

**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 21<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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.

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