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# **PARTNERSHIPS**

*For Training Pastors*  
February 2018

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**Thoughts from Joyce - Oyam Home Visits:** After traveling a two-lane macadam road for several hours, we then turned off onto several dirt roads which we followed for another hour or more before turning onto what looked like a foot path edged by tall grasses and vegetation on either side. Jesus said, “*you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth...*” I think I may have truly found the “ends of the earth!” A young man appeared on the path as it diverged and guided us through the maze into the church and homes we were to visit.

We tumbled out of the van into the smiles, hugs, greetings and laughter of close friends who were so glad to see Dave again and to meet me - obviously solid, relationships have been established.

We ducked into a hut where we were introduced to the children of each pastor. We visited and chatted together before praying for these pastors, who are concerned as the elephants are ravaging their gardens, who expressed the need for logs to fix the thatched church roof blown off in a windstorm, who will need school fees for their children, who are hosting an evangelistic conference in the area... These home visits solidify our partnership like nothing else can.

But even more importantly they tell me something about these men and women who are attending the *Training the Trainers Project*. They are spread out across the villages and are uniquely on the ground with a sphere of influence like no other - their hearts beat with the drumbeats of each village. They are literally bringing their training to the ends of the earth.

It was wonderful for me to be able to travel with Dave, to see this first hand, to see God at work, and to look forward to future trainings together.



## ***Masaka Pastors and Church Leaders***

*(We are grateful for Bethel Grove Bible Church's generosity. Since 2009, in partnership with Kampala Baptist Church, BG has provided financial support to help make these January Conferences possible).*

During January 15-18, we traveled to Masaka for our annual Leadership training. More than seventy leaders studied, fellowshiped, and prayed together, centering our thoughts around the *Sermon on the Mount*. Jesus' words resonated in our hearts and challenged us all to rethink our view of righteousness and the Kingdom of God.

Several study sections spoke directly to issues erupting from false teaching found in many Ugandan churches. Sunday sermons often reflect

a popular health/wealth interpretation of Scripture. This message saturates the pulpits and local airwaves. Scripture's true intent, that addresses the corrupt nature of our hearts, is missing. Christ's teaching in the *Sermon* provides a paradigm that encourages us to look below the surface of common misinterpretations to apply the hope of the gospel message.

Also, something is desperately wrong when the popular “sow-a-seed theology” requires impoverished people to give money and other material goods to a “spiritual mediator”. In Matthew 6, one discovers how the actions of giving, praying and fasting should reflect one's true relationship with the Father. They are not designed to gain man's approval and subsequently leverage God for material blessings. So, one's attitudes and actions must be in synch.

To challenge this prevalent emphasis on Prosperity Theology requires pastoral leaders to preach the true intent of the Scripture.

**Keep these brothers and sisters in your prayers as they serve Christ by proclaiming the good news of Christ's gospel!**

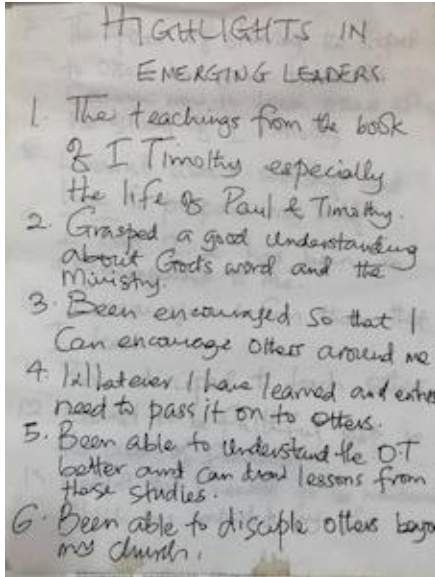


***Upcoming February 26 - March 12 Trip to Zambia*** – Joyce and I return to the southern hemisphere as we visit the Mansa Region of Zambia. Joining our partners at Choshen Farm allows us to equip and encourage the Mansa and Fimpulu pastors and church leaders. On this visit, we will teach the Poetical books, which is the final session of our *Christ in the Old Testament* study. Since 2015, the time with these friends has been very rich in fellowship. **Please pray for Jeremy and Bethany Colvin, of Choshen Farm, and for us as we prepare for this final installment of our Old Testament study.**

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**Emerging Leaders Gathering in Masaka:** A major purpose behind our Masaka visit was to meet with young adults identified as future leaders in their region. It was an exceptional time together as we affirmed them and evaluated their personal growth and progress over the year. One by one these young leaders stood and reflected on their growth, while expressing appreciation for all they have learned. (The flip-chart sheet, on the left, is one of many sheets that capture their commitment to God's Word and their call to serve the Lord).

After reviewing the year's highlights, we studied the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6. Because the discipline of prayer is essential for ministry preparation, as well as our personal relationship with our Heavenly Father, our study was well received.

This year, in partnership with Kampala Baptist Church, we will hold two Emerging Leaders sessions focusing on important spiritual formation concepts for their leadership responsibilities. **Please continue to pray for the preparation needed for these upcoming April and August sessions.**



### ***How Can You Pray?***

Pray for the churches and pastors located in Oyam's Northern and Southern districts. Especially pray for Pastors Mike, Nelson, Thomas, Samuel and Francis as they face the challenges of everyday life in Uganda while leading churches and training others to study God's Word.



Ask the Lord to encourage married couples at Kampala Baptist Church (KBC) to consider the importance of shared ministry as a couple. It was our great privilege to speak to couples, as well as ministry leaders, while in Kampala. Pray for growth in ministry

vision within this generation of young adults!

Keep our February, August and December Sessions of the **Training the Trainers Project**, well as Masaka's April and August **Emerging Leaders** sessions, in your prayers. The picture highlights my conversation with Moses, who is one of the gifted young adults involved in both projects.

In recent weeks, two new ministry contacts have presented themselves for potential partnership work. Pray for clarity and wisdom to know how best to come alongside of these ministries in order to help in appropriate ways.



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### ***Giving Thanks to God***

Covering our \$118,000 budget is a work in progress, but God is providing for this 2018 ministry year though the generosity of many people. Join us in giving thanks for his faithful ongoing provision as indicated in the following ways.

- The 2017 year-end giving goal of \$20,000 was met and exceeded as we received \$30,765 in gifts for use in global ministry.
- The J. Russell Foundation provided a second grant of \$6,500 to help cover the \$10,000 cost of three *Training the Trainers* sessions in 2018.
- Funds given in memory of Betty Schmick Hollinger, of Manheim PA, and in honor of Rich and Sharon Jacobson, formerly of Ithaca, NY, will assist in the purchase of 45 *African Bible Commentaries* for distribution in the upcoming Mansa Pastors Conference in Zambia.
- Individual gifts, as well as monthly financial support, still are needed to meet the demands of *Partnerships'* operating budget. We are grateful for all who currently partner with us in this way!
- We give thanks to God for this strong start to the year and continue to trust him for all the resources needed for ministry in 2018 and beyond.

***Thanks for your prayers, encouragement and support as we seek to serve God and train global leaders!***