

February 2019

Opening Thoughts – Joyce and I are back in Ithaca after our 18-day Uganda trip. In many ways, this journey was a wonderful reminder of the significant partnerships that the Lord has nurtured over 11 years. May this Update help you understand the joy and privilege we have in serving the Lord with our Ugandan partners.

Masaka Pastors and Church Leaders Training

Our visit to Masaka wrapped-up our yearly large group Masaka Pastors and Church Leaders sessions. After ten years of biblical and leadership study, a transitional strategy is now in place. This new approach will build on our January study of Ephesians with quarterly day-long regional events in 2019. Led by Kampala Baptist Church and other Ugandan leaders, discipleship will be the main topic in Masaka/Kinoni; Luti; Malongo; and Kyamlibwa/Kigasal zonal sessions scheduled for May, August, November and January 2020. **Pray that these sessions will enhance the ministry of Masaka churches.**



Individuals that attended every session over the 10 years



During this recent January gathering, we studied Ephesians and together caught a renewed vision of what the church should be. On the final morning, we concluded our study in Ephesians chapter six, where Paul explains the armor of God that helps his people STAND against the schemes of the evil one. Then we prayed. Using Paul’s prayers in Ephesians chapters one, three and six, we asked the Lord to encourage his church in Masaka, in Uganda, and around the world with these truths.

It was only fitting that we celebrated the relationships and growth the Lord has forged in the Masaka Region. With streamers and little hearts tumbling down on our heads, we cut two beautiful cakes highlighting our years together. We thanked God for his faithfulness. Celebrating what the Lord has done was a wonderful ending to a full week of being together. ***Please keep the Masaka regional churches and pastors in your prayers as they transition into 2019.***



Maska Emerging Leaders

One of the bright spots is the number of young adults that are serving in a variety of church positions. They include youth leaders, choir and music coordinators, along with several who have been encouraged to pastor churches. It is crucial to keep in touch with these emerging leaders as they gain more responsibility in their respective churches.

As we met in Masaka, we heard what God is doing in their lives and their desire to grow in their faith. It was natural for Joyce to teach on Daniel and the maturing process that made him a godly leader for decades. ***Pray for these young adults as they find their way in serving and encouraging others to see Jesus more clearly.***

“My name is Nsamba Martin, a pastor from Kyamukama Baptist Church. I thank God to use people I don’t know where they are coming from, for the grace of God to teach me how to read the Bible to live Scripture and to teach the Bible in the church and community. May God bless them so much.” A Pastor at the January 14-18 Masaka Training

2018 in Review - Visit <http://partnershipsfortraining.org/2018-in-review/> and give thanks with us for the great privilege of being involved in God's gracious work around the world.

Training of Trainers Project- 2019 is the final year of this initial three-year Project. Our January 21-25 session provided the opportunity to review the book of Ephesians, have an in-depth study on marriage, parenting and workplace relationships in Ephesians 5:21-6:9, and hear the participants presentations on four important issues currently facing the Ugandan church. Working with these leaders on their teaching skills is an important part this final year of training. We are seeing growth in their communication skills and we are grateful for the shared fellowship of the group.

The remainder of 2019 will seek to grow these skills through practice. Between now and August, participants will hold two regional training sessions and develop a strategy for future training sessions. After an August week-long training, they will hold another training session and prepare for our final gathering in November. At that time, we will invite the leader's wives to join us for a weekend in Kampala, when we will consider the issues of marriage and ministry. Also, we will hold a celebration ceremony at Kampala Baptist Church affirming God's grace and purpose in the training of these leaders. **Pray for them as they train others in the regions of Uganda.**

Addressing Issues Facing the Ugandan Church

The need for a strategy that ministers to the exploding youth population (75% of population under 30 years old).

How can one teach illiterate people so that they can understand the Word of God?

In the face of abundant witchcraft practices, how should leaders encourage people to live without fear in the midst of evil?

How can the church maintain the "we of community" in a world where relationships are defined by digital and media connections?



A Note from Joyce - One of the guys, at the Training of Trainers Project, popped up and said to the others, "I think it's time to give Mama Joyce a thank you gift!" They all jumped up and began loudly conferring trying to decide what would be an appropriate gift. "Flowers," yes, "flowers" they concluded and then with alacrity each of them busily turned here and there, singing, laughing and "picking flowers." Finally, they all drew together, gathering their "flowers" into a large "bouquet" and with much laughter, joy and expressions of thanksgiving, they threw them into my waiting arms.

"Nothing" became "something" - the most beautiful bouquet I have ever received! And so, we pass this beautiful thank you "bouquet of flowers" on to you because with your help a beautiful "something" has been created here. We have watched these guys grow in their knowledge of God's Word and in their readiness to teach others which has already begun! Breathe deeply and enjoy the "flowers" and God's work as much as we do.



financial support given on a monthly basis and pray with us about the Lord's continued provision in 2019.

Prayer Points for February

Give thanks for this group of emerging leaders (picture on left) as they serve the Lord in their local churches.

Pray for Dave's upcoming trip to Peru and Ecuador (Feb 26 – March 12) as he seeks to encourage individuals desiring to train pastors within regions of their countries.

Pray for Kampala Baptist Church as they develop discipleship material that will be used in Masaka zonal meetings later this year.

Give thanks with us for the faithful prayer and

Contact Dave and Joyce Jones at dave@partnershipsfortraining.org - 607-273-1614 and visit www.partnershipsfortraining.org for more ministry information

Copyright © Dave and Joyce Jones 2019. All rights reserved.