

May 17, 2015

Dear Family and Friends,

Much is happening and I want to keep you up to speed with this brief letter! After 23 days in Zambia and Uganda, I arrived home the day before Mother's Day. (Timing is important in life, isn't it?) Tomorrow, I travel to Indonesia for 10 days and then go to Hong Kong over the May 28-31 weekend. Joyce and I realize it is a quick turnaround, but there is an exciting schedule established over the next two weeks! I return home on June 1st for two months of study, planning, house projects and a family vacation. I'll tell more about my upcoming trip, but first I want to share a few thoughts about the recent training in Africa.

Zambia is a beautiful country and God has opened up a wonderful connection with Jeremy and Bethany Colvin of Choshen Farm in Fimpulu village of the Mansa region. The Colvins have a large vision to press Christ's shalom into everyday life as they work and serve with the community through many projects and relationships. Also, one of their dreams is to provide biblical and theological grounding through a variety of training sessions. The April Conference was designed to teach about Christ in the Old Testament and it was well received. Another session is set for August, where we will study how Christ is portrayed in the Old Testament historical books.



In a recent e-mail update, Jeremy described the participant's response this way: "The leaders listened intently and wrestled with concepts of Old Testament Law, culture and the preeminence of Christ as the fulfillment of the Law. The "big picture" became clearer and clearer as specific stories came into focus through discussion and Q&A." My time in Fimpulu was exceptional and I am grateful to God for all that he is doing in this part of Zambia. **Please pray for Choshen Farm and their ministry in Fimpulu.**



After an eventful flight from Lusaka to Nairobi, I was able to get to Uganda and Kampala Baptist Church (KBC). My two week Uganda schedule was full of preparation and travel to Oyam and Masaka. Thanks to Pastor Andrew Mwenge, Daudi Nkuggwa and the KBC partnership for their investment in church leaders throughout these two regions. Oyam is in Northern Uganda and has fewer church resources than in many other parts of the country. Pastor Andrew taught on

church organization and leadership, while I led sessions on "How the Old Testament Fits Together" and "The Gospel in Genesis". Pastor Thomas Abach, one of the area leaders and the interpreter for the sessions, emphasized that the sessions opened eyes to see who Jesus is starting from the Old Testament to the New Testament. He spoke highly of Pastor Andrew's sessions that helped churches realize the need/importance for a church constitution. Our team returns to Oyam in November for another session. **Please keep Thomas Obach and the church leaders in your prayers.**

The final Ugandan week was spent in Masaka. Planned last November, a special ministry focus was placed on Pastors and Wives. Our theme centered on marriage, ministry and family, emphasizing how they are an integral part of the fabric of each family. It was a remarkable time as many issues were raised that needed prayer and support. Our team of five people offered four sessions on four days in four different zones of the Masaka Region. While the participants were different, many of the issues they face were the same and we were grateful for God's presence. Small accountability groups were formed so pastors and wives could continue caring and praying for each other throughout the year. ***Please pray for these sisters and brothers as they carry huge burdens at so many levels of life.***



The trip to Indonesia and Hong Kong has two components. Initially, I travel to Kupang to represent Bethel Grove Bible Church (BG) on the dedication of the Amarasi New Testament. Traveling with Gabriel Barr, a young man from BG, we will see the fruit of the translation work by Chuck and Barbara Grimes. These incredible servants have been friends for years and it is an honor to attend two dedication services on May 24 and 25. In addition, we will meet the translation team and see first-hand the impact of God's Word on God's people. Many in Bible translation work believe that completion of any translation is only a first step. They see a great need for trained pastors that clearly understand and proclaim God's Word in the heart language of their people. So, this trip will inform me of ways to partner with translators in the future. ***Pray that God will impact the larger Amarasi community with the truth of the gospel.***

Hong Kong will provide an opportunity to sit with several old and new friends to talk about the idea of training Chinese pastors. Of course, this opportunity requires much prayer and many partners to move forward.. These days are designed for me to listen to the needs of churches and discover how God might want us to be involved at this time. ***Please pray for these days in Hong Kong so that a clear sense of direction and purpose could emerge from our time together. Also, pray for the Lord's insight into how a variety of partnerships might be established to initiate training of pastors in this part of the world.***

Thanks for your prayers and for your encouragement to Joyce and me. We are grateful for the many ways the Lord has been at work and look forward to how he will lead us through this year. Both Joyce and I have "big" birthdays this year, yet we are overwhelmed at the strength of God's grace as we serve him together. At the end of June, I will send out a full report of ministry from April through June. May these days bring a greater sense of God's presence and purpose for you. Let us know how you are doing and what we can pray for you. Thanks for your friendship!

With grateful hearts,

Dave & Joyce

Our vision is to encourage and equip under-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.