

February 2015 Update

Some Initial Thoughts from Dave

Thanks for your January prayers as Joyce faced Ithaca's frigid temperatures with confidence and I experienced the warmth of Uganda with deep joy. Though separated for almost three weeks, we kept connected by phone and emails. Since coming home, I have been shoveling snow daily, while Joyce continues to fight off a bronchial condition that is finally in retreat. We thank God for his protection and provision during this time.

My trip to Uganda was exceptionally full and fruitful. Grateful for the Lord's strength, I traveled with Andrew and Daudi to various parts of Uganda, led a seminar and preached at Kampala Baptist Church, counseled several people, and regularly taught the Scripture in training sessions. Pastors and church leaders continue to affirm our training efforts.

This update offers a look at the January journey and provides several prayer requests. Thanks for your partnership in prayer and general support of this ministry. Without your loving encouragement, we would not be where we are today. May 2015 be a year of spiritual growth for us all as we discover more of God's grace for daily living.



Masaka Pastor's Training - How do the Old Testament books of Judges and Ruth mesh with life in the 21st century? Individuals attending the four day training confessed that they saw the connection in every session. The familiar phrases – "they did evil in the eyes of the Lord" and "they did what was right in their own eyes" - provided the backdrop for highlighting God's grace and gospel message found on their pages.

With seventy-five participants attending, the room was set up according to the ancient geographical setting of Israel. The group was divided into twelve tribes and each tribe assumed their proper location. Because judges came from various tribes and locations, the flow of the book and the personality of each judge was visibly illustrated during the entire training.

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Africa Great Lakes Initiative (GLI) is an organization

established by Duke Divinity School, World Vision, Mennonite Central Committee and ALARM. Gathering in Kampala for a week long Prayer and Leadership Initiative, GLI leaders and representatives from several Christian organizations met to seek and promote reconciliation in seven East Africa countries.

At the invitation of my friend Dave Robinson, a Senior International Advisor with World Vision, Andrew and I participated in the final day of the Institute. We listened to summary statements and action items from the seminars and were challenged by the pain that persists in these countries. It was a privilege to meet these women and men who are pressing the peace of Christ into the brokenness of everyday life.



Celestin Musekua, President and CEO of ALARM (African Leadership and Reconciliation Ministries), spoke on the Good Samaritan in Luke 10. His presentation was brilliant and culturally appropriate for facing the issues of hatred and strife in each of these countries. Visit the ALARM website (www.alarm-inc.org) to discover the challenges facing East African countries. I thank God for a greater understanding of these issues and for the opportunity to meet leaders of organizations involved in training pastors. Please pray for GLI and for new pastoral training partnerships that may be formed in the future.

Masaka Pastor's Training cont.

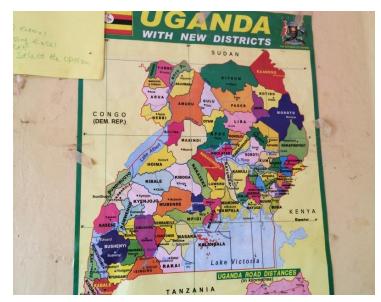


The response was overwhelming. The message of Judges and Ruth drove home the need for renewal in our hearts and minds. God's redemptive work was very clear and yet each human judge fell short of what the people needed. They needed a Savior, so our emphasis was that these cycles of sin and renewal pointed to our need for the true Savior, Jesus Christ. Ruth tells of God's gracious provision of a Kinsman-Redeemer and displays the faith and integrity of those that trust in the Lord in contrast to those who did evil in the Lord's eyes. Amazing truths for today!

Pastor Andrew taught seminars on financial responsibility and preaching during the afternoon sessions. He also addressed the sexual abuse of Ugandan women through a study of Judges 19. His session struck a chord in the pastors and church leaders and there was a genuine commitment to speak to these issues in their communities.

We are grateful for the support from Bethel Grove Bible Church that covered the expenses of this training session. Also, we were encouraged by the growing interest in pastoral training. Fifteen first time participants, mostly young adults, joined the sessions and because we were close to capacity at the Center, we have to determine how to handle our next large training session. What a great problem, so please join us in praying for wisdom as we move forward with other 2015 training times.





Something New - Opportunities continue to present themselves each month, with new places to visit and new friends to discover. During my first week in Uganda, Andrew and I took a "spontaneous" trip to Zombo. Travelling rough roads from Kampala to the NW corner of Uganda, we visited a Bible School near the borders of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and South Sudan.



When we arrived, fourteen pastors were seated in Zombo's local community building for a course on foundational truths of the Scriptures. Seven pastors came from the DRC (French speaking). Others were from Zombo area churches. Some spoke

English, but we needed an interpreter for our sessions.

Communication with the students went well as Andrew and I teamed up to teach on the topic of "sin". Our approach was two-fold, with Andrew presenting its theological framework and I illustrated sin's core principles through a quick overview of Old Testament books. We were invited to return later this year, but the distance to Zombo is beyond our initial vision. Pray that Andrew might discover other partners to work with this Bible School as it seeks to develop Gospel-centered pastors and church leaders.

February Prayer Items

Pray for the leaders and pastors of churches in the Masaka region as they live for Christ and teach God's Word.

Pray for development of the "Christ in the Old Testament" course to be taught in Fimpulu, Zambia and Oyam, Uganda in April 2015.

Continue to pray for the financial resources that are needed to carry out the ministry God has for us in 2015.

Pray for new partnerships to develop among Majority and Western World churches for the training of Pastors and emerging leaders.