

## Quarterly Ministry Report of PT

July – Sept 2007

### **Julius' UK Trip**

For five weeks I was in UK, primarily to attend the International Summer School (17<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> July) in London. This was a major follow up of former students of the Cornhill Training Course (CTC) who are currently serving in their home countries as trainers of Bible teachers and preachers. I did the CTC in 1998-99. The ISS was a great re-union and fellowship of about 70 participants from over 30 countries world wide, sharing how God is using each one of us to extend and affirm his Kingdom in our various spheres of ministry. It was so beneficial for me to get back for this “training of trainers” event. It triggered my thinking in a fresh way, and set me to re-evaluate my strategies in training pastors. It caused me to reflect on biblical foundations and methods for teaching the Scriptures in our African context. One of the triggers have to do with what I think may be a better method of teaching the Bible in oral cultures without ignoring the needed systemic and structural thought. I am of the view that teaching the Bible only by “story-telling in Africa” has dire limitations, because stories in themselves can hardly teach Christian doctrine. I am still working on this. I traveled to UK ahead of this time and also gained from attending the Evangelical Ministry Assembly (EMA) – an annual gathering for evangelicals to learn, refresh, and network for encouragement in ministry.

While in UK, I was delighted to reconnect with friends and supporters of our ministry - people we have known and loved since we lived there eight years ago. I was in London, Andover, Coventry, Sheffield, Berkhamsted and Ashford, meeting these friends and introducing the PT ministry opportunity. I enjoyed every visit and its refreshing fellowship. I had the opportunity to share about the progress that has been registered in PT's last seven years, as well as its future light of Africa's needs. One of the highlights from such sharing was a recollection of the unwavering commitment of South Sheffield Evangelical Church (SSEC) congregation to the PT Center project. SSEC had earlier contributed to help PT secure the 10 acres of land a few years ago, in addition to supporting the national seminars. Again in a blessed initiation, SSEC broke ground for us to start building with a donation of GBP 2055 (about US\$ 4110), and a pledge to do more as God enables them. We are so touched by this church, that while our building project rightfully scares us as an enormous venture, SSEC has not coiled back from tackling it. Their view to “attempt great things for the Lord” is of great encouragement to all of us.

Other prospects of partnership were strengthened as we met with Cross Connections (a group of partners who have helped us before), regaining contact with friends such as the Harknetts (David and Vickie), the Milsons (Julian and Nicky), the Rays (Roger and Sarah), Ms. Browning, Pastor Stephen Ridgeway and several others. I also established ministry links with some who serve congruently on the African continent (participants from South Africa, Ghana, Nigeria, the Gambia and Sierra Leone). I was hosted by very dear friends at each turn, enjoying the British hospitality which is in many ways as good as African, thus feeling much at home in their homes. I am grateful to them all.

### **PT Organic Ministry**

We are phasing out of the 0-7 years of PT ministry operation which was characterized by building awareness, relationships and establishing ministry links. We are now into the three years (2007-2010) of mobilization in which the ground of operation is to be consolidated. Our sporadic, often unconnected seminars and workshops and other ministry events have been good in their one-time nature because they gave us the ministry ground. But now in this phase we seek to build an on-going training program, in which ministry efforts are connected and build into each other in a progressive manner. This is a growth move from scattered ministry activities to a comprehensive ministry program. The phase has rightfully necessitated that we come up with new training strategies that encompass a regional view, beyond the local church scope. We look at eight regions of matching culture and ethnicity in Uganda.

In each region we shall work among pastors for a corporate vision in pastoral development, that takes the church to the desired heights of evangelism, discipleship, church-planting and evangelical scholarly standards. We have now started meeting with regional leaders and facilitating them towards a single mind in regard to the church mission. Now, beyond helping them to be good enough for their local churches in this generation, we are asking harder questions that must grow and strengthen the wider regional church and across generations in a heritage of

faithfulness (Deut 6:1-4). We have helped some in evaluating their past, understanding their present and resolving predicaments in view of the future. Trigger questions have to do with their desired church transformation, church impact in their socio-cultural set ups in a given period (Acts 6:7; 16:5; 19:20), and what this will require from them as individuals and as spiritual oversight teams (Acts 20:28-31). Such questions have set these leaders thinking together about their working relationships, the direction and pace of church growth and areas that need immediate attention in preparation for speedy progress. We get them in groups to discuss and report back on the following:

- **At individual level:** What kind of pastor will take the church to this desired destiny / end? (We want them to come up with training needs, gifting, abilities, knowledge, skills, character, aptitudes etc)
- **At corporate level:** What kind of church environment will harness the needed capacity and enhance believers to achieve these desired goals? (They are to list the “one another” - bonds of love, fellowship, encouragement, spiritual nurture and care, forgiveness, confession, church discipline etc)
- **At regional level:** What kind of stewardship will take you as a region to this desired end? (Here they come up with plans to generate and use resources to train their leaders, to plant churches and build meeting structures, to establish systems of resource management that ensure accountability and transparency in socio-spiritual action)

At the end of 2 or 3 days of such a discussion with a sound Bible base, we have seen a fresh understanding arousing new desires out of their routine ways of handling work. The regional effort is now directed towards raising instructors among them who remain on ground as point-Bible teachers and leadership developers to keep the work growing. The work of PT is then to train and perfect these regional instructors through “training of trainers” (TOT) seminars, which now replace our national conferences. This implies that only selected instructors-in-the-making will always come centrally together for further stretching and betterment from time to time. We have already held one TOT seminar (October 3<sup>rd</sup>) which proved successful. This was a joint effort between KEST, Langham Preaching and PT.

In the journeys now totaling up to 3100 kilometers since end of August, we have reached and trained a total of 391 church leaders in this quarter, with this activity concentrated in September given that I was away in UK during the whole month of July, returning and settling down much of August.

**PT Ministry Activity:** We have so far handled training and consolidation sessions in two regions:

***Kisoro Region: 29<sup>th</sup> August – 3<sup>rd</sup> September***

A team of three of us spent three days in Kisoro with 102 church leaders from the Kisoro Baptist Association teaching the Bible and enlightening them of the needed strategic thinking and planning for their region. They echoed the fact that if they are to meet the ministry goals as stipulated in their regional vision, biblical training must spearhead everything else. At each level, “teaching the Bible” was acknowledged as the leading edge. To this, a site at Rutare was proposed for their Local Bible School to serve the region. With PT support, a regional library was then established with about 100 Bible-teaching books. (PT received a consignment of these books from the Lanham Literature in UK.) Currently, pastors in this region have to cross to Rwanda for training.

***Mbale Region: 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> September***

A group of 37 church leaders gathered at Munamba in Mbale region for a similar strategic leadership workshop. Again, leaders were aroused to work together in order to attain greater height in the mission of the church. They recognized that without trained pastors, the church remains incapacitated. The character of the man who leads the church, the bonds that hold that church together and the joint effort within the region were the pertinent issues discussed. Again, “teaching the Bible” dominated their suggestions on the way forward.

Other seminars held include:

***Rukungiri 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> September:***

220 Anglican lay preachers gathered at the diocesan headquarters (Kinyasano) for a four day training conference. The resource and facilitation of this event was mainly handled by Ralph & Jane of the African Pastors’ Fellowship (UK), a ministry partner with PT. Here we taught spiritual leadership, marriage and family relations for church leaders, preaching, preachers, and the correct message for Christian instruction. While in this region, contacts were also made with some young Baptist churches who prompted my second trip to Rukungiri within the same month.

### ***Rukungiri 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> September:***

I traveled back to Rukungiri and held a one-day training session for pastors from three Baptist churches with some prominent members of their congregations (totaling 32 in number). We held the training at Kitimba Baptist Church and assessed training needs for this denomination in the context of their region. The main reason for the visit was to evaluate the state of this denomination which has only been in this region for 2 years, with seven congregations at the moment. The next training session is slated for end of November 2007. We will go as a team of four instructors and spend five days in ministry with these churches.

### **KEST (Kampala Evangelical School of Theology)**

As my involvement in KEST grows, fellowship in the partnership is also shaping our thoughts towards constructive possibilities in future. KEST shares the same vision as PT, but the two approach training at different levels and scopes. We are now looking at how this difference can be utilized as the two strengthen the bond of co-workmanship. As a local academic institution, KEST offers evangelical scholarly programs while as a grass root initiative, PT meets and offers custom training to pastors in their local set ups. On one hand, KEST could help develop PT's regional instructors to the required standards, while on the other hand PT can use its nation-wide network to channel KEST in extending its programs to the local areas where PT has already established a working relationship. That is the on-going conversation at the moment and we are picking interest in it. In the meantime, I continue to spend Mondays at KEST teaching two classes – OT Survey and Christian Ethics for this semester, then giving attention to PT errands thereafter in accordance with our planned schedule.

### **In the near future**

We are now into the last quarter (October – December) of this year. During this time we hope to scale back on long trips and give attention to end of year activities that include one Regional Instructors TOT Seminar in Kampala, a PT Board Retreat and the PT AGM. Only three follow up trips up-country are planned before end of year (Soroti, Buvuma Islands and Rukungiri). We also hope to give some time to gathering as Berea Baptist Church. We have found a venue but we are still working on the “Tent of Meeting”- a shelter under which we can gather for the Word and worship. We began in-the-open last Sunday (7<sup>th</sup> October) and were disrupted by rain. We shall be meeting on Sunday afternoons, so that some who may want to visit us can still worship normally in their churches as they “check us out”. While we welcome them (and we know some of them), our emphasis is still “growth through evangelism” not just through change of church. With this emphasis, those who join us as believers know that they are also joining as initial evangelists.

### **Praise and Prayer**

- Join us to give thanks to God for those he has used to provide for as a family and in running the ministry – para-church organizations, local churches and individuals in USA, UK and Uganda, who have given financially and kept us in prayer with a view to enhance Kingdom influence in Uganda.
- Give thanks to God for the safety he has given us on the road, out on long journeys and back in one piece to our families.
- Pray for us as family, that in the face of this increasing work, Grace and I may retain the grip in holding joyfully together as husband and wife, as well as diligent and faithful parents.
- Pray that we may be found in God's will as we set out to minister locally at Berea Baptist Church, and that we may find a harmonious balance to grow the PT work force from this home-church base. Pray for resource provision for a temporary shelter that can stand the rain and wind, able to seat at least 100 people initially.
- Pray concerning the discussions we are engaging, in regard to prospects of a closer working relationship with KEST.
- Pray for PT end-of-year activities, that these may point the ministry in the right direction, and resource the work to achieve goals.

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.

Report by **Julius Twongyeirwe**, National Director of Proclamation Task

*Thank you for being part of this important ministry.*