

Elburg, 30 May 2026

“They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayers” (Acts 2:42)

Dear brothers and sisters,

Fellowship

At the end of my seven-week visit to East Africa, I would like to highlight a great privilege: we can look back on seven consecutive Lord’s Days in different places and in different countries, where we have been able to proclaim the death of the Lord Jesus “until He comes”!

- in Nyamata and Kigali (Rwanda)
- in Beni (North-East Congo)
- in Mukono (Central Uganda)
- in Nairobi and Mombasa (Kenya)
- in Kyanduli (Western Uganda).



Nyamata



Kigali



Kigali



Beni



Mukono



Nairobi



Mombasa



▲ Kyanduli, near the spot where I accompanied Ernie and Marilyn Barnes as they pitched their tent there for Bible studies in 1999

“So the assembly throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase”
(1. Spiritual growth)
(2. Numerical growth)

“The adversary always seeks to prevent the Lord’s death from being proclaimed, for through death HE destroyed him who held the power of death, that is, the devil, and set free all those who, through fear of death, were subject to slavery all their lives” (Hebrews 2:14-15).

➤ **This fellowship in the breaking of bread** was accompanied by **fellowship in the ministry** with brothers who serve the Lord in these **four countries**. Over the past 51 years, I have enjoyed fellowship in the ministry with many brothers in West and East Africa. As I now mention some of them in this report, I also think with gratitude of the many who accompanied me on other journeys.

- In **Rwanda**, local brothers once again regularly took part in the discussion of the topic of the three-day Bible conference in Nyamata. During home visits in Kamembe and the surrounding area, the local brothers and I complemented one another in our study of the relevant Scripture passages.

- The stay at the Bible Conference Centre (BCC) in Mputu, **DR Congo**, had to be cancelled due to rebel attacks in the immediate vicinity of Mambasa. As a result, the MAF pilots had suspended flights to Mambasa. However, MAF flew me to the town of Beni, where I held discussions on spiritual and practical aspects of the work, as well as Bible studies, with brothers from Beni, Mputu, Biakato and Butembo.

- From Beni, we travelled by Landcruiser to **Western Uganda**, where, together with brothers from Central and Western Uganda, I attended meetings in the hilly area between Kyanduli and the Rwenzori Mountains. We enjoyed the brotherly exchange of thoughts on God's Word, including during the journeys in the Landcruiser.

- Via Mukono in Central Uganda, I travelled with three brothers from **Rwanda** and three brothers from **Uganda** to Busia (Kenya) for a series of Bible studies over three days. Two brothers from Mombasa, **Kenya**, also took part in the discussions. One of them attended the Bible studies in meetings in Nairobi and accompanied me to Mombasa. Two brothers from Mombasa accompanied me on visits to meetings south of Mombasa. Encouraging experiences!

- At the end of my journey, I was back in western Uganda, where the third girls' camp (see below) took place during my trip. Brethren from **North-East Congo** and **Central** and **Western Uganda** joined me. The Lord granted grace to find answers **together** in Scripture regarding current spiritual needs. A brother from Uganda emphasized the great need for regular mutual contact and the exchange of ideas so that the adversary is given no opportunity to damage the unity of the work in the four countries mentioned.



Bible conference in Nyamata: brothers from Rwanda and Uganda



Bible conference in Nyamata: brothers from Kigali and Kamembe, Rwanda



Bible studies in Beni, DR Congo: a brother from Mputu,



In Western Uganda: a brother from Central Uganda and one from Western Uganda



A brother from Nairobi

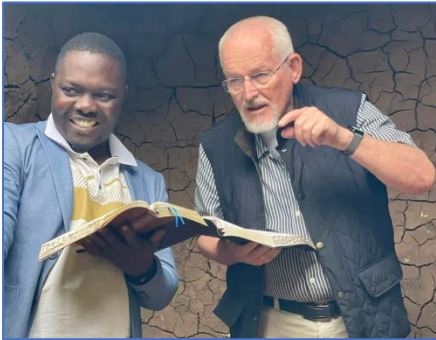


Bible study in Nairobi: a brother from Mombasa (r)

- In His grace, the Lord has provided many local brothers who, **individually and together**, serve the Lord in their own country and in neighboring countries. We can describe each of them as: "brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier" (Phil. 2:25) and "God's servant" (1 Thess. 3:2). It is my privilege to be a fellow worker alongside them.

➤ This fellowship was also accompanied by **fellowship with brothers who bear administrative responsibility** in their own country. The Lord granted fruitful discussions in brotherly consultation and

harmony. These brothers carry out their duties in the awareness that they are accountable to God and men (1 Cor. 8).



Bible studies in Western Uganda



Bible studies in Southern Kenya



Brother Muigai (Mombasa)



Administrative group in Rwanda



^ in DR Congo and in Kenya >



Youth camps

Since February, sisters Jodie Böhne from Germany and Stephanie Izabayo from Rwanda have been helping with youth and children's work, weekly meetings with sponsored children, and home visits to parents and/or guardians in Rwanda.

During my trip, three camps took place for young sisters and interested young people aged 16 to 22. Contacts with many participants were established through the regular distribution of the magazine "The Christian Explorer" in schools and through gospel outreach that brothers are permitted to hold in these schools.

Meetings with sponsored children



Jodie and Stephanie



Home visits



The first camp took place in April in Rwanda during my stay in Uganda, the other two during my visits to Southern Kenya and Western Uganda.

The local sisters had prepared these camps excellently in terms of the Bible topic, supervision, the division into discussion groups, and the orderliness of the meals, which were served on time. These sisters also experienced **the blessing of fellowship in ministry**, all the more so because some sisters **from Uganda** helped out in **Rwanda** and **Kenya**, and a sister from **Rwanda** helped out in **Kenya** and **Uganda**.





The topic for these three camps was 'The Life of Ruth', which was taught by Jodie and Stephanie during the camps. The participants received a booklet in which the Book of Ruth is printed in multiple languages (English/French and Kinyarwanda, Swahili (DR Congo), Swahili (Kenya), Luganda and Lhukonzo) and questions have also been added regarding the Bible passages covered. These questions were discussed in groups led by a sister.

< For several years now, brothers in Mpondwe, Uganda, have been printing the brochures and questions on the subject themselves in a multilingual booklet, which is used **during Bible conferences and youth camps** in the four countries visited. The discussion of the questions in groups consistently proves to be very edifying and instructive.



Camp in Nyamata, Rwanda,



Group discussions



All participants and leaders



Camp in Mombasa, Kenya



^ Reading Bible passages aloud



^ Answering questions

The digital piano proved very useful at the camps for teaching songs. Even the local brothers and sisters asked ..

... Jodie helps them learn the melodies of songs and sing them better at the meetings



Camp in Kyanduli, Western Uganda



Group discussions



Group discussions

During these three camps, hundreds of students aged between 16 and 22 were taught the Word of God and heard the gospel of repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus. Please pray that the believers among them will be so encouraged by Ruth's choices that they will continue their walk with the Lord. Please also pray that the gospel proclaimed may reach the hearts and consciences of those who have not yet been converted.

Bible studies in villages

In recent decades, many Bible conferences have taken place in East Africa. During these conferences, New Testament epistles are usually studied, which helps the brothers and sisters in the countries concerned (and all of us!) to **“devote themselves to the apostles’ teaching”**.

However, it is my experience that it is equally necessary to visit these brothers and sisters in their villages for Bible studies and home visits. The better visiting brothers get to know the local brothers and sisters in their daily circumstances and difficulties, the more their teaching during conferences will align with existing spiritual needs and not go over their heads theoretically. [Visits in southern Rwanda >](#)



[Visits in Western Uganda](#)



[Visits in Western Uganda](#)



[Visits in Western Kenya](#)



[^ Visits in Southern Kenya >>](#)



[^ in a Masai settlement](#)



[^ local assembly in the village of Mwambo](#)

“Delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love”

In 2022, a very interesting book was published by authors from, among others, the D.R. Congo, covering many aspects of society in the Mambasa district, north-east Congo. The foreword states, among other things: *“Christianity made its way into the Mambasa region in the 1900s. Missionaries established mission stations with health centres, a reasonably well-organised education system and Bible schools. From these mission stations, churches and medical facilities emerged in the region. This led to the establishment of numerous churches in various villages, with the direct consequence being the spread of the Gospel and the decline of traditional beliefs and customs that were not in accordance with the Gospel.”*

Towards the end of the 1990s, however, a strong wave of traditional beliefs and customs swept through the region. As a result, a number of developments were observed, including a significant decline in the number of believers, people leaving churches, and the younger generation abandoning education in favour of rites of passage.”

The brothers in North-East Congo confirm this growing trend towards a return to ancestral worship and customs. A trend which can also be observed in their neighboring countries. Please pray for those brothers and sisters who, in their villages, are constantly exposed to attacks by rebels and now also to the deadly effects of Ebola? They need our prayers so that, “out of fear of death” (Heb. 2:14,15), they do not start using amulets under pressure from their families or fellow villagers.

With warm brotherly greetings in our faithful Lord,

Hilvert Wijnholds (2 Cor. 13:13)