

PT Quarterly Ministry Update Aug-Nov 2006

A synopsis update concerning us and the work which you have delightfully joined hands with us to accomplish for God's glory.

First, our home and family. It is a new phase for Isabel (12), having written her exams and finished primary school. She will be going to secondary school next year. Isaac (10) and Isaiah (8) continue in school and they look ready for a break, which will not come until early December. Grace continues her busy but enjoyable assignment of teaching the Bible to a cross section of Kampala's women through Bible Study Fellowship. And perhaps the big news is that we are expecting our fourth child. Grace is about three months pregnant and the child is expected on 29th May 2007. It has always been in plan to have our joy complete with number four, and now behold! We give thanks to God for this development and wait on him to take us through it by his grace. We are doing very fine as a family, watching our children grow in Christ as they heighten their Bible reading and study discipline. The Friday fellowship at home has enhanced their understanding of God and his purposes, and we are grateful to God for that advancement. The malaria that frequently bothered us is no longer as common now.

Second, PT ministry among the pastors. We have held three regional training conferences since August. But lately, we focused exclusively on the Pastors Book Set Conference (PBSC: October 19-26) that drew 1270 participants. There were 550 and 720 Christian leaders in the first and second weeks respectively. This meeting was one the most representative of the current evangelical fraternity in the history of Uganda's Christian movement. Leaders made very helpful contributions on how the fire can be kept burning in a joint effort to Christianize Uganda's populace. It was a turning point in the face of Christian mission work in Uganda and we are making the necessary follow up on the recommendations made by the leaders as the way forward. Reports are already trickling in from the participants, telling of how helpful the books are turning out to be in their lives and ministry. Each pastor carried a carton of 58 books to help him as a spiritual leader.

PT organized this conference under the support of SIM Int. The icon book of this distribution was the newly launched Africa Bible Commentary (ABC) which was fully funded by SIM at a cost of \$1.2m over five years with insightful contribution of more than 70 African theologians and evangelical scholars. Since its launching several months ago, the ABC is now in the hands of over 2000 Christian leaders in Uganda. **Rev. Keith Walker** (Director of SIM in UK) and **Rev. Stephen Clark** (a minister in Wales) were the main Bible expositors taking us through Malachi and Acts respectively. With this conference, PT was clearly made known in view of its mission among the primary handlers of God's message and God's people. A schedule is now being drawn for 2007, to coordinate visits and training endeavors in such a way that enduring impact is realized in Uganda's church and her mission to the world.

The PT Board Members' prayer and planning retreat is now planned for December 8th - 9th. During this time, PT Board members will consider quite a number of issues and make major decisions aimed at propelling the work faster and further. We hope to draw a 10-year strategic plan for this ministry and we will keep you informed and involved in such deliberations so that we can continue to pull jointly as God enables us. Three regional training seminars are now planned before the year ends (Mbale, Kisoro and Rukungiri regions). Our January (2007) biblical preachers' seminar is scheduled to take place 22nd-25th, and will be jointly held as another PBS Conference with SIM. Of the now anticipated 1000 participants, PT regional coordinators and apprentice trainers will spend two more days (26th – 27th) at the end of the conference to assess impact, make a national plan and strategy to build on this training agenda and continue the work with enhanced vitality. When Pastor John Baldwin makes it to Uganda, he will be part of this training conference, with a greater opportunity to reach more pastors than the usual 40 under PT's single-hand arrangement.

Third, PT support and partnership. We are so glad that PT's joint effort with the International Institute for Christian Communication (IICC) will enhance the work through training resources as well as partnership coordination. With the PT USA Board in place, there will be augmented guidance in this partnership among the donors from the USA side, serving as a good link to make the ministry known by its objectives and appreciated in North America.

In UK, our continued effort through PT's vital partnership with the **African Pastors Fellowship** (APF) will boost regional training work which is indeed the base of ministry, defining and shaping pastoral work through the tangible and necessary specifics. APF has primary interest in the region. We are very grateful to **Rev. Ralph** and **Mrs. Jane Hanger** who direct the ministry of APF, for their commitment to support PT on this regional front. Alongside APF, a keen interest and encouragement of **South Sheffield Evangelical** and

Koinonia Evangelical Churches spur us as God's servants to better heights in the work. An affection of fraternity that was established in these two congregations during our time (1998-99) in UK endures to this day. Families and individuals have stood with us in a unique resilience – the **Digbys** in Sheffield; Ms. **Sarah Too** in London; the **Barkers** in Berkhamsted; the **Chadders** in Chorelywood; Ms. **Racheal Browning** at Oak Hill; the **Watkins** in Surrey, the **Giles** in Derbyshire; the **Urquharts** in Andover; the **Milsons** in Colmworth; the **Meynells** now at All Souls; the **Thaws** at Oakes Holiday Center – they have kept us close to their hearts and energized in this work. Together with many others who think of us and pray for us in this work, they have kept us mindful of their unwavering interest in light of God's call on our lives. The godly counsel and parental encouragement from seasoned brethren such as **David Jackman**, **Graham** and **Fiona Carr**, **Jonathan Lamb** and **Chris Wright** have uplifted and grown us in a tremendous way.

On the African continent, PT work is growing with a corresponding interest. PT is now on the missions budget of New City Bible Church. For the first time an individual pastor has pledged to give \$5 per month in support of the work. Beginning with PT-Uganda Board members who may pass a resolution to give \$60 per year, we are looking at a ripe donor base with great potential to gradually increase local support, which remains our goal. So far, there are about 25 individuals enlisted on our support list as people who will stand with us in a special and sacrificial manner. We have shared in more detail here and named names in order to prepare you for a consolidated support report in future. The friends in Europe are also becoming aware of what you are attempting and accomplishing for PT and appreciate the partnership move especially with ICC and the establishment of the PT USA Board.

Fourth, educational books for PT regional libraries. Having known and served with Dr. Chris Wright (International Director of the Langham Partnership) and Mr. Jonathan Lamb (Director of Langham Preaching) through KEST, our enduring friendship is amounting to great benefits for the PT ministry. PT has received an assortment of very helpful materials from the **Langham Literature** for our regional libraries. We have received a consignment of 54 educational books in 8 copies of each purposed to help in our training work. This donation of 432 books will uplift our work through the initiation of PT regional libraries and strengthen local pastor-trainers with the necessary resource in the eight regions.

Fifth, the church plant. Contacts are being made to find and rent a venue probably in some school premises within the community of our call (east of Kampala), to establish a congregation and continue local church ministry. Again in this, we hope to see that such a local church models and demonstrates our core values and the ministry distinctives for which we stand and move among many through PT. So, in a sense, PT is planting a church which will in turn become its home by identity, affiliation and resource. Only as active preachers, should we train others to preach and as effective spiritual leaders, inspire others to lead. We desire that our lives reflect and authenticate what we teach to others. There are things in Africa which can only be grasped when seen, not just heard. This local church will test, try and evaluate the principles and practices that we echo to spiritual leaders as of prime importance in regard to biblical priorities. If everything goes according to plan, we want to hold the first worship service on 7th January 2007. The home group at our house which is now seed and core to this church is picking up steadily. We have visited pastors and schools to prepare ourselves and our community hosts. The ideal mark of the church we have in mind is "expository preaching". We eagerly look forward to expounding and explaining God's word with hope to set a standard and trend in Kampala's preaching.

Sixth, the encouragement from you friends. We are humbled by the great effort you continue to exert in standing with us. We can imagine how busy you are in many other agendas that compete for your time, energy and resources, but we also know of your great love for Christ and his work. And so we can understand the bond that now holds us as more than partners - sisters and brothers in Gospel cause! God has brought us together in this and we were touched by his leading in rallying you around us; and continue to be amazed by his power in using you to enhance the work in Uganda. We affectionately miss you and think of you with fond memories. Warmest regards to all those known to you, by whose encouragement and support you have been aided to carry this task with us and through us.

In Christ,

Julius and Grace Twongyeirwe

Serving pastor-teachers through PT in Uganda