

February 2016



### Thoughts From Dave

Recently, I was asked to speak on the role partnerships play in global missions. In preparation, I reflected on the biblical meaning of partnerships as highlighted in Philippians. Paul used the Greek word “koinonia” three times in the book and it is alternatively translated “fellowship” and “partnership”. In other words, there is an unbreakable connection between fellowship and partnerships.

John Stott once wrote that “koinonia” involves “something we share in together” – a common faith in the triune God, “somehow we serve together” - common works of service, and the “somehow of life together” - sharing of common life. Paul’s letter to the Philippians weaves these three themes into a seamless tapestry of Christ-centered partnership. It’s a beautiful sight to see.

*Partnerships For Training Pastors* encapsulates Stott’s description. We partner with Majority World churches, Theological Institutions, missionaries, and mission organizations in order to serve less-resourced pastors and church leaders. Since July 2014, Joyce and I continue to marvel at God’s gracious development of global mission partnerships. Our prayer is that over the next several years the Lord will continue to provide people and resources to share life and mission together for the glory of God. Thanks for your “koinonia” in this global mission outreach!



Masaka Pastors and Leaders Communion Service

### Oyam Focus for 2016



Mentoring Pastors



Biblical and Leadership Teaching

### January Trip to Uganda

“Fast and fruitful” is a description of my first ministry trip in 2016. Spending only twelve days in Uganda required non-stop movement to Oyam and Masaka as well as spending specific time developing ministry resources in Kampala. God helped all the partners maximize our available time.

Traveling to **Oyam** always reminds me of the rich cultural diversity found in Uganda. This region is still recovering from the horrendous impact of the Lord’s Resistance Army reign of terror. Add to that reality a large influx of refugees from neighboring countries and one can imagine the economic and spiritual challenges facing our brothers and sisters. Yet, God’s people are resilient and Christ’s church is growing in this region.

Our team’s task was to teach pastors and church leaders from the Old Testament book of Exodus as well as consider the role of governance in church ministry. Working our way through the Pentateuch establishes a lens through which one sees how Christ fulfills the Old Testament. In addition, seeing God’s plan for shared church leadership provides an impetus to move away from the “big man” approach to ministry leadership. It was a good visit and we will return to Oyam in April for more teaching and mentoring.

The **Masaka** training session yielded a record turn-out. Pastors and church leaders from 25 churches gathered together and experienced the “fellowship and partnership” of the gospel. A variety of teaching methods highlighted our study of 1 & 2 Samuel and 1 Kings 1-11. Large group and smaller

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Please pray for Uganda as the country navigates through this week’s Presidential election.



*Check out the 2015 Year End Reflections document under the Latest News section of our website.*

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break-out sessions yielded exceptional interaction and thoughtful responses. As we studied these historical books a clear contrast appeared between Saul, David and Solomon's approach to the spiritual leadership of God's people.

Despite his exceptional God-given natural abilities, Saul was driven by his own agenda and ended his life by his own hand. David is described as a "man after God's heart" and his life illustrated a deep understanding of God's holy and sovereign ways, which is especially illustrated in his Psalm 51 prayer after egregious sins. Solomon began well but ended badly as he foolishly disregarded God's holy purposes.

Life-changing leadership principles also were applied around the topics of worship, mission, youth ministry and leadership. Pastor Abel, of Kinoni Baptist Church, and Kampala Baptist Church leaders led discussion groups covering these topics and resulted in much affirmation for the value of these ministry principles in their church settings.

Special appreciation goes to Bethel Grove Bible Church in Ithaca, NY for providing the operational funds for this annual four day event. With their help, the participants returned home with greater insight into how the Bible fits together around the gospel of Jesus Christ.

### **Prayer Requests**

- *Give thanks for the work God is doing in Uganda and beyond.*
- *Give thanks that the music CD is completed and was made available to churches and pastors at the Conference.*
- *Pray for the Ugandan Pastors and Church Leaders as they serve in remote areas and villages.*
- *Pray for Pastor Abel and Pastor Amos as they identify emerging leaders for a new round of training in Masaka area in April 2016.*
- *Pray for Pastor Mike Paris, of Ithaca's Tabernacle Baptist Church, who is joining me in Uganda and Zambia in April.*
- *Pray for me as I prepare biblical material to be taught in April.*
- *Please pray for God to clarify a proposed pastoral training trip to Indonesia in May 2016.*

### **2016 Schedule Updates**

- *Preaching at New Life Presbyterian Church, Ithaca NY on Sunday March 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am.*
- *Speaking at a Tabernacle Baptist informational event on Sunday afternoon, March 6<sup>th</sup>.*
- *Visiting West Congregational Church in Peabody, MA over the March 12-13 weekend.*
- *Leaving US on Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> for a 20 day trip to Uganda and Zambia. 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.*

### **Masaka Training**



**Large Group Teaching Session**



**Break-Out Sessions**



**Table Fellowship**



**Partnership Development**

***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.***