

## **Ministry Report of PT**

Sep – Nov 2008

*The previous ministry report covered up to August 2008. This will pick ministry activities from September through November and build up towards the annual report.*

The period Sept – Nov was marked by consultations and planning for the first Preacher-Leadership Conference which was held early November. The sustained effort in organizing *Regional Training Teams* (RTT) of *Local Facilitators* (LF) is to be realized through this set up. Besides one regional trip, the rest of our training effort was focused on the KEST assignments where Julius was teaching four courses:- *Dynamics of Christian Formation, Christian Ethics, Social Research Methods* and *Pastoral Theology* with 30 students in all for this Semester.

The one trip was made to Kisoro where a 4-day training (Sept 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>) was successful. A total of 95 church leaders from the Anglican and Baptist church denominations in that region participated in this unique come-together training. This was our second time since 2001, to follow up these church leaders through such a set up. The two denominations have a wonderful cooperation and we rejoice in the fact that the fruit of their joint effort is evident in their grass-root endeavors. Over the four days, several sessions were handled ranging from relationships at home, servant hood, and financial management to Bible study methods and preaching. According to the feedback, the training brought the needed enlightenment for effective ministry in that region. This undertaking was sponsored by African Pastors' Fellowship (APF), our long-time partners in pastor-training work.

Following the Kisoro trip, we gave attention to the preparations of Preacher-Leadership Conference that took place from Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>. The conference scriptural basis was Acts 20:17-34. The "Preacher-Leadership" idiom is a new one in PT, to remind us always that the whole organizing effort in spiritual leadership is biblical preaching, and that any leadership claiming to be spiritual yet without authentic biblical preaching is an attempt to guide without due divine instruction. In this conference we were therefore to affirm that spiritual leadership is "working the Word" – shepherding the flock by the whole counsel (or will) of God (Acts 20:27-28).

There were 34 carefully selected participants, all of whom are key to the regional thrust and ministry continuity. There were a total of 13 facilitators handling 19 sessions. Again, these facilitators were prayerfully considered in order to give this work an indigenous outlook and enthrone a sense of ownership. We were therefore, a fellowship-in-training of 47 individuals, teaching and learning together in a wonderful atmosphere of co-workmanship.

The participants generally appreciated the arrangement of this training program. There was coherency in the expressed desire for the conference to be carried on as an annual event. The idiom 'Preacher-leadership' was indeed new but participants remarked that the vision is much better communicated through it. About 27 participants expressed a need to be deliberately followed up and envisioned to foster continuity at regional level. There were four evangelical denominations represented: Anglican, Pentecostal, Presbyterian and Baptist. In their evaluation, a suggestion was put forward for the forum to balance denominational representation by breaking through with invitations to other church bodies (given that there was a 75% representation of the Baptist church alone).

The Conference was also used to test the far we have come in building local capacity for self-sustenance. 25 participants were able to pay the registration fee of six US Dollars (\$6) while less than 10 were able to meet food and accommodation costs fully, in addition to the registration fee. Others made contributions as they were able. PT provided the supplementary fund for those who could not raise enough, or raise anything at all. Local contributions offset the overall budget by about 20%. Participants were given study books as gifts, from the consignment PT received from Langham Literature in UK.

## **KEST**

My time at Kampala Evangelical School of Theology has sustained my endeavors as a continuing learner, not just a teacher. It is a sphere of involvement that one who trains others should remain linked to, in order to remain in the learning exercise on the one hand, while holding on to the training loop on the other. My teaching at KEST will be scaled back next semester, since I plan to be away for about two months while school is in session. I hope to get back to KEST in fall 2009, but on a much less workload in order to permit a deeper focus on the growth of PT. We also hope that by this time the PT-KEST joint effort will be in place to allow me follow KEST's pastoral training extension programs through PT channels. Currently, KEST is undergoing some resource challenges, prompting a restructuring and brainstorm towards possible breakthrough and self sustenance. This will finally be possible, but the "sweating" is now.

## **Looking Ahead**

The year 2009 looks quite different compared to the past few. As far as the ministry advancement is concerned, there will be less travel to Uganda's regions, leaving January, July, Sept-Nov as the only time available for regional training outreach. Julius is planning trips to UK and USA along related assignments within the East Africa region in Feb (Tanzania) and March (Kenya). Robert Atwongyeire, the PT incoming staff, will keep the training program running while Julius is away. The PT 5-Year Strategic Plan is still under formulation and we hope to nail it down in January 2009 when the PT Board can hopefully be convened to consider and reflect on it. The PT Board has not found it convenient to meet during this time due to the health condition of PT Chairman, Mr. Peter Asiimwe. Peter and his wife Elizabeth are currently in India for Peter's treatment and possible operation on his heart.

## **Berea Church**

The PT model church - Berea Church – celebrated her first anniversary 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> November. The church is growing steadily and we are very pleased with this God-given pace. The church held an evening of evangelism on Friday 14<sup>th</sup>, a morning of community work on Sat 15<sup>th</sup> and a wonderful thanksgiving celebration on Sunday morning with a climax of a barbeque in which about 120 people participated. The church is finalizing its constitution and setting up leadership, now that some godly family men are part of this congregation.

## **The Twongyeirwe Clan**

We look forward to this Christmas holiday. It is a time I (Julius) have kept in mind for some rest and greater attention to my family. We recall that the last time I attempted to have leave from work was some years ago. With KEST out of session, we can also put PT out of session as well, and keep a low profile at Berea. Isaac just finished his Primary Leaving Examination and will most likely continue on to spend more and more less time with us just like Isabel. As parents, we realize that there is no recoil to this "home and away" once it begins, until the children are "finally away". We therefore desire to prepare them as much as God enables us, so that while they are away, they are continuously anchored in Christ by highest priority.

Grace is keeping the home as a hardworking mother and wife. She has set up a chicken project with some help from our friends in UK. There are now 250 birds that will start laying eggs in March. We think this will be a great domestic supplement. Grace hopes to help other ministering women (especially pastors' wives) to initiate such projects using some surplus, once this project stabilizes. She is still active in Bible Study Fellowship but with a slight scale-back since Abigail arrived. But as Abigail grows, Grace will once again be released to the ministry aspects of her interest and gifting, especially teaching the Bible and a comprehensive ministry among women.

## **Prayer Points**

- Pray for Mr. Peter Asiimwe, now in India, that the treatment he receives may be upheld by God to bring healing and full restoration to him. Pray that God may provide all the \$9000 needed for this venture.

- Pray for KEST, that God may uphold us in this training institution as we set out to restructure and mobilize both human and material resource. Pray for Rev. Dr. Solomon Nkesiga as he leads KEST during this time. Pray for wisdom and resilience for his part and great support from the KEST Board with all of us who serve through this niche. Pray that our attempts to the PT-KEST joint work may be clarified and implemented for greater ministry output in future.
- Pray for me (Julius) as I set out for international travels next year: For good preparation, provision, effectiveness (as I play my given role in training local facilitators in Tanzania; my time in reconnecting with friends in UK and USA; as well as being productive during the Langham Partnership Regional Council-East Africa later in March) .

We appreciate you for all you mean to us as friends and all you do for the ministry as partners with us in Kingdom work. May God uphold your effort, until the net is full.

Report by **Julius Twongyeirwe**,  
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