

PT Ministry Report Third Quarter (July-Sept) 2009

This ministry report covers the recent quarter as well as much of October, the in which it has been prepared.

SW Regional Leaders' Consultation Meeting

A consultation meeting for South Western Regional leaders took place from July 31st to August 1st. The discussion was mainly centered on the ministry context for that region and the pastoral challenges faced. We analyzed the trend of church growth and evangelistic efforts, and the leadership and coordination structure to step up the work and setting goals for the next three years. We acknowledged that while we must keep a keen ear to God's Word in order to preach it faithfully, we need another ear in the world in order to know what we preach against or preach for. We outlined several "isms" that require attention in our preaching agenda, that include traditionalism, liberalism, materialism, syncretism among others. Leaders were uplifted during the meeting and were challenged to think deeply about the preaching context.

The Uganda Pastors' Conferences

In a joint effort with Bethel Seminary San Diego (BSSD), PT organized two pastor-training events in which 550 church leaders received training and a Book Set. Each of the training events went from a Tuesday to a Friday. 2500 books were distributed to 500 of the participating church leaders, including 500 copies of the African Bible Commentary. The conferences were mainly handled outside the PT budget, sponsored by Bethel Seminary. Initial preparations undertaken before mid-August were handled within the PT financial system – collecting conference fees and expenditures on administration. Once Wilf and Jean Rose (BSSD Administrators) joined us, the remaining portion of financial administration was handled separate from PT.

Gulu Pastors' Conference (24th – 27th Aug)

Church leaders who participated in this conference came from a radius of 150 kilometers in Northern Uganda. They contributed \$15 each as registration fee. They paid their way and took care of their own accommodation, but break tea, lunch and an evening snack were arranged within the conference framework. From the evaluation testimonies shared, participants were enriched and challenged to handle "word ministry" with the diligence it requires. One pastor, Elson Okot sent me an email to express gratitude and intention to keep in this training loop saying,

"I would like to express my sincere appreciation to your team for their commitment and work during pastor conference in Gulu. We would like you to continue with such a program for local churches leaders. I will be in contact with your office so that I have more opportunities to learn more. I am still at Uganda Christian University – Mukono, doing a Bachelor of Divinity. I will complete this program in April 2011. I look forward to benefiting more from your training. May God bless you.

Rev. ELSON E. OKOT."

We have received a couple of similar correspondence, mainly to appreciate and express interest for continuing education.

Kampala Pastors' Conference (1st – 4th Sept)

Church leaders who participated in the Kampala Conference were drawn mainly from the Central region of Uganda, but more than 120 came in from all over Uganda. A similar training program as that of Gulu was handled among these more urban leaders, at an adjusted level of interaction. These participants contributed \$25 each as registration fee. They appreciated the teaching sessions, group work, question and answer time and fellowship as they got to know each other in the light of their

various callings. Again, many from this conference have expressed a desire to continue with the program, if only we can sustain it. Albert Mangeni is a pastor within Kampala. I do not recall his face, but we are in touch and this is one of his letters soon after the conference:

Dear co-laborers in Christ,

Greetings. I attended the just concluded Pastors Book Set conference at St. Andrew's Church-Bukoto and I am much interested in the continuing education. I hold a Bachelors degree in Theology, Diploma in Journalism and mass communication and would like to know more about your programs so that I continue if there be a possibility. I will be glad to hear from you. God bless you

Pastor Mangeni Albert

All Nations Discipleship Church

Ntinda-Kampala

Such pastors are keen to learn and develop their ministry potential. We shall be looking at the logistics and requirements for continuing education, especially in standardizing church leaders whose initial qualifications are not directly related to Christian ministry.

Julius' Trip to UK and USA

I set out for USA on the invitation of IICC to participate in a Curriculum Development Workshop for the World link Graduate Center (WLGC) that took place from the 6th to 13th of October. The WLGC was initiated by Third World Mission Association (TWMA) in 1990 to develop a corps of master teachers for TWMA-affiliated missionary training centers and to develop a common core curriculum that is relevant for Africa, Asia and Latin America from whom the greatest number of missionaries is coming today. WLGC was launched to reach this and other related goals.

The curriculum-writing exercise was intense and quite involving. It was also enriching to work with people from various regions towards a common goal. The work only began, and now goes on among us through a constant link in which we are seeking to harmonize our input.

I was able to stop over in UK for two weeks and to reconnect with friends there. Among those I met, there was a renewed commitment to supporting the effort of PT, especially in establishing the needed infrastructure for the PT Center on our ten-acre land just outside Kampala. PT partners from South Sheffield Evangelical Church who have stood with us in PT efforts since inception, replenished their resolve to see that we begin putting up the class room structure for the training center. Friends at the Oakes Holiday Center are also considering a firmer and consistent stand in the effort of PT to bring change among churches and their leaders.

I was also able to visit Koinonia Independent Evangelical Church, a congregation with which we have 10-year friendship and partnership. Roddy and Evelien Urquhart who serve as our PT Contact people in UK are members of this church in Andover."

While in USA, and once the workshop was over, I took some time to renew fellowship with the PT-USA Board members at family level. I drew great encouragement and the necessary bonding from these interactions. I was also able to meet several other friends and I made more. I visited one of our supporting churches (Antioch Christian Fellowship), and met some members from another partnering congregation (Gracepointe). I also visited Western Seminary where I had spent two years (2004-2006) of training and had a wonderful fellowship with some of my professors.

The climax of all get-togethers came in the PT Reception on 18th October at the Worldview Center. This was arranged by PT-USA Board Members and hosted by our ministry partners at the WVC. It

was an opportunity for us in PT to share the joys, the benefits, the challenges and forecasts of PT ministry. The reception went very well and more people were better informed on what we are doing, with a view to locate their special roles in this effort. We are grateful to all who turned up for this event.

On the Horizon

With a heightened need to launch the school program, PT is entering a different phase of focus in training and we shall be discussing implications and strategies for the best outcome. The desire as it stands today is to enroll some of the pastors that have received training over the nine years of ministry operation so far. All going well, we would make this in-take at the beginning of 2011. We will do this in order to standardize their training and hopefully qualify them as trainers of other pastors. These men will pioneer local Bible School projects in their regions, grass root training and a localized resource center for Christian workers in specific regions. Some are already active in training church leaders in their community, and a slightly formal program that is examinable would put them on a much better front to follow through with the 2 Tim 2:2 vision.

In order to enroll, we will need to build a preliminary structure to house the training program at the PT Center site. To this end, we hope to use 2010 in giving attention to building if the funds to get us started become available. On-going discussions will have to do with the best fitting curriculum for qualifying training-of-trainers, the suitable instructors, the timing of classes and sessions that satisfy training engagement without uprooting these ministering men from their pastoral duty stations, and other issues. Plans will be reviewed along such conditions.

End-Of-Year Ministry Evaluation and Planning

The year is coming to a close, and it is time to look back in order to plan ahead. Over a period of two days, a PT regional Coordinators' Consultation meeting will take place, followed by the PT Board meeting, and then PT Annual General Meeting. Dates for these events are 11th – 12th December.

On another, but related front, we will be going through a line-up of “evangelism and discipleship” events at Berea (PT's Model Church) during the month of November. Berea will be celebrating her second anniversary during the week of 9th to 15th, and the church has purposed to focus on outreach and missions during the whole month. We feel this would be the best way to celebrate “church” in terms of her existence and mission in the world.

Prayer and Praise:

- Give thanks to God with us; we secured office space for PT and Berea
- Give thanks to God with us; the curriculum-writing team at IICC went on well and in a manner that benefits the curriculum developers, as well as future implementers of this labor.
- Give thanks to God; I traveled safely to UK and USA, even against the odds of a Canadian transit visa and some missed flights on my journey back.
- Give thanks to God for all our partners and friends who keep abreast with us in this work through financial, prayer and other support.

- Pray for us that we can put up the first building for PT school program by 2011
- Pray for Berea as we make attempts to present the Gospel in the community with a heightened vigilance and give attention to spiritual formation among new converts during the month of November.
- And please, let us know how we can also pray for /with you in turn.

Report by Julius Twongyeirwe
National Director, Proclamation Task - Uganda
October 28, 2009