



Mid-Year Update 2017

A Note from Dave and Joyce: When our family moved from the Boston area to Ithaca in 1988, we didn't know what we would find. We knew God was leading us to serve at Bethel Grove Bible Church (BG), but we were not fully aware that *God was opening up the world to us*. After years of pastoral ministry and global engagement in this university town, we began our new ministry journey three years ago. We look back and continue to marvel at God's leading and provision in our lives.

On that final June 2014 weekend at BG, we stood together at the "send-off party" giving thanks for all God had done over the 25 years. The next day, worshipping around the theme "God is For Us", a time of corporate prayer was offered for BG and for us. Captured in a paragraph of a July 4, 2014 letter to family and friends is the emotion of that final Sunday as pastor at BG.



"Then, BG leaders came to the platform and prayed for us as we affirmed our commitment to follow Christ into this new calling. They prayed for our transition into this new ministry, strength for our marriage as we share in new ministry responsibilities, our relationship with Ugandan pastors and churches, and for blessing and wisdom as other ministry partnerships develop over the years. We wrapped up the service with a congregational song, my final benediction, and a choral blessing that affirmed God's presence and leading in the days ahead for BG and us."

Today, as we begin our fourth year of this focused ministry, the prayers of God's people continue to be answered. The scope of *Partnerships For Training Pastors* has expanded from Uganda to other nations. New partnerships and ideas are being developed. The potential for training less-resourced pastors is limitless and wisdom is needed to understand how and when new partnerships will be developed. At this point in our lives, we are considering another three years of full engagement in training others.

Some things are changing. **In October, Joyce will finish working at Cornell University and our first joint ministry trip will be to Uganda in January, 2018.** We have looked forward to this opportunity and will need your prayers and support as we ask God to use us in counseling and teaching settings. Also, a new strategy is emerging in Uganda that has the potential to be duplicated in many other nations. Check out the details of this "Training the Trainers Project" on page 2. Give thanks with us for all God has done and keep praying for the unfolding of God's purposes over the next few years. We are grateful for your partnership through the years!



Taking your vision to the world

Partnerships For Training Pastors project. Their support and administrative work assures us that the project is functioning properly and their steadfast commitment to handle financial contributions and advise our ministry is greatly valued. All financial gifts, in support of Partnerships For Training Pastors, are made out to New Horizons Foundations with "Partnerships For Training Pastors" highlighted on the memo line. To gain an appreciation for New Horizons Foundation's ministry vision, visit www.newhorizonsfoundation.com.

Our Core Purpose

Our vision is to encourage and equip less-resourced Majority World pastors through biblical teaching and resources. Beginning in Uganda, we will assist national church leaders and mission partners as they nurture pastors and develop emerging leaders to the glory of God.

Visit www.partnershipsfortraining.org for an expanded view of this ministry.

Ugandan Training of Trainers Project

Project Overview

On Saturday February 25th, fifteen individuals (see picture below) were invited to Kampala to be part of a new concept in leadership development. The group was composed of leaders from Masaka, Oyam and Central Uganda. Each person was selected by regional church leaders and viewed as a potential trainer of pastors and church leaders. The February session exceeded all expectation and the group has since expanded to twenty individuals.

In April, I traveled to Uganda to establish the structure of four training sessions in 2017-18. Along with Daudi Nkuggwa and Pastor Andrew Mwenge, the following training sequence was developed:

August 7-11, 2017

How Old Testament Fits Together
Bible Study in OT Passages
Principles of OT Biblical Interpretation
Jesus and Leadership Temptations
Responding Theologically to Societal Issues

December 2-7, 2017

Study of Four Gospels
Principles of Biblical Interpretation in Gospels
Jesus as a Servant Leader
Jesus: Prayer and Preaching
Teaching Skills

April 2018

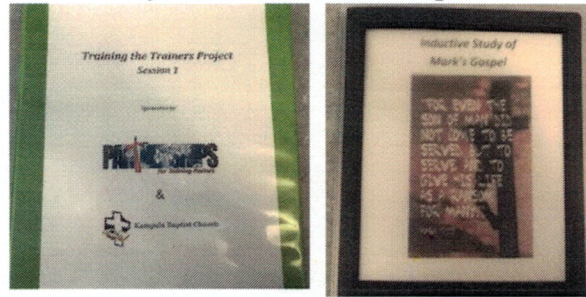
Study of Acts and Pauline Epistles
Principles of Biblical Interpretation in the NT
Prayer and Preaching
East African Church History
Islam and the Church
Teaching Skills

August 2018

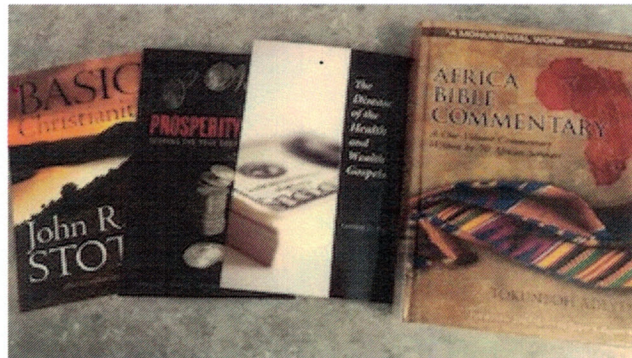
Study of Revelation and NT Epistles
Principles of Biblical Interpretation in the NT
Systematic Theological Foundations
Church Leadership Issues
Teaching Skills

These sessions are ambitious, as each one will model teaching methods, provide usable biblical resources and promote an understanding of God's Word for future training responsibilities. Please pray for this new ministry focus beginning in August.

Project Resources Developed



Each person attending the Training Project will receive a session manual (pictured on left). Our Session 1 manual is a compilation of Old Testament notes, leadership themes and theological reflection on cultural issues facing the Ugandan church. An Inductive Study of Mark's Gospel is developed as a homework assignment due in December when we study the Gospels. Both resources stem from months of study in preparation for this Project.



Four books will be provided for our August participants. The "African Bible Commentary", developed by African biblical scholars, is an exceptional tool for biblical insight of the African theological landscape. "Prosperity" is provided for international pastors by the Gospel Coalition and "The Disease of the Health and Wealth Gospel" is a timeless piece written by Dr. Gordon Fee. "Basic Christianity" is John Stott's classic affirmation of the call to follow Christ in discipleship.



February 25th gathering from three Ugandan regions

A Huge Thank you to the J. Russell Foundation for their \$6,500 grant that covers the majority of expenses for the August and December Training the Trainers Project sessions. Join us in thanking God for his provision through these faithful friends and partners.

Zambia Update

This email is from one of the attendees at the May Conference in Zambia. Your support makes these relationships possible!

"Am Enoch Kabaso from Zambia at mansa, I just miss you and I just want to appreciate (sic) for what you were taught us at fimpulu. We were encouraged; I hope we will meet again by the God's mercy and grace. Its high time to say hai (sic) to your family and to Rev. Mike, may God Almighty continues to bless you all and use you like never before. Stay blessed.

Upon returning from Lusaka in early May, I reflect back on all that God has accomplished through our Choshen Farm partnership. Since April 2015, we offered five *Christ in the Old Testament* sessions. The study material is now being used for teaching pastors in other parts of the world.



In May, two boxes of books from my personal library were sent to Zambia in order to help build Choshen Farm's library for pastors. This project is one of Jeremy Colvin's dreams as it provides a place for on-going study and quiet for local Zambian pastors. Choshen Farm now has a small retreat cottage for pastors to get away for study and prayer. Our prayer is that these books will be an encouragement to those who visit the cottage! Rest assured there are more books to send in the future!

Though not returning to Zambia this year, we are considering two 2018 trips to Choshen Farm for additional pastor training. I thank God for Choshen Farm's vision to serve the larger church in Zambia. Keep them in your prayers.

A short video summarizing May's Fimpulu Pastors Conference can be found at www.partnershipsfortraining.org under the video section of our website or at https://youtu.be/wJ9H_tnT5L8.

Upcoming Trips

August 2-18, 2017 – This Uganda trip for the Training Project (August 7-11) will also allow me to reconnect with Emerging Leaders in Masaka, as well as preach at Kampala Baptist Church.

September 18-23 – Singapore is the first stop on a larger Indonesia training trip. I will visit with supporters and connect with former International Students from Cornell University who have returned to Singapore.

September 24-October 9 – From Singapore, I travel to Kupang, Timor in order to teach with Ben Grimes and local church leaders in a second visit for pastoral training. I will also teach a two week intensive course for theological students at the Christian University in Kupang.

November 28 – December 9 - I return to Kampala for the second instalment of Training the Trainers Project (December 2-7) and preparation time for future ministry at Kampala Baptist Church.

January 2018 – While the dates are yet to be determined, the trip's main focus is the annual Pastors and Church Leaders Conference in Masaka. Also, Joyce and I are expecting to do a marriage seminar and other leadership development sessions during our visit.

Common Questions For Us

What does Dave do when he is not traveling? As one might imagine, there is a lot of study and preparation of teaching materials for upcoming training sessions. In addition, I help coordinate Ithaca's Evangelical Pastors Fellowship and serve on the Global Missions Committee at Bethel Grove Bible Church. I also speak in several Ithaca churches when pastors are away and connect with potential ministry partners, as well as our friends and supporters. It is a full schedule.

What new opportunities are on the horizon? The Ugandan Training of Trainers Project has great potential for developing less resourced pastors around the globe. As we work through each Session (see page 2), we will look to improve and adapt the material to other ministry settings God brings our way. We hope to explore a Haiti and Ecuadorian connection in the upcoming year.



How are you and Joyce doing? This is a good season for us as we are enjoying being grandparents and looking forward to Joyce's departure from Cornell on Dave's birthday in October. The last two weekends allowed us to spend Father's Day with Matt, Ashley and Reagan in central PA and Joyce's birthday with her brother's family at a NJ beach. Our love for God and

each other is as strong as ever! The idea of traveling and serving together with our partners is a great gift from the Lord.

Are the financial needs of Partnerships For Training Pastors being met? Joyce and I are grateful for the Lord's provision through family, friends, our partners, and others who have supported us through the year. The resources needed for each trip and other ministry expenses always have been there as they are needed. There is still six months left to meet our 2017 budget of \$105,000, so we'll keep you posted as we move through the remainder of the year.

Please Pray With Us

- Pray for God's grace to be evident during Dave's July 9th sermon at Ithaca's Christ Chapel.
- Pray for good preparation with Pastor Andrew Mwenge and Daudi Nkuggwa prior to August training sessions.
- Pray for Joyce and me as we work out our shared future ministry.
- Pray for the Mansa pastors fellowship as they seek to bring the gospel to their region of Zambia (top picture).
- Pray that good Singaporean connections will be made and that our conversations will encourage future training of less-resourced pastors and church leaders in that part of the world.
- Pray for Ben Grimes and our preparation for the September – October trip to Kupang, Timor. Ben sets up the various pastor and church leaders training groups as well as the Old Testament Intensive course that I will teach at Artha Wacana Christian University (bottom picture). **THANKS FOR PRAYING!**



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