

PROCLAMATION TASK

Quarterly Ministry Report January-March 2010

After a relatively good rest by the end of the year 2009, there was a felt preparation to embark on various aspects of ministry, guided by the opportunities and privileges that have so far come our way, only by the grace of God.

1. PT Center Construction

Our urgent focus was turned on laying the foundation for the class rooms at the site of PT Training Center, Kagala near Kampala. With a resolute financial and prayer support from our partners in Sheffield and a steadfast goodwill in stream of prayer shore up from all who share in this work, we were able to give attention to this initial construction phase commencing on Jan 18th 2010. The work went smoothly on the 300-foot long structure and the brick-laying work was completed on Monday 15th March 2010.

At a total of 250 bags of cement (\$3,125); 35,000 bricks (\$2,800); 9 trips of sand (\$1,215); and an average labour-force of 16 men for 36 days (\$2,880), the foundation has been completed. Other prior costs involved legal fees for title deed (\$312); architectural redrawing with details (\$180); building plan approval (\$370) and transport costs (\$870). What remains is to fill up the compartments with soil to level up and compact the entire foundation for next phase. Then as more resources become available, we shall raise the building. In total, we have used about \$12,000 for this phase.

Among all who know what this means for the ministry, there is great enthusiasm and excitement that the building is now founded. The pastors in Uganda have a heightened optimism that this work is quickly deepening its roots and indeed, to outlive us in catering for the generations to come. Members of South Sheffield Evangelical Church (SSEC) have supported this work resolutely and with a single mind. And thus far we are deeply grateful to God for these brethren. They willingly took up this special role, which is a vital aspect in marking our ministry progress, by laying a permanent foundation both in the ground and in the hearts of all beneficiaries of this great generosity in Uganda.

The foundation-laying phase has consumed a lot of material with a 15-inch thick foundation on half of it. The next phase of the 9-inch wall is expected to cost us less, requiring about \$9,600 to get walls up to the ring-beam, just before the roofing phase.

2. Our Welfare Enhancement

Our ministry partners and friends have been very generous in responding to concerns of our welfare. Many among our friends have known how difficult it is to keep our children in school, or upkeep. Friends from Koinonia Independent Evangelical Church in Andover and South Sheffield Evangelical Church in Sheffield boosted us up with funds to improve our house and ready it for rent, and funds to upgrade our chicken project with more birds. Both of these projects, now in their last stages of enhancement, will make the needed difference in our domestic supplement.

As though they were in prior agreement, partners and friends in USA, especially in the Portland area sent us a good workman, Josh Dupuis, to be with us for about three months and help out with construction and repair work on the house. Josh who has been with us for about one month now, was sent to us specifically from Intown Church, a faithful partnering church with us in PT. Along with Josh, the church has harnessed and sent us some funds to sustain him while he is here and also to procure some materials with which to execute the renovation work of our benefit.

With all this support, we have been able to finish the work on the entire outside of the duplex. And at last, we have also been able to complete the 12-year building process on one side with renovation and furnishing of the inside. This part of the house is ready for rent beginning May. We have extended the renovation exercise to the second part of the house by working on the floor and the kitchen, work that is currently going on.

These projects (home improvement and chicken) will allow us to discharge our ministry duties without the worry and anxiety that have marked most our 16-year service. As we look back, we are thankful to God that he has taken us from the overwhelming worry about house rent in the mid 1990's, moving into our own home in April 2000, and now blesses us to collect rent as income generation soon. This is a humbling journey that only God could sustain amidst our call. And we shudder each time we recall that "to whom much is given, more is expected".

This scriptural truth has marked our prayer for ourselves as Gospel workers. For we are fully convinced that all generosity for our welfare as a family, is first and foremost perceived in light of God's call on our lives. Upon this foundation, our friends have drawn us closer to do much more than they could have ever done for a common gospel worker; they have instead drawn us into their hearts, and considered us worthy of their sacrificial support. This, we do not deserve, but God has only showered his favour upon us. To this we are truly challenged and unassuming. We always ask God to uphold us in a devoted service from a deep love, with which we have been loved by his servants in England, in USA and in Uganda - who now surround us with such an invaluable support. Please pray for us that we may make your joy complete in our service to Jesus Christ our Redeemer and Master.

3. Proc Task

Because of the attention required both on the PT Center and on our home improvement effort, we have not been able to make as many trips to the regions in keeping with our pastor-training agenda, and it was according to plan. We held a one-day biblical leaders' training on Feb 13th at Life Changing Christian Church in Ndejje Mirimu, by the shores of Lake Victoria in central Uganda. We also facilitated a clergy and lay leaders' retreat in Amudat, Karamoja from Feb 22nd to 26th in the far north-western part of Uganda. We also made a scanty and sporadic follow up of trainees in their ministry localities in Rukungiri from 4th to 9th of March. During such visits, we train but also assess the needs of workers and initiate thoughts on how to meet them. These evaluations are helpful and keep an ongoing adjustment to the syllabus we use in developing ministers, aimed at enhancing their effectiveness. Coming up in the next quarter as resources permit us, we have

PT-Word of Life joint training effort for pastors next week (April 12th – 14th)

Eastern Region, follow-up and training (April 27th - 30th)

North-East Region, follow-up and training visit (May 25th – 28th)

Bible Exposition Conference in Mbarara, South western Uganda (June 14th – 18th)

South-East Region, follow-up and training visit (June 22nd – 25th)

Among these upcoming trips, we are keen to evaluate the development of pioneering Centers for Biblical Ministry (CBT) in the Eastern and South-East regions. According to our goals, these will eventually decentralize PT work and bring training closer to more pastors and helpfully account for their ministry context. Here, we will move from the general to the specifics as we train, for an incisive work among pastors in their localities, with an ongoing formal training.

4. Berea – the home church of PT

We continue to find great satisfaction in shepherding God's people at our local church, with a great preaching and teaching ministry from trained and experienced pulpit servants as well as Bible Study facilitators. Our church elders (Thomas and Peter) are sound men with a good biblical ground. Thomas also serves as the Director for Word of Life (WOL) – Uganda, and Peter serves as the Academic Dean of KEST. Others on the pulpit include David and Arthur who also serve with Thomas at WOL.

a. More staff for church growth

The church has taken on two more fulltime staff to meet some organic ministry demands of our growing congregation. Diana Egessa was enrolled to coordinate children's ministry, and Ivan Mukisa to coordinate the Outreach efforts of the church. This is in addition to our long-serving and only staff, Emma Anikuru who was enlisted at the commencement of the church as the Administrator.

b. Land for Berea Church development made available

In February 2008 after folding the tent in which Berea had been inaugurated four months earlier, the congregation moved into a school where the church has now been hosted for two years. The proprietor of the school is a very generous man, a fellow believer in Christ, and allowed us to use these facilities at no cost on our part. But it remains our desire for the church to acquire land and set up facilities to make the growth progress smoother and quicker. The school has more land, a portion of which was availed to us for purchase in our church development effort. The church has a great ministry in the school, and the school desires to keep us close for this ministry.

Last month, the school went ahead to avail this land to us for temporary use as we wait to own it if we purchase it, God willing. This means that we can re-pitch tent and enhance our community life from “doing church only on Sunday”, to remaining “church” throughout the week” on the same venue – something we would not manage now due school operation during the week. On-going ministry that includes evangelism and discipleship, youth meetings, prayer meetings, counseling, Bible study, women’s fellowships and extending care to the sick and affected in the community (especially AIDS victims and orphans) would now go on unhindered. We are raising funds to do landscaping and raise temporary shelters to house ministry activities and gatherings. The church will need \$6,000 of which members have gathered \$1,100 so far.

Lately, we have also been working on involving all members in service, as way of heightening the ministry transaction at interpersonal level, and this exercise has encouraged the whole church.

5. PT & Berea Office Premises

For nine months now, PT has held a hired office premise that is maintained jointly with Berea Baptist Church. Before venturing out, our work place was one of the houses on our duplex, currently under repair. A few developments have guided us to think that sustaining an office may not be cost-effective. There has been a squeeze in the resources available for both PT (supported at 33%) and Berea (with 2 additional staff) for the last four months, making it difficult for us to keep a rented place. We also feel we should not re-occupy our previous work place, now under renovation. Yet the school in which Berea meets has availed the land. All these factors and considerations have led us to think that God would rather have us in a place where we will not pay rent for office space. We know that in future, we will set up offices both at church and at PT Center to run both ministries. But for now, the challenge we face is to keep the ministries growing without maintaining a rented premise.

The temporary solution seemed to come about when we considered that at our home, we have bricks, sand, stones and aggregates that had remained after setting up our new house. So we thought we could use these building materials to put up a small and cheap working space to keep the ministries growing. The proposed 4-room space would host me, three staff of Berea and the National Coordinator (Dickens Amandi) of the Uganda Evangelical Missionary Agency (UEMA) – an entity that I am deeply involved, to mobilize, train and deploy Ugandans on the mission field world-wide. I currently share an office with Dickens as the young UEMA continues to grow. Once this structure has served the purpose (whenever that may be), it could still to sustain the ministry by, for instance as guest house for partners that may come on short term mission to help us in future. That way we can save much on the tithes and offerings of the saints, which would otherwise end up in hotels. It could also accommodate pastors whenever they come to Kampala.

6. Other ministry engagements

a. UEMA

We hold monthly Board Meetings to strengthen this ministry. We are glad that we were able to commission a local missionary to Aringa (West Nile) last month. Wilson Semwanga is now serving as a Bible teacher in a young Bible School in this mainly Islamic community. I serve in UEMA as the deputy Chairman.

b. Word Of Life

We also hold quarterly Board meetings for Word of Life, a ministry whose director happens to serve with me as an elder at Berea. Half of the staff at Word of Life are members of Berea. I also serve as a Board member for WOL. On Feb 13th I participated in giving biblical instruction to young professionals that were mobilized by Word of Life at Kitende near Kampala. Next week I will be training pastors in a joint effort of PT with WOL. We have a good partnership and our ministries complement each other in many ways.

c. Radio Ministry

In the last two months I have been on radio teaching the Bible and answering Christian ethical questions for the western region. With the help of Dr. Reuben Musiime (a PT Board member), we have done interviews and teaching recordings in Kampala that are aired on Radio West, in our vernacular. We are so encouraged to hear of how church leaders and their congregations are uplifted and enlightened through these programs. It causes me to look forward in future, to PT's own Gospel radio to air Bible expositions for a true Christian character and practice among Ugandans – if and when God grants that in my life time!

I (Julius) have also had opportunities to bring God's Word in other various settings during the last quarter. On Feb 14th I supplied the pulpit ministry in two services at Life Changing Christian Church and on March 28th at Gayaza High School among students, teachers and support staff. This is Isabel's school. I have had opportunity to bring God's Word at a graduation ceremonies (of Linda Bazanye on 26th Jan, and of Babra Ninsiima held at our home on Feb 12th), as well as wedding ceremonies – settings in which the Gospel has been shared. During a consultation meeting of Evangelical Fellowship of Uganda (Feb 10th – 12th), we got an opportunity to contribute ideas that affect evangelicalism and Gospel ministry in Uganda.

Prayer Points

Give thanks to God for the provisions he has made to uplift our welfare as a family, and for the generous friends with whom he has surrounded us; the servants through whom he has unfolded his hand in giving to us. Praise God for our good health and sustained energy in the ministry.

Give thanks to God for the completion of PT Center (classroom) foundation, and for SSEC members who have extended a very generous and practical hand in resourcing this phase of construction.

Praise God for sending us Josh to help us, and sustain prayer for his fruitfulness in all his engagements while in Uganda.

Praise God for the dedicated service of PT-Board members in USA and Uganda, and pray that these appointed servants may (by the grace of God) propel the work of training preachers and developing effective leaders for the church in Uganda and Africa.

Pray for our office premise transition in PT and Berea, that we may settle down soon in place where we can study, plan, and prepare to carry out ministry tasks assigned to us as Gospel workers.

Pray for safety on the road as we prepare to set out for regional training in the next three months, and for sufficient resources to enable us handle this work.

Pray for all our partners who jointly handle the work with us through their giving, that they may find great satisfaction and fulfillment in what is being accomplished as a result of their dedication. Pray that as they sustain their involvement with us, they may experience God's grace in abundance. Keep in prayer that God may expand our partnership scope so that we may handle more work and expand the sphere of our operation.

Thank you for standing with us