

Quarterly Ministry Report of PT

Jan – March 2007

Organic Aspects of the ministry

- The period under review was characterized by uncertainties over the timing and availability of resources.
- The year plan had been drawn by end of 2006. But the implementation largely depended on how much was available to carry the ministry through.
- The planned **national training** session was one, and it was held in a joint effort with SIM. Coming from all over the great lakes region, 450 evangelical church leaders participated. Supplementary PT-Only sessions did not take place due to lack of funds.
- The planned **regional training** was to take place in five regions, and only one was held. The 3-day regional training seminar (East) in Mbale has now been rescheduled within the April-July quarter.
- The involvement of PT in Bible and Theological schools went on as planned, with one course taught at Glad Tidings Bible College and two courses taught at Kampala Evangelical School of Theology.
- PT's involvement and participation in the wider evangelical effort in Uganda has gone on as desired;
 - through active leadership contribution to Uganda Evangelical Missionary Agency (UEMA) where Julius is a board member and one of the instructors of missionary candidates in the on-going ten week program.
 - through speaking engagements and training sessions
 - of St. Francis Chapel couples' retreat where Julius and Grace spent two days of teaching and counsel among 42 husbands and wives.
 - of teaching the staff of Advancing Gospel Ministries (AMG) on "servant leadership"
 - of teaching and preaching at All Saints Church (Episcopal) concerning the "Word of God"
 - through the active role played by Julius as the chair of the International Bible Society (IBS) board of directors in Uganda, focusing on Bible translation and distribution.
- PT's involvement and participation in national affairs, with Julius' contribution to the on-going national guidance for policy formulation on religion and religious expression in Uganda. PT considers this as a great opportunity to influence national policy on morality and good governance, under guarded by Kingdom values within the Judeo-Christian ethic.

Administrative Aspects of the Ministry

- There is one full-time staff (Julius) serving. Though the organization is still small, the work involved is often overwhelming as one man shifts between several roles.
- The available funds have been utilized on aspects that are considered as "life-line for the ministry". Priorities here include staff salary (to keep alive and well), email / internet services (to remain in communication), transport (to remain as mobile as the nature of this work demands), stationary (to run ministry preparations of printing and photocopying).
- Julius' involvement in GTBC and KEST is administratively and separately taken care of by the schools in which he teaches, and does not infringe on PT resources.
- At the current rate of income, PT cannot take on another staff. The national director will try to do it all until a time comes when roles can be shared.
- There is great moral support appreciation and approval from the PT-Ug Board members, but little practical input yet. And in my view, PT has not yet got the needed attention from some of its Board of Directors. Their hearts are in the ministry and they are also very busy people. We are discussing as a Board, how to improve our involvement and participation.

And as noted by the Chairman in June 2006, there is still need to educate the current Board members and lead them to the needed level of commitment which can deliver better.

Highlights of Progress

- **We are on schedule:**

As PT enters its 8th year of operation since inception, our 20-year long range strategic foresight seems to be on schedule. The “0-7 years” initial strategy has so far achieved its purpose: building relationships with local pastors, setting the training standard, and charting the trend for further strategies. In the “7-10 years” phase we want to seek a broader inclusion by constructive involvement in the Evangelical Christians’ Interdenominational Consultations, Evangelical joint drives, Theological discussions, Church growth strategies, Christian social action initiatives, Missions Conferences and mobilization, Cross cultural mission preparation and similar engagements that shall rightfully put **PT** at the service of a wider evangelical constituency, as well as establish the necessary partnerships for the “10-13 years” during which we hope to sustain short-term appeal but also move on introduce long term residential training programs.

- **Current involvements are determinant**

PT’s growth towards self-sustenance requires that we introduce the vision, announce the work and show forth the benefits to as many like-minded people as possible. And no doubt, PT is achieving the needed appreciation and approval in this regard at the right pace. Many invitations to train across evangelical denominations have been received, and a helpful network is clearly growing.

Main Challenges

- **Training of Trainers (TOT)**

For the last three years, PT has been linked to needy and trainable pastors nation-wide, with potential to reach and train up to 600 pastors every year through a network of about 80 pastors. These 80 are profiled by PT as its primary focus (TOT) and they are links for training in Uganda’s eight regions. The pace at which we are currently reaching these potential trainers is too slow to develop them into trainers in good time. For example, in the quarter Jan-March we planned to reach at least seven of these men (through five regional seminars) and work with them among 230 more pastors in their regions but we reached only one among 25 more pastors in his region. The pace is slow due to resources. The success of this phase will largely depend on the availability of resources to take the enlisted pastors through the foundations of Training of Trainers (TOT) that makes them better trainers of other pastors. The PT ministry concept rests on multiplying instructors (qualitative) to catch up with the ever-increasing leadership shortfall in Africa’s fast expanding (quantitative) church.

- **Transport Facilitation**

The vehicle we have used for regional travel (to reach and train pastors in their regional contexts) is no longer fit for such journeys. This can be resolved by purchase of a new vehicle or an investment of making major repairs on our old vehicle to have it serve another three years.

- **Instructors**

The initial (qualified) instructors are very busy people and for us to coordinate regional calendars in light of their availability slots continues to be a great challenge. The best way to overcome this challenge is to put in more effort and resource to develop instructors, implying the need to revive the value of national seminars – expensive as they may be.

- **Funds**

Besides the financial support that we expect from gracious partners and friends in USA through the IICC / WVC, we had also hoped that the African Pastors’ Fellowship (APF) in UK would boost the ministry with financial facilitation for regional work. This intention had been made clear in July 2006 in our meeting with Rev. Ralph and Mrs. Jane Hanger, directors of APF. For some reason this has not yet materialized, exerting financial strain on whatever has been available. The intention of APF remains to support PT in regional work.

- **Deficit / Surplus**

According to the proposed and approved 2007 budget, the current ministry operation stands at around \$1925 per month or \$5775 per quarter. In January, we carried on ministry under a financial deficit of \$1205; in February under a financial deficit of \$1238; and in March under a financial deficit of \$926. While the Income-Expenditure data base reflects a surplus in February because of the IICC funds transfer of \$2700, the accrual fund which had been carried forward from the period Aug – Dec 2006 claimed \$1416, and \$882 in salary arrears out of this amount, leaving \$ 687 to work with. The accruing incident came about as we tried to straighten the IICC to PT-Uganda funds transfer. The fund had been expected in November 2006 and did not come until three months later.

- **Accounts**

The PT accounts are now straightened up, with Mr. Kenneth Okumu's professional input. I always try to do my "lay man accounting" system and then invite him to make entries in Quick Books. For example, I worked out mine in Microsoft Excel (and I am poor at that), and Kenneth came in on Friday to tackle the same accounts in Quick Books. As we compared, there were very minimal variations which he easily explained to me. He will be coming at the end of every quarter, and then compile these accounts for a financial audit at the end of our fiscal year (Dec 2007). Because I am unable to send you the large files of Quick Books which Ken has professionally done, I will send you my excel file which I think should be good enough for you in analyzing the Jan-March quarter. You could do that with the PT Budget which I earlier sent you along with the aspect codes so that you may know what financial entries were done. Ken will come in again next week to help me improve on the filing system. I am so far happy with the far we have come in straightening our accounting system.

- **Ministry Goes On**

What do we do when we make an annual ministry plan and then lack the necessary resources to carry the work through? Here lies a jig-saw of faith under test. We usually pray, plan, pray and implement. The challenge for us in this cycle is not praying, but seeking to implement what we planned. We have to plan according to the vision God has laid on our hearts, but we do not have to implement if we are practically without capacity. We are satisfied when we do our best, never allowing laziness, fear, doubt, or any excuses overtake us. When we do what we can, we also carry a sense of completion and return thanks to God for enabling us accomplish even what may seem to be little in our eyes. While planning, we deem what is best for us as God's servants; once we implement we get to know what God's best had been at that time. Sometimes our best and God's best are the same, and sometimes very different in outcome.

In this way we do not strive when it comes to balancing on one hand faith and hope, and on the other hand, resource budgets and ministry programs – God is sovereign! Through it all we have been humbled and educated enough to call off planned ministry errands; to abstain from borrowing funds to "save" ministry; and to spend only what is available, realizing that nothing surpasses the grace of God when it comes to serving him. In God's economy, we have come to know that his grace is sufficient. To show his abundant grace, God sometimes lets us carry out ministry with varying resources, often with very little, and sometimes with enough. Resources may vary, but the variations have also proved to us that God's grace does not vary. Big or small, ministry goes on.

Thank you for being part of this important ministry.