

February 2017 Update

Thoughts From Dave:

“Safe Journey” It’s a simple but meaningful Ugandan phrase spoken to one beginning travel to a new destination. Ugandans understand the imminent danger found on their roads as large busses, lorries, and ubiquitous boda-bodas (motorbikes), create challenges to automobiles. No wonder I place trust in veteran Ugandan drivers. Not only is it wise, it is comforting.

Recently, I’ve been reflecting on some of the dangers and challenges our world offers its citizens. Threats of terrorism in airports and on public streets, global political uncertainty, along with a growing disregard for international justice issues can tempt one to stay at home.

Psalm 116:8-9 stresses that “the Lord delivers my soul from death, my eyes from tears and my feet from stumbling”. In this broken world, he does this for one reason – “that I may walk before the Lord in the land of the living.” Dangers and challenges are part of life. Yet, the Lord uses them to sharpen our understanding of where our full trust is to be placed.

Scripture emphasizes that the *things of this world* do not offer the ultimate perspective on life. Putting our trust in the *God who knows all things* is not only wise and comforting; it fortifies us to embrace the daily journey Jesus calls us to walk. Only in Christ is our ultimate “homeward journey” a safe one. *Safe Journey!*



(Samuel is one of the Pastors invited to participate in the 2017 “Trainer of Trainers” group in August and December)

Oyam Training - January 12-13, 2017



Our Oyam training addressed two distinct groups. On Thursday, a small group of pastors and church leaders studied the theme “Leadership Temptations”. Speaking to the main challenges that indigenous leaders face, we examined how the Lord faced temptations as found in Luke 4:1-12. As one might imagine, there was a lot of discussion and prayer on how to apply the theme in their church context. Also, Pastor Andrew Mwenge led a study on church leadership roles in the Bible.



On Friday, a mixed group of men and women completed our study of the Pentateuch. Deuteronomy consists of three sermons from Moses highlighting God’s past, present and future purposes for his people as they moved into the Promise Land. A focus on the 10 Commandments and God’s emphasis on raising a new generation of children (Deut. 6) provided lively discussion and reflection on their current ministry context.

The participants walked, rode bikes, as well as used other transport to get to the training location. The benefit of these sessions lay in the growth and commitment of these leaders to proclaim the Scriptures in relevant and clear ways.



One Pastor expressed his appreciation in the following handwritten note:

*“Dear Our Brother Dave,
“The Oyam Pastors recognized and appreciated the work of your hands for having been spending a lot of funds in organizing the training always which is equipping us with skills and knowledge of the Bible.”
“The training has been fully illustrated and movalous [sic] or enjoyable and interesting.”
”May that spirits [sic] in you continues [sic] and we prayed that God will bless you and your family. Amen.” Oola Samuel*

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.



Masaka Pastors and Church Leaders Training January 16-18, 2017

January is a perfect time for a conference. With a break in the Ugandan school calendar, pastors and church leaders are available to join other Masaka area leaders to study Scripture, reconnect in fellowship and look ahead to a new year. This conference accomplished all these goals.

Breaking from our past emphasis on Old Testament themes, our study of 2 Timothy directly impacted today's pastors and church leaders. Mentoring and discipleship

themes carried the sessions. Our aim was to address current false teaching through a clear understanding of the gospel as presented in this Pastoral Epistle and other Scripture.



The Apostle Paul's relationship with his "son" in the faith was explored. How did Paul facilitate the maturing process in Timothy? What was Paul's focus for his God-given ministry? How did Paul use God's Word in this mentoring action? All these questions were designed to encourage the development of a new generation of leadership within the Ugandan church.



In addition to our biblical study, there was time for friendship development and corporate prayer. In these January training sessions, Masaka area pastors meet and plan regional outreach events for the new year. Over time, these sessions have provided a sense of unity and purpose for the Masaka ministry.



This year's gathering included a session on family planning, led by Harriet Segirinya. With Uganda's birth rate exploding, the pastor's role of educating and modeling of church families is essential. African identity and security often is found in the number of children one has. That reality can complicate one's personal life and ministry focus. Pray for our brothers and sisters as they address these important life issues for the good of the people and the glory of God.



A special thank you is extended to Bethel Grove Bible Church, in Ithaca, NY, for their generous donation that covered the cost of this large group training. January sessions prove to be a great encouragement as we see the development of indigenous leaders with a vision for the Masaka region and beyond. Bethel Grove and several others have partnered in this effort for many years and the Masaka leaders are very grateful.

Prayer Updates

Please join us in ***giving thanks*** to God for the generous support of those who helped us in addressing our year-end goals. Year-end gifts totaled \$19,940, while prayer supporters and interested partners expanded to 430 people.

Pray for ***the continued development of our Ugandan "Training of Trainers" project*** for 15-20 people. Good strides have been made in designing the focus of these August and December events. Pray that a Charitable Foundation will welcome the initiative and provide resources for this vision. More information will come in the March Newsletter.

Pray for the Masaka Emerging Leaders' growth and for a continued strong relationship between them and the mentoring pastors. A special update will be provided in the March Newsletter.

Thanks to New Horizons Foundation for their support and administrative work to make sure this "Partnerships" Project is functioning well. Their commitment to handling financial contributions and advising our ministry is greatly appreciated!

