financial support raised in USA and greatly help PT-Uganda in responsibly expending these resources for maximum utility and accountability. In USA, a counterpart PT Board has evolved from the PT prayer support team who developed a keen interest in the work, and now represent this work of training pastors in Africa. This PT-USA Board will now support PT-Uganda through mobilizing more people for prayer and material input into this work. The Board is currently preparing to work within the ICC set-up to ensure that we in Uganda can handle the ministry of our call with maximum output. This team is already a source of great encouragement to us in Uganda and has worked tirelessly with ICC to realize a constructive partnership. All support and involvement with our dear partners in USA shall be handled by this team in the interest of effective and smooth ministry on the ground here in Uganda. The PT-USA Board is chaired by //////.

USA Visitors in August

We are preparing to receive a visiting team of two men from USA. **Francisco Gutierrez** and **David Prindle**, both from MFB Church in Portland will be coming to Uganda next month, to explore the realities of our ministry especially at regional level. We hope to travel to the far south-west and far-eastern part of Uganda and involve these missionaries in the ongoing work. We look forward to the reunion with these men, having known them and shared our lives with them during my time in USA. We will greatly be encouraged by there visit.

SIM October Pastors' Conference

In a new development, Serving In Mission (former Sudan Interior Mission established 1893) is organizing a Pastors Book-Set Conference and have asked me to help coordinate this event. It will be a great event where Ugandan pastors will receive the first African Bible Commentary (ABC), put together by over 70 African theologians from 25 countries and 10 evangelical denominations during the last five years at a cost of over one million dollars. This first ABC aims to explain the Bible from an African perspective. It has already been launched in Kenya and Ugandans will have the same opportunity in October. Published by Zondervan, it is a weaving of word of the Bible and the word of Africa. The commenters used a lot of African proverbs, folk lore, illustrations and songs. The commentary draws examples from some 250 different cultural groups. The Book-Set pastors conference will be held twice in two weeks, with about 750 pastors in attendance for each, and distribute 1500 Pastors' Book-Sets that include the ABC. PT will serve as the ground host, jointly pulling together Uganda's evangelical leaders to host and coordinate this event.

At Home

We continue to enjoy the reunion after close to two years of anguish in living apart. The children are in school and that keeps them very busy in class and often home. They have been unhealthy with coughing and malaria attacks but now generally improved and are getting better. Grace is doing well in taking care of us at home. She is on holiday from her busy Bible teaching ministry in BSF. We spend more time together now than before, especially in prayer and family devotions, greatly enhancing our enjoyment of one another as a complete family once again. We deeply appreciate your support.

In Christ,
Julius Twongyeirwe, *PT Uganda*