

March 2016

**THOUGHTS AFTER  
EASTER SUNDAY**

I find great solace in this prayer of St. Benedict. Join me in reflecting on these truths and ask Christ to fill our lives as we “bind” ourselves to live each day in the bigness of His Kingdom and for His glory.

I bind this day to me forever,  
By power of faith, Christ's incarnation,  
His baptism in the Jordan river,  
His death on the cross for my salvation:  
His bursting from the spiced tomb,  
His riding up the heavenly way,  
His coming at the day of doom,  
I bind unto myself today...

I bind unto myself today  
The power of God to hold and lead,  
His eye to watch, his might to stay,  
His ear to hearken to my need.  
The wisdom of my God to teach,  
His hand to guide, his shield to ward,  
The word of God to give me speech,  
His heavenly host to be my guard...

Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me,  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

I bind unto myself the name,  
The strong name of the Trinity,  
By invocation of the same,  
The three in one, and one in three,  
Of whom all nature hath creation,  
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word,  
Praise to the Lord of my salvation:  
Salvation is of Christ the Lord.

**DAVE'S MINISTRY UPDATE**

When did you get back from Africa? When are you leaving on your next trip? Haven't seen you around much, are you OK? Frequently I am asked these questions as I spend time with people in Ithaca. The truth is that when I am in the States my schedule is full.

February and March included speaking engagements, study time, and extensive preparation for upcoming trips to Uganda, Zambia and Timor. Opportunities to preach at *New Life Presbyterian Church* and teach at *Bethel Grove* were very fulfilling. Also, I visited *Tabernacle Baptist Church* to share the “Partnership” ministry in order to give the church a glimpse of the upcoming Africa trip, which I will share with their pastor Mike Paris (see page 2).

Over the March 12-13 weekend, I visited *West Congregational Church* in Peabody, MA. This supporting church is where Joyce and I started in ministry 38 years ago. Spending time with Pastor Ralph Wetherington, my mentor and dear friend, was especially meaningful. Ralph's impact on Joyce and me runs deep. Our love for Christ, his Word, and a vision for biblical ministry were shaped through Ralph's teaching, preaching and friendship. In August, Ralph retires after 38 years at West, so the visit was a great reunion. We are privileged to be part of West Church's mission family.



A significant part of these months was spent preparing for the training in Uganda and Zambia. The biblical topics cover a wide swath of Scripture and translation deadlines required steady work in advance of the training. Please begin to pray for the following sessions during our April trip.

**Oyam Uganda-**

*A Study of Exodus 25- Numbers 10  
The Tabernacle and Jesus  
Worship and Redemption  
Living in the Presence of God*

**Fimpulu, Zambia**

*The Big Picture of the Old Testament  
Elijah and Elisha in 1 and 2 Kings  
The Prophets up to Isaiah  
Jesus Christ in the Prophets*

**Masaka, Uganda**

*Emerging Leaders Conference  
2 Timothy – Mentoring and Discipleship  
Gospel-centered Leadership*

***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.***

### ***Travel Schedule for April Africa Trip***

Sunday April 10 – Leave Elmira NY at 3:32 pm  
Monday April 11 – Arrive in Entebbe, Uganda at 10:20 pm  
Tuesday April 12 – Kampala – getting feet on the ground  
Wednesday April 13 – Thursday April 14 – OYAM TRAINING  
Friday April 15 – FLY TO LUSAKA, ZAMBIA from Entebbe  
Friday - Thursday April 15- 21- MINISTRY WITH CHOSHEN FARM IN ZAMBIA  
Friday April 22 – RETURN FLIGHT from Lusaka to Entebbe  
Saturday and Sunday, April 23, 24 – Kampala and Kampala Baptist Church  
Monday – Wednesday April 25-27 – MASAKA EMERGING LEADERS TRAINING  
Thursday and Friday April 28-29 - Kampala and ministry wrap-up  
Friday April 29 - FLY TO USA at 11:30 pm  
Saturday April 30 - Arrive in Elmira, New York @ 4:58 pm

*Pray for our partners at Kampala Baptist Church and Choshen Farm as they prepare and oversee all the details of the upcoming April training sessions.*

*Pray for Dave as he speaks on April 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Korean Church at Cornell. Pastor Hong Pyo Ha has led several mission trips to Africa and desires the congregation hear more about Partnerships.*

### ***Keep Praying for 2016 Ministry Initiatives***

*In the 2015 Year End Reflections document, I presented four initiatives that offer ministry direction for 2016. Below is an update and prayer requests for your consideration and prayer support.*

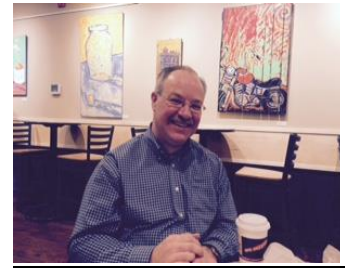
***Resource Development*** –In 2016, our goal is to publish Pastor Andrew Mwenge’s discipleship material, as well as develop an *Emerging Leader’s Study Guide on 2 Timothy* and a *Christ in the Old Testament Study Guide*. ***Pray that we are able to complete these resources and find a good printer to publish them.***

***Masaka Emerging Leaders Focus*** – Last fall, Masaka leaders affirmed the importance of training emerging leaders. Two Emerging Leaders Seminars are planned for April and August. ***Pray for the 40 + emerging leaders who are mentored so that a new generation of men and women can lead Christ’s people in this area of Uganda.***

***Exploring A Timor Partnership*** – Last May, I traveled to Indonesia and saw the work of Ben and Emma Grimes in Timor. This Navigator couple is developing Church Leaders through Bible reading and study groups. ***Give thanks that plans are established for a trip to Timor in May, where I will participate in several Pastoral Training sessions as well as teach a course at a Theological School in Kupang. Pray for the finalizing of the details and for the preparation of the teaching material to be completed before the April 10th trip to Africa.***

***Taking Seminary Students Along*** – Informal conversations have begun, with two US Seminaries, to consider the idea of identifying a student to travel with me on trips. This concept ties nicely into our new focus on Emerging Leaders. ***Please pray for this initiative, as it is still in the embryonic stage. Also, pray for experienced pastors, like Mike Paris (see sidebar), to serve God’s people through the teaching of the Scriptures within the “Partnerships” project.***

### ***Meet Rev. Mike Paris***



*Last year, after sharing about a “Partnerships” trip at Ithaca’s Evangelical Clergy Group, Mike asked if he could join me on a future trip. That question turned into reality, as Mike and I will leave Ithaca on April 10<sup>th</sup> for a 20 day ministry trip to Uganda and Zambia. We will share in teaching responsibilities and partner together in a variety of ways. Mike is the Pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church in Ithaca, NY and has a heart for the world. This will be Mike’s first international ministry trip. Both Mike and the church where he serves are excited about this partnership venture.*

### ***Partnership Updates***

*More than 350 people have agreed to receive regular ministry and prayer updates on a monthly basis.*

*25 individuals, families and churches provide monthly support of various amounts. Others give one-time gifts that are helping to meet the 2016 budget of \$85,000.*

*Thanks for your prayers and financial support as we seek to equip God’s people by teaching God’s Word.*

***Visit [www.partnershipsfortraining.org](http://www.partnershipsfortraining.org) for an expanded view of this ministry as well as information for providing financial support.***