

October 2018 Update

Opening Thoughts: Since January, Joyce and I have been swimming in the deep and restorative waters of the Sermon on the Mount. Studying and teaching Matthew 5-7, in Uganda and Zambia, has reminded us of the power and privilege of living for Christ and his Kingdom. Our study led us to recalculate the eternal benefits of a trusting relationship with the Father, as well as the grace the Lord gives for daily living. We are more convinced than ever that the Sermon on the Mount serves as a crisp antidote to the disease of prosperity theology which is so prevalent throughout Africa. And what's true in Africa has its parallels in America. So, we challenge you to go swimming in Matthew 5-7. Take time to reflect on the life-changing words of Jesus and join us in praying for the upcoming pastor's conference in Haiti where Jesus' Sermon will be studied once again (November 3-10). Thanks for your faithful support and prayers!

Dave and Joyce



Our Recent Uganda and Zambia Trip

Eighteen days of travel, planning, teaching, helping, encouraging, praying and building relationships allowed Joyce and me to reaffirm the great privilege of joining these global partnerships. We thank God for the way he has woven our lives into one fabric though we live on different continents. What God is doing in Uganda and Zambia brings great joy to our hearts and we look forward to what he has for these partnerships in 2019 and beyond.

Uganda Planning for 2019-2020

Under shade trees at the Uganda Wildlife Education Centre, regional church leaders and their wives began our Masaka planning conversation with an affirmation of God's work in their area. It was moving to hear how "Partnerships" work, along with Kampala Baptist Church and these Masaka leaders, has led to stabilizing growth in biblical understanding and clarity in mission. Together we thanked God for his gracious work among us.



In addition, the leaders emphasized that the Masaka region may be ready to serve as a model for mentoring and teaching of church leaders in other parts of Uganda.

Then, we began to consider and pray over our ministry focus for the next two years. It was decided that our January Masaka gathering of pastors and church leaders emphasize the multi-generational story of the Ephesian church. Throughout the year, quarterly regional gatherings also will be held to address the biblical themes of discipleship, church leadership, and marriage and family relationships that emerge from our January gathering. Our strategic emphasis will conclude in January 2020 with regional celebrations assessing what God has done.

In addition, the leaders emphasized that the Masaka region may be ready to serve as a model for mentoring and teaching of church leaders in other parts of Uganda. The key leaders of the Masaka Region (see picture) provide a wonderful model for discipleship and leadership development. The elder statesman is Aloys (L), who discipled Abel (R), who discipled Amos (C) through the years. Their humble and godly influence is being felt today. Joyce and I thank God for the privilege of partnering with these gifted leaders as we seek to encourage a new generation of pastors and church leaders in Uganda.



Our vision is to encourage and equip less-resourced pastors and church leaders through biblical teaching and development of resources. Beginning in Uganda, we will assist church leaders and mission partners as they nurture pastors and develop emerging leaders to the glory of God.

Zambia and Choshen Farm



Traveling to Mansa and Fimpulu, from the capital city of Lusaka, involves many miles on Zambian roads. Our 12-hour trip proved to be a wonderful reconnection with Jeremy and Bethany Colvin and their children. As we talked, laughed, shifted seats, and endured the heat, we put together a plan that would maximize our nine days together. Joyce and I sensed that God's timing for this visit was perfect, as the Colvins were walking through some ministry challenges and health issues. We thank God for the privilege of joining our partners in creative and helpful ways.

For three of the days, eighty pastors and church leaders gathered to study the Sermon on the Mount. Together, Joyce and I taught through this magnificent section of Scripture where Jesus uncovers the motives and machinations of pharisaical religion. The Sermon emphasizes that one's true identity is discovered and experienced through the grace of God's kingdom. Join us in praying that our brothers and sisters will continue to embrace this truth, so that the firm foundation of Christ and his words (Matthew 7:24-27) will keep his people on the right path and bring glory to the Father.



As we prepared to return home, Jeremy told us that the Mansa pastor's fellowship wants us to return twice next year to continue our study of the New Testament. This trip was the seventh visit to Choshen Farm and our relationship with the pastors runs very deep. We count it an immense privilege to share our lives and be invited back next year to study God's Word with our friends. These pastors and church leaders are located in a strategic part of Zambia that is immersed in African Traditional Religion and witchcraft. Keep them in your prayers and ask the Lord to sort out the 2019 details.

Prayer Requests

- *Pray for Dave's November 2-10 trip to the southwestern region of Haiti for a Pastor's Conference with the GivingAll organization and for Joyce as she remains in Ithaca.*
- *Pray for extended study time to develop materials on the Ephesian Church that will be presented in Uganda at November's Training of Trainers Project and at the Masaka Pastor's Conference in January.*
- *As we move toward 2019, pray for God's provision of financial resources as we clarify global ministry plans.*
- *Give thanks for God's incredible grace that has united our hearts with partners around the world.*

Highlights from Accountability Group Meeting on October 9th

Affirmed our strong partnership ministry collaboration around the world.

Gave thanks for the many individuals and churches that support this ministry in a variety of ways, praying that the Lord will continue to lead this ministry forward.

Pastor Andrew Mwenge emphasized our partnership ministry impact in Uganda.

Affirmed continuation of developing and providing biblical resources for training.

Considered new opportunities for pastoral training and need for resources.

Highlighted the need for additional revenue for 2019-20 and established a goal of \$30,000 for additional year-end giving.

