

July 2016

Thoughts from Dave - On July 1st, Joyce and I entered our third year of this “new adventure”. Much has happened since I finished serving at Bethel Grove Bible Church. Partnerships are flourishing, goals have been met, funds given, and a vision for the future is becoming clearer. Daily, we are grateful for God’s providential care and provision for the work he has called us to do.

In so many ways, Joyce and I are constantly rediscovering God’s trustworthiness. As the Prophet Jeremiah insists; “Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning, great is your faithfulness.” (Lamentations 3:22, 23). In the midst of this broken world, the Lord calls us to serve lovingly in the Holy Spirit’s power. Of course, part of God’s faithfulness to us is exhibited through your love and support. Thank you for standing with us for the sake of the gospel. **Dave**

The Mwenges Visit Ithaca

Joyce and I greatly enjoyed hosting Andrew and Edith Mwenge for one week in June. As you know, Andrew is Pastor of Kampala Baptist Church (KBC) in Kampala, Uganda and is actively engaged in pastoral and leadership development across Uganda. We have joined with Andrew and KBC in fulfilling their corporate vision to equip God’s people for the gospel ministry. We are grateful for the friendship that God has given our families.



Bridal Falls on US Side

The Mwenges were visiting the US in celebration of their 25th wedding anniversary as well as connecting with churches that have a partnership with Kampala Baptist Church. Bethel Grove Bible Church (BG) is one of those churches. During their visit, Andrew spoke at a BG Sunday morning service and the International Christian Fellowship at Cornell University. Edith shared in several Bible Study events and spent time with many BG friends.



The idea of a partnership between KBC and BG began in 2007. In September, a group from BG and other Ithaca churches are heading to Kampala for KBC’s annual medical mission week. One goal, of *Partnerships For Training Pastors*, is to encourage other Majority and Western World churches to partner in gospel ministry.

Over the years, friendships with BG people have flourished as well. Dawn and Bob Jewell led our trip to Niagara Falls and shared the ride on the Maid of the Midst. It was a great day of fun, laughter and affirmation of our unity in Christ!



Accountability Group Meets June 12th

With Pastor Andrew Mwenge in Ithaca, it was natural for the *Partnerships For Training Pastors* Accountability Group to meet for prayer and ministry updates. Joyce and I are grateful for these faithful friends who ask tough questions and share seasoned wisdom.



Our time allowed us to evaluate and reconsider the role “Partnerships” is playing in Kampala Baptist Church’s ministry vision. In addition, we discussed the growing partnership work in Zambia and Indonesia. Our prayers centered on asking God for wisdom. We need to know how to respond to new opportunities, as well as how best to serve with existing partnerships God already has established. Join us in prayer for these requests. *(The picture on the left includes (L to R) John Kegarise, Bob Jewell, Andrew Mwenge, Susan Hay and me)*

Introducing An Indonesian Partner



Rev. Gabriel (Gab) Bria stands 4'8" in height, yet the reach of his pastoral impact is immense. His faith story is captured in the Fall 2010 Edition of *Word Alive*, the publication of Wycliffe Bible Translators of Canada. (To read it go to https://www.wycliffe.ca/wycliffe/resources/wa_mag.jsp?mid=23.) The article tells of one night when, as a unbelieving young man, he was staying with a Christian family in the village of Oenesu. After hearing the Bible read and observing the impact God's Word had on the family, he decided to steal their Bible. That act changed his entire life.

Gab began to read the Bible and came to trust Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Soon, he began theological studies that led to many years of pastoral ministry with GMT, the Evangelical Protestant Church of Timor. Pastor Gab is still pastoring a church and often travels long distances to serve God's people.

In May, I traveled to several West Timor churches for pastoral training. Ben Grimes and I taught through 2 Timothy with an emphasis on mentoring younger pastors and church leaders. Every session was greatly enhanced by Pastor Gab and his ability to relate to people of all ages is a great gift.



As an elder statesman, he shared his experiences and thoughts on pastoral ministry. It was riveting to see the response of the participants to his interactions. The effect of his mentoring skills is seen clearly in a relationship with Pastor Yullius, the administrative leader of the East Amarasi GMT churches (picture on left).

It is no mistake that as a young man God had Gab work as a government agriculturalist, because farming principles shaped his view of pastoral ministry. Actually, Pastor Gab is a biblical agriculturalist at heart. He delights in seeing the seeds of God's Word take root and produce fruit in people. Also, he served as part of the translation team for the Tetun New Testament that was published in 2011.

Gab takes great joy in worshipping the living God and being with him was one of the best parts of the recent Indonesian trip. *Keep Pastor Gab in your prayers as he serves Christ's church in West Timor.*

July Prayer Requests

Vision of "Partnerships For Training Pastors"

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.

Give thanks for the partnerships that God has established in Uganda, Zambia, and Indonesia during these two years of ministry. Pray that these partnerships will remain healthy and grow in scope of impact for God's glory.

Pray for the preparation of materials that will be studied in August in Uganda (Nehemiah and Leadership) and September (Prophetic Books Part 2) in Zambia. Pray for the translation of this material into several languages.

Pray for the development of emerging leaders in the aforementioned countries. Ask the Lord to provide a team to develop study materials for use in training sessions.

Pray for Joyce and me as we take two weeks of vacation in mid-July. With all the travel and the time of separation in April and May, pray that we will be physically restored in preparation for August and the fall months.

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!