

PT Ministry Report
First Quarter (Jan-March) 2009

This ministry report covers three months that form the first quarter of 2009 - January, February and March. During this period we were involved in four main training events, one of them at international level.

Buvuma: Jan 12-17 & March 15-20

We were in the islands of Lake Victoria twice, helping pastors of the newly planted churches through a Bible School that will offer them certificate at the end of their courses. We taught a class of 18 pastors from the 12th to the 17th of January. During this training I traveled with our program coordinator (Robert Atwongyeire) to acquaint him with the work that faces us in the islands. Following this trip, Robert was able to arrange and return by himself to Buvuma from 15th to 20th March to teach a course. In this location, we serve on the foundation that has been laid by a hardworking missionary couple (George & Geraldine Smith), who have incorporated us to make an impact there. I also serve as a Board member for the Islands Bible School where we meet and train church leaders.

Mbarara: Jan 23-26

This was the first South Western Regional Bible Exposition Conference. We held it at Canaan Hotel, in Mbarara town. All together, we were 18 participants. Besides fitting well within the budget, this was a sufficient working number for planning and setting up the SW Coordination Team.

Regional Representation

The participants who turned up for this training event gave us a good ground for reaching the whole region, swiftly in establishing preaching clubs through our initial model exposition seminars. The caliber of the church leaders and professionals in attendance serve as a very good link to many in church and the market place.

Local Fund Contribution

Every participant was requested to contribute \$15 and they gladly made the contribution. A total of \$165 was contributed by the members towards the conference. In sharing the vision, we indicated that the preaching movement must grow wide and deep, to bear fruit enough for indigenous support.

Facilitators & Way forward for SW Uganda

The four facilitators were Julius Twongyeirwe (National Director), Barbara Tumwine (SW Regional Coordinator), Robert Atwongyeire (PT/Langham Program Coordinator) and Rev. Amos Magezi (Principal, Uganda Bible Institute). As an initial attempt to breaking new grounds in fresh ways, the general response among participants was positive and they were motivated and committed to take up the responsibility to take further the work of the preaching movement in the Southwest Region. A regional team of seven members was selected and a meeting planned for 6th March in which the team would plan for the Level 1 training seminar. The region was divided into seven urban regional centers and each urban center given a coordinator for easy regional coordination.

Tanzania (16 – 21 Feb)

In going beyond our common training frontiers, I (Julius) had an opportunity around mid-Feb to participate in a pastor-training event in Mwanza, Tanzania. Sponsored by Langham Preaching (UK), the training for preachers has a single focus on developing handlers for God's Word in various settings. It was a wonderful cross-cultural experience for me and a fertile ground to take

further the training philosophy and practice of PT through partnerships with like-minded workers such as Langham preaching. We hope to return to Tanzania for similar work and exploration of levels for co-workmanship before end of the year 2009.

Julius' Trip to USA (Feb 26 -Mar 24)

It was a time of reunion with friends, tied to ministry partnership establishment meetings. Discussions were held to explore ways through which we can jointly make Kingdom impact. We reaffirmed partnership with IICC, planned initial ministry with Bethel Seminary in San Diego CA, sought contact points with ACTION International in Seattle WA, and reconstituted the PT Board in Portland OR. It was encouraging to reconnect with Western Seminary, where I spent two years of study, ending three years ago. We had a wonderful time to reflect on ministry in Uganda through many interactions with a thrilling climax during the PT Reception for partners on 21st March at the World View Center. Meetings with individuals and families as well as pulpit ministry among three congregations of the churches I visited, all went well. Visiting and spending time in homes with families and small fellowships became for me energizing moments, heightening my passion to serve Christ at the encouragement of the brethren. I am grateful to all my hosts and many who thought and acted with such love for us, and a deep appreciation of our ministry involvement.

Julius' Trip to Nairobi, Kenya (Mar 27-29)

Within hours upon my return from USA, I was on a plane to Nairobi for the Langham Partnership Regional Council (LPRC) – Eastern Africa. The meeting was held at the Nairobi Evangelical Graduate School of Theology (NEGST), by kind permission of its President, Douglas Carew, who is also the Chair of the LPRC for Eastern Africa. There were about 12 key leaders from different parts of the EA region, who are familiar with the needs and opportunities for the church, and particularly in theological education, literature and biblical preaching. The main countries represented were Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Sudan. Senior Langham programme directors were present as well as Mark Hunt, International Operations Director for LPI. The Regional Councils are set up in countries or regions to help in assessing church needs and shaping the way Langham ministers deploy their God-entrusted resources with greater strategic effectiveness.

Julius: Attempts to settle down again

Returning to Uganda on Sunday 29th March, I have not been allowed rest yet. We lost a child (Jordan Kisakye) who had been raised and nurtured under our guardianship. He was knocked by cyclist on Monday 30th and died minutes later. We are slowly recovering from this shock and still appreciate prayer. We are grateful to God for the encouraging and comforting messages we have received from the many friends we informed. Still trying to recompose ourselves, we lost another close friend and fellow worker in gospel ministry, Peter Bahizi. Upon experiencing a stroke, Peter had been air-lifted from Kisoro a few weeks ago while I was in USA. His wife Joan got in touch with me through my wife (Grace) to let me know that my friend and co-worker was in bad shape. I did not have a chance to get to see him soon upon my arrival, giving attention another loss. But I called Joan on Monday and pledged to join her the next day (Tuesday) at Kampala International Hospital where Peter was admitted. Peter died yesterday morning, and indeed I joined Joan yesterday afternoon, but in a uniquely painful situation. Peter was a very faithful man, a humble servant of Christ, a diligent worker and a man of great counsel. It is 3:30 pm and we just returned from the funeral service at All Saints Church where we celebrated a life well-lived – Peter has left a legacy for us in ministry and we will always seek to emulate him in our endeavor to serve.

Julius: Another Trip

I will be traveling again, this time to Maui, Hawaii for the Haggai Leadership Training. I have served with graduates of Haggai Institute in Uganda for many years, and I receive this as an opportunity to come through yet another experience that will enhance my work and partnerships as a Gospel minister in Uganda. I set out on April 24th and return to Uganda on May 26th.

Prayer Points

Ten days after my return, please pray for me that I may “find my way back home” or rather “find myself back and be peacefully at home” to the thinking and practice that mark my ministry. Pray that I may find the wisdom to direct attention to the things that compete for my time and energy in a way that honors God. Pray that Grace and I may respond with good assessment and utter sensitivity to the urgent, important and needful agendas, as our time seems to be “stolen” in what surrounds us at the moment. Pray for Grace, that she may be strengthened in her wonderful ministry “of allowing me to leave her” for the sake of Kingdom work, that God may always make visible his favor toward her. Give thanks to God with us for our children. We got to see Isabel and she is well; we will see Isaac on Friday. Isaiah and Abigail are also fine.

We have friends (the Urquharts) who are also long-time ministry partners visiting us from UK; Roddy is with his wife Evelien and son Niels. Pray that we may host them and minister with them in a way that befits their time and sacrifice. Pray that I may be able to handle important follow-up errands from my recent trip in USA and Nairobi. They include joint-ministry events with Bethel Seminary, and assignments from LPRC that I handle on behalf of the Uganda team.

Kindly bear with me on this rather hasty report, and may God bless you abundantly for loving us and stretching your hearts and arms to us in Uganda, enabling us to stand firm in the work we share with you.

Report by Julius Twongyeirwe
April 8, 2009