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Elburg, March 11, 2020

“The assemblies therefore were confirmed in the faith, and increased in number every day” (Acts 16:5).

Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,

In His grace, the Lord continues the ministry of the Gospel and of the Assembly (Col. 1:23-25) in East Africa. From January 18 to February 19, visits took place in Rwanda and in Western, Central, and Eastern Uganda. During the visit in Western Uganda, discussions took place with responsible brothers from Northeast Congo, and consultations with responsible brothers from Kenya took place during the visit in Eastern Uganda. Brothers John Redekop and Mike DeJonge (Canada) accompanied me on the latter visit to provide technical consultation for local construction in Busia and to participate in a Bible conference in Mukono. You will find their report in this newsletter.

They work the work of the Lord (see 1 Cor. 16:10)

Brothers from the aforementioned countries are increasingly contributing to the ministry of the Gospel and of the Assembly (Col. 1:23-25). They perform their daily work to leave as much time as possible to continue this service in their respective countries.

There is a great need for systematic teaching, especially in the villages, and these brothers have the calling and the gift to clearly explain the Word. They also know the living conditions and needs of the brothers and sisters in the villages, and can therefore deal with many practical topics from the Word. Many of them translate from their tribal language into English or French during Bible conferences in their country and/or region (see photos at the bottom of this newsletter).

- Northeast Congo



Brothers from Mputu/Mombasa and other places regularly make < visits to the villages, several of which are located far into the forest. Despite the poor condition of the roads, especially in the rainy season, they faithfully continue the ministry of the Gospel and of the Assembly. Their service is complicated by increasing attacks by rebels on the Mambasa-Mayuao-Biakato road.

Several brothers fled from their villages to Mputu, where we try to help them. Just this week, some brothers are visiting a district where the local chief has asked to open a Bible Center. He spoke with the brothers about the necessity of biblical teaching for the youth who are exposed to ancestor worship and associated customs.

- West Uganda

Young brothers are very active in the work among children and young people in schools in the town of Kasese and surrounding villages. Several of these villages are located in hard-to-reach mountain areas.

They work in the Christian bookstore in Kasese two days a week, where they also regularly translate brochures, tracts, and songs into Lhukonzo. They regularly hold camps in Western and Eastern Uganda and Northeast Congo (Mputu) in collaboration with local brothers and sisters.

Three sisters regularly visit schools to provide AIDS education. They have permission to combine these lessons with gospel preaching.

- Central and Eastern Uganda

Several brothers regularly visit the many places where local assemblies gather or where groups of believers and those interested have requested Bible studies. In recent years, brothers and sisters have started breaking bread in fifteen places. They need regular teaching from the Word of God, but the local brothers do not have the time to visit them regularly. In addition, there are always new invitations from other villages from those who are looking for biblical answers to questions about repentance and eternal security.

- Rwanda

As in the aforementioned countries, brothers make a quarterly travel schedule to visit meetings and groups of believers/interested parties. One of these brothers regularly contacts his fellow villagers to preach the gospel to them. As a result, his local assembly has grown in numbers. He also regularly visits a small neighbouring assembly where the Lord has given the same spiritual and numerical growth. The visits to Matiba, where nine brothers and sisters were baptized last year, also continue. These brothers and sisters would like to start breaking bread, but there is not yet a building available that meets the requirements of local administrators.

Bible conferences

You can understand from what has been written above that there are multiple reasons that prevent regular visits in the villages and towns of our brethren. We are therefore grateful that we can regularly invite them to three-day Bible conferences and that we have the necessary buildings in several areas. These conferences offer brothers and sisters the opportunity to systematically reflect on the Word of God. They do this in an atmosphere of peace and community, without having to worry about meals or work on the fields and in the plantations.

- Mputu, Bible Conference Center (Northeastern Congo)

In addition to the three-day Bible conferences, bi-monthly Bible studies also take place for brothers who minister the Word in their meetings. We have completed Bible studies on the dispensations and have begun systematic studies on the books of the New Testament. The next three-day Bible conference is scheduled for May and I hope to be able to attend it.

- Mpondwe (West Uganda)

The meeting hall turned out to be too small for the brothers and sisters and other interested individuals. Therefore, the local brothers set up tents in the area behind the hall. We were grateful that it wasn't raining or windy. The brothers from Northeast Congo with whom I had held discussions also attended this conference.

During my visit we studied the letter to the Philippians. Together we were edified by this encouraging letter about the Christian way of life, written to a local assembly that was affected by poverty (2 Cor. 8), but owed much love and commitment to Paul and his ministry. Key words for the Christian walk in this letter include joy and fellowship. Paul himself is the example of such a walk, because Christ is everything to him: Chapter 1, his life; Chapter 2, his example; Chapter 3, his purpose; Chapter 4, his joy and strength.

- Kigali (Rwanda)

The subject of the three-day Bible conference in the large meeting hall of the Bible Center was summarized in an outline of subjects from the two letters to the Thessalonians. >

This outline was translated by the local brothers into Kinyarwanda. From this overview we have considered the topics below; Lord willing, the other subjects will be studied at a next visit:

1. The basis, the center, and the result of gospel preaching (Acts 17: 1-4).
2. The three relationships that Christians enjoy (Father, Lord, gift of the Spirit; 1 Thess.



1:1; 4:8) and the practical walk that results from the personal experience of these three relationships, namely:

- a. 1 Thess. 1:4, loved by God; 2 Thess. 2:13, loved by the Lord;
 - b. 1 Thess. 5, the God of peace; 2 Thess. 3:16, the Lord of peace;
 - c. 1 Thess. 4:1-8
 - i. The will of God and how to please God (v. 3)
 - ii. Exhortations in the Lord Jesus and commandments by the Lord Jesus (vv. 1,2)
 - iii. The Holy Spirit dwells in our body (v 4-8);
 - d. A good testimony and a willingness to work for a living: 1 Thess. 4: 11,12; 2 Thess. 3:6-15.
3. The expectation of the blessed hope and appearance of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ in 1 and 2 Thessalonians.

- Mukono (Central Uganda)

We also discussed the above subjects from the two letters to the Thessalonians during the three-day Bible conference in Mukono. I was very grateful to the Lord that brother < John Redekop could attend this conference. The conference took place in a rented space, because the Bible Center is too small for the many people present.

We were able to buy a plot in Mukono that is conveniently located on the main road from Kampala to Ninja/Busia. This plot is very suitable for a Bible center with a large meeting hall for Bible conferences. It is also close to several schools and universities with thousands of students. We would like to establish more regular contact with these students and hold meetings with them in the planned hall.

- Busia (Eastern Uganda)

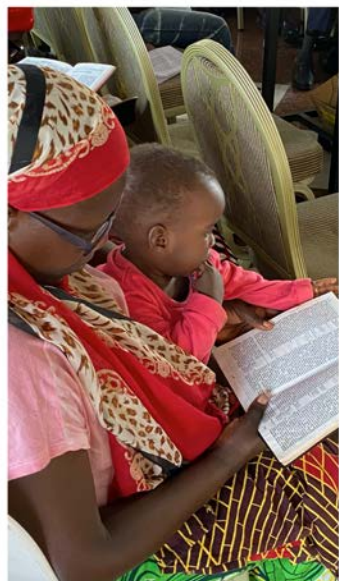
During the last ten days of my visit the brothers Mike DeJonge and John Redekop were able to accompany me to Busia and Mukono. These brothers wrote the following about their visit:

"We are thankful to the Lord when we consider the greatness and magnitude of His work around the world, and that we would be privileged to serve Him in some small way within that work. That the Lord would use such as we are, wherever we are in service for Him, and to bear testimony to His great name is yet another wonder of His infinite grace.

During the weeks of February 5- 17, we had the privilege of visiting some of the saints in both Busia and Mukono, Uganda. When coming together to remember the Lord in Busia, it soon became very evident that the meeting room (a classroom in a previous private school) was going to be far too small based on the saints that came from neighbouring assemblies, hearing of our visit. The solution was to move the meeting outside. > A tent would have to be set up first in order to protect the saints from the elements. In our case it was simply the sun, but when saints are sitting for a total period of 5 hours to remember the Lord, and listen to the ministry of the word, this protection becomes paramount.

We were able to meet with responsible national brethren to have open discussion regarding the construction of the proposed Bible Centre in Busia. The local brethren displayed a sincere desire and exercise for this work, and we can say with those who built in Nehemiah's day, "the people had a mind to work". We were able to stress with the brethren the importance of being faithful stewards with what the Lord has put in our hands to do, in order to glorify Him in and through it.

Much time was spent, through numerous meetings, in reviewing construction details that would both satisfy the structural integrity of the building, but at the same time reduce the costs required to build it. The first stage



of construction is to consist of all foundation work, and concrete floor. A budget for this stage has been prepared, and reviewed and edited several times to minimize costs, yet achieve the required result. Brethren are actively searching for the supply of building materials that will help achieve this goal.

We are also thankful that much of the labour can be supplied by brothers in Christ. This not only encourages brethren in their practical walk and testimony together for a common cause, but also helps them support their families at home.

We are thankful to the Lord for supplying the necessary funds for this first stage of construction. The brethren are ready and committed to begin work immediately once the final budget for this first stage has been approved. This is but the first stage. The work is large. But, the Lord is also doing a great work in this country. There is a hunger and freshness for the word, that has a first love characteristic.

We were able to experience this first hand on a number of occasions.

One morning we went to a small country village named Buyenge. Here we met a few brothers and sisters who had invited others to attend a time of gospel and ministry. Over the course of a couple of hours more and more individuals came to hear the word, and have a time of open discussion and questions. Soon there was a group of about 50 people attentively listening to the word. At the end of these studies a young brother stood up and expressed how encouraged he was, expressing that the ministry that was given all presented the same Christ and the same truth...“Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed” (1 Cor. 15:11). >

We were also able to hold a three day conference in Mukono, to which about 200 attended. We had studies on the two letters to the Thessalonians.

How encouraging to have a young brother tell you that he is taking down notes from the Bible teachings so he can go back to his village and “teach others also.” Is this not what we are called to do?

The Lord’s work is dramatically expanding in this country. There are many new contacts, and much desire for the truth, in a country that has and is steeped in idolatry. How wonderful that just like in the days when the apostle Paul preached in Thessalonica, and the word was received, and they “turned to God from idols, to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His son from heaven”, that today in this day of grace the message is the same.

The work is great, but our God is able. May the Lord help us to be faithful in service to him. He will accomplish what He has in His mind to do.

“He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it” (1 Thess. 5:24).

Sponsorship

Sisters Kayiganwa Godelive and Kamagaju Winnifred faithfully continue the work among the more than 200 sponsored children in Kigali, Rwanda. There are weekly meetings for gospel outreach where the children also get a meal, home visits, management, and distribution of funds for these children.

This project was established a few years ago in consultation and administrative cooperation with local officials who are responsible for social work in their district. With every visit I notice how these sisters do this work with all their heart and build a personal relationship with the children.

In addition, we have a sponsorship project with which you can provide school fees and clothing to one or more children. You can find more information about this on the following website: www.allthenations.info/sponsor-a-child/. This time we particularly recommend children in Uganda. The child you choose will receive loving care and will also regularly hear the gospel.

Through this child, the gospel also reaches their family through regular home visits. The sisters responsible for this work often have in-depth conversations during which they find that many parents and



guardians place great value on religion, but have no personal relationship with God through repentance to Him and faith in the Lord Jesus.

In Western Uganda, sisters Ayebale Scovia, Biira Agnes, and Masika Denize are responsible for evangelism, house visits, management, and distribution of funds for these children; in Central Uganda, sisters Kirabo Esther and Nakabira Christine; and in Eastern Uganda, sister Mukisa Betty.

Work among sisters and in families

Meetings take place in Rwanda where sisters encourage each other from the Word according to Titus 2:2. Brothers in the countries that I regularly visit also make home visits to encourage parents and children. However, many brothers in these countries have been praying with me for several years that sisters, preferably two, feel called by the Lord to serve Him among sisters and youth in these countries, especially in Uganda and Rwanda.

We use < materials from sisters Birgit Granz and Marion Franke, but the need for a permanent stay of such sisters in East Africa is great. It is possible for sisters to visit Northeast Congo during one of my travels, but it is not safe enough to settle there. But is possible in the other countries mentioned above.

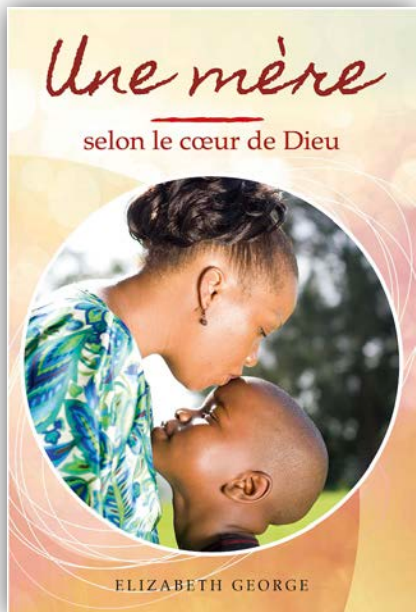
We are very grateful to the Lord, and to many brothers and sisters and meetings for their prayers and practical support!

With warm greetings in our faithful Lord,

Hilvert Wijnholds

PS:

Lord willing, brother Paul Meijer and I will visit South Africa from March 23 to April 6. Paul travels back on April 2, because he has a lecture in London on April 4. Brother Tony Egglestone and I will be in Cape Town from April 3-6 to visit brothers who moved from Uganda to Capetown.



✓ A few of the national workers and translators in East Africa ✓
They work the work of the Lord (see 1 Cor. 16:10)