

The VINE & BRANCHES



The Newsletter of WORKERS TOGETHER WITH HIM, INC.

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Jesus said, "For without Me, ye can do nothing."

God bless you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

May the blessings of the Easter season abide with you continually.

Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. (John 14:19)

This newsletter has a few more pages than usual, not only because of the abundance of print-worthy articles that were sent in, but because of our special report on the February trip to Uganda, East Africa. I hope you enjoy them all.

You may also notice a difference in this issue in the way the King James Bible is presented. For the first time in any Workers Together With Him publication, those words that are italicized in the KJV Bible are also italicized here. Many thanks to Daniel Bucher of Walenstadt, Switzerland, for his gift of the BibleWorks software that (along with a myriad of other tasks) allows the user to "cut and paste" the Scriptures into a word processor and still maintain the italics.

I am very excited to announce that the German translation of the Weapons of Our Warfare book, Die Waffen unseres Kampfes is now in print. I would like to thank Mrs. Beatrice Mantock of Schüpfen, Switzerland for what has truly been a labor of Christian love. Thanks also to her husband David for his great support of this project. David and Beatrice can certainly be counted among the "workers" of Workers Together With Him. This is the second time Beatrice has translated one of my books into German, the first being Auf Der Strasse Des Königs Gehen, the German version of Walking On The King's Highway.

David was one of my companions on the February trip to Uganda. His report, and well as that of Rev. Steve Monahan, is in this issue of The VINE & BRANCHES.

Sir Winston Churchill called Uganda "The Pearl of Africa" and I believe all of us who traveled there now certainly agree. I join my brothers in expressing great thankfulness to God for a very successful mission trip, and to the very able men and women of God who assisted us during our stay there.

Once in Uganda, we were assisted immeasurably by two dynamic men of God, Rev. Fred Kisubi, pastor of Doves Haven Gospel Power Centre, and Bro. Henry Musana. By now, many of you have heard of Henry and how God brought us together in Tanzania. While Henry was on a mission to South Africa, Rev. Kisubi made the preliminary arrangements for our visit. This burden fell upon him at the same time he was making arrangements to relocate his church and preparing for the bridal presentation of his very lovely fiancée, Sarah, who is also the secretary at Doves Haven – all this along with his daily responsibilities as pastor. These three people in particular made our entire trip a joy. Both Fred and Henry contributed articles to this issue.

The Weapons of Our Warfare seminar was presented twice over the course of two weeks, first in the capital city of Kampala, and then in the town of Mbale in east Uganda. In Kampala, the seminar was held at the Word of God Redeemed Church. Pastor Fredrick Njawuzi and his assistant Benjamin Odongkara made a tremendous contribution to the success of this class.

While in Kampala we visited the "Caring Mission" youth fellowship pastored by Peter Lukaaga. We were all deeply impressed by the virtuous young people we met. Learn more about Caring Mission at: www.caringmission.faithweb.com.

The Mbale seminar was held at the Pearl Haven Church, a dynamic work pastored by a dynamic man, Rev. Wilberforce Okumu and his wife Sarah. Their website truthfully declares that at Pearl Haven, "the lordship of Jesus Christ is sacred and liberty in the Holy Spirit is a privilege for every one." We knew we were in the company of a very special congregation, and we enjoyed our time together immensely. I'd particularly like to commend Missions Coordinator, Tom Mugisha Goodman, who was a great blessing to me. I also thank Youth Pastor, Jackson Baraza, for graciously allowing me to speak to his congregation.

The people of Pearl Haven are in the opening stages of

building a new church facility. The new church will be quite beautiful, but it could never be as beautiful as the hearts of the Christians who attend there. Pearl Haven has a very fine website that tells you about their work, their ministers, and about Uganda itself. Please take the time to visit it at: www.livingwateruganda.com.

Finally, I want to give special thanks to the young man who served as my interpreter for *both* classes, Joshua Wamala, and to our faithful driver, Benon.

All in all, my trip to Uganda was a joyful time in the fields of the Lord. As Steve's report indicates, it was far from fun and games, and I learned many hard but valuable lessons.

Two weeks after I returned from Uganda, my wife and I flew to England where I presented my new class, "The Fundamentals of Our Faith." Once again we were beautifully hosted by Rev. Jerome Lucas and his wife, Aine. This seminar was held at the Centre For Christ in Devon. As usual, Nelly and I had a wonderful and heartfelt time of fellowship with these Christians. The class itself was a success as well, (although, as usual I've already begun working on improvements for the next presentation). I look forward to my next trip to Devon, where I will be teaching the Weapons of Our Warfare seminar for young people in August.

In May, I will be returning to the Liberty House of Prayer in Independence, Louisiana for the presentation of the Weapons of Our Warfare seminar. One new aspect of this class is that I will be sharing the teaching burden with Revs. Pyle and Monahan. This is a big step forward in our work and vision.

There has been a change in our summer plans. We will not be returning to Tanzania this July as we originally planned. Instead, I will be teaching a special Weapons of Our Warfare class in Uganda that will be only for active ministers of the Gospel. This class will have a limited enrollment so that we can give more individual attention to the students. This class is at the request of Rev. John Robert Opio, founder of Christian Life Teachings International. Rev. Opio's work includes teaching "pastors and Christian leaders living in rural/remote areas who are unable to attend Traditional Bible colleges or Seminaries." Sounds like a "perfect fit" to me! Once again, our friend and co-worker Henry will help to organize this event.

Thank you again and again for your prayers and support of this work! I pray the Lord grants us occasion to be together soon!

Rev. Tim Sullivan



Christ OUR Passover

By Rev. Tim Sullivan

As is the case for all "Christian" or "church" holidays, the roots of Easter are both holy and profane. The name Easter comes from "Eostre," the Saxons' goddess of springtime and fertility. The annual festival of Eostre was celebrated in April, as the deadness of winter gave way to the new life of spring.

With the Christianizing of the Gentile nations, Eostre was "converted" into a Church holy day. The pagan rites of spring were synthesized with the Hebrew Passover. At least among Christians, the Passover became less about the Hebrews' exodus from Egypt and more about the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (Interestingly, the one occurrence of the word "Easter" in the King James Bible in Acts 12:4 is the only place the royal translators chose not to use the word "Passover" for the corresponding Aramaic word.) In the Western Church, the celebration of Easter was held on Sunday, "the first day of the week" (Matt. 28:1) which was the day of the Lord's Resurrection. Now, instead of the resurrection of spring, we celebrate the resurrection of Christ.

Some Christians object to calling this day Easter Sunday on the grounds of fraternizing with the enemy. I believe Paul has the best answer to this point of view: Better pack your bags for a long trip ahead.

I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. (1 Corinthians 5:9-10)

Paul's admonition comes very conveniently on the tail of his instructions to the Corinthians on the keeping of the Passover. Please note that the church at Corinth was by and large a congregation of converted Gentiles.

Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. (1 Corinthians 5:7-8)

Writing to these Gentile converts, Paul wrote of Christ OUR Passover. This is nothing less than astounding. Never before had Passover been spoken of as anything

but a Hebrew memorial. In the Old Testament, the Passover did not commemorate what God did for the people of the world, but what God did for the Children of Israel.

Observe the month of Abib, and keep the passover unto the LORD thy God: for in the month of Abib the LORD thy God brought thee forth out of Egypt by night. (Deuteronomy 16:1)

God brought His people Israel out of the land of bondage. This feast was for them.

Let the children of Israel also keep the passover at his appointed season. (Numbers 9:2)

The Law of Moses forbade strangers to partake in the Passover meal.

And the LORD said unto Moses and Aaron, This is the ordinance of the passover: There shall no stranger eat thereof: (Exodus 12:43)

Today, we use the word “stranger” to describe someone who is not well known to us. This was not the meaning to the children of Israel. A stranger was anyone who was not Hebrew. By definition, to be an Israelite was to be born of the seed of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Someone who was not Hebrew born – even if he were a convert to Judaism and spent his entire life amongst the Children of Israel – was always considered a stranger.

And when a stranger shall sojourn with thee, and will keep the passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as one that is born in the land: for no uncircumcised person shall eat thereof. (Exodus 12:48)

A convert to Judaism became “one that is born in the land” in that certain privileges were extended to him. However, a Gentile who accepted the tenets of the Hebrew faith did not become a Jew; he became a proselyte. This is true throughout the Bible as shown in the continual distinction made between Jews and proselytes.

Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God. (Acts 13:43)

Even though he was amalgamated into the customs and practices of the Hebrews in every other way, a man who was not born of the lineage of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob was a stranger to the commonwealth of Israel. He enjoyed many of the privileges, but not all of the rights. A parallel can be seen in the United States today. A person born on foreign soil may, with due process, become a “naturalized” citizen of the United States. However, he may never become the President. (Sorry, Gov. Schwarzenegger!)

Once circumcised, a proselyte was allowed to partake of the Passover meal. Circumcision was instituted by God as a token of His everlasting covenant with Abraham and his seed.

This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised. And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you.

(Genesis 17:10-11)

According to Galatians 3:17, the Law came four hundred and thirty years after Abraham. With the coming of the Law, circumcision served also to remind the Israelites’ of their obligation to keep all the Law.

For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. (Galatians 5:3)

The outer circumcision was a sign of the inner circumcision of the heart.

And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live. (Deuteronomy 30:6)

It was after the Babylonian captivity that the Hebrews began to be called “Jews”. Paul reiterated the heart of the Old Testament when he wrote that the true Jew – the “Israel of God” (Gal. 6:16) – was the Jew who was not only circumcised outwardly, but inwardly.

For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

(Romans 2:28-29)

For they *are* not all Israel, which are of Israel:

(Romans 9: 6B)

As we have seen, a “stranger” was able to partake of the Passover only after he been circumcised, indicating his pledge to honor the God of Moses and His Law. Under no other circumstance was he allowed to partake of the sacred meal.

And when a stranger shall sojourn with thee, and will keep the passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as one that is born in the land: for no uncircumcised person shall eat thereof. (Exodus 12:48)

Faith in the Passover was unto the salvation of the Hebrews, ultimately pointing the way to Jesus the Messiah. However, Gentiles who had not converted to Judaism had no part in the Passover or in any of God’s Cov-

enants with the Hebrews.

Who are Israelites; to whom *pertaineth* the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of *God*, and the promises; (Romans 9:4)

As Paul wrote, it was to the Israelites alone that God made promises concerning the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises. God adopted *one* nation to be His children and bear His name:

And they shall put my name upon the children of Israel; and I will bless them. (Numbers 6:27)

God's glory was made manifest to this people *alone*.

And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of the congregation, and came out, and blessed the people: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto all the people. (Leviticus 9:23)

God made four "everlasting covenants" with His people. These covenants were unconditional and therefore irrevocable. Generally they are known as the "Abrahamic" covenant, the "Palestinian" covenant, the "Davidic" covenant and the "New" covenant. The "Abrahamic" Covenant was the promise of a nation:

And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. (Genesis 17:7)

The "Palestinian" Covenant was a promise of land:

And he hath brought us into this place, and hath given us this land, even a land that floweth with milk and honey. (Deuteronomy 26:9)

The "Davidic" promised Israel a king forever:

He shall build an house for my name; and he shall be my son, and I *will be* his father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel for ever.

(1 Chronicles 22:10)

The "New" Covenant foretells the final restoration of all Israel. In the words of Paul, "And so all Israel shall be saved" (Rom. 11:26A).

Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah ... But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

(Jeremiah 31:31, 33)

The new covenant is the "better testament" of Hebrews 7:22 and the "better covenant" of Hebrews 8:6.

The "giving of the law" and "the service of God," (not only the Ten Commandments, but all 613 moral, civil and ceremonial mandates of the Mosaic Law), were not given to the world, but to the Children of Israel:

And this *is* the law which Moses set before the children of Israel: These *are* the testimonies, and the statutes, and the judgments, which Moses spake unto the children of Israel, after they came forth out of Egypt, (Deuteronomy 4:44-45)

And finally, "the promises" were made to the fathers: Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises *made* unto the fathers: (Romans 15:8)

God's blessing upon the Gentile nations was conditioned upon their treatment of Israel.

And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. (Genesis 12:3)

In all other ways, the Gentiles were left out in the cold. This was our desperate situation, as Paul reminded the church at Ephesus:

Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: (Ephesians 2:11-12)

We were without Christ. Even in the days of His earthly ministry, Jesus said, "I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matt. 15:24). We were "aliens from the commonwealth of Israel" without lineage to the house of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. We were "strangers from the covenants of promise" for those promises were made to the Patriarchs. Truly, we were without hope and God. How was our situation remedied?

And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. This he said, signifying what death he should die. (John 12:32-33)

When Jesus was crucified, He drew all men to Him, Jew and Gentile. On that special day, the children of Israel's passover became OUR Passover. Up to that time, what Peter said of Simon the sorcerer could well have been said of us: "Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter" (Acts 8:21A). "But now..." begins Ephesians 2:13...

But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our

peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; (Ephesians 2:13-15)

The Law of Moses, written to and for Jews, was “the middle wall of partition” that separated Jew and Gentile. Remember the ordinance concerning the Passover – “no uncircumcised person shall eat thereof” (Exo. 12:48). But when Jesus died on the Cross, He broke down that wall, abolishing it once and forever.

Jesus, the Lamb of Israel became Christ OUR Passover as well. What a glorious truth it is!

“Now...” we read...

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; (Ephesians 2:19)

That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: (Ephesians 3:6)

Now we are not strangers and foreigners. We are fellowcitizens. We are fellowheirs. Before we had no part, but now... Now we are partakers with the Children of Israel, “partakers of their spiritual things” (Rom. 15:27); “partakers of that one bread” (1 Cor. 10:17); “partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel” (Eph. 3:6); “partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light (Col. 1:12); “partakers of the heavenly calling (Heb. 3:1); “partakers of the Holy Ghost” (Heb. 6:4); “partakers of his holiness” (Heb. 12:10); and “partakers of the divine nature” (2 Pet. 1:4).

How is this so? “For even Christ OUR Passover is sacrificed for US” (1 Cor. 5:7B)!! Let us show our appreciation for what He did in the way we live our lives. “Let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth (1 Corin. 5:8).”

Amen.

I want to recommend a book that I have found extraordinarily helpful in clarifying the relationship and difference between the Children of Israel and the Church of Jesus Christ (and therefore, countless other subjects as well). It is titled: ISRAELOLOGY: The Missing Link In Systematic Theology, written by Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum, Th.M., Ph.D. and published by Ariel Ministries (www.ariel.org). It is a hefty book (1000 + pages) but very well-crafted and plainly written.



A Man of Sorrows

By Rev. Evan B. Pyle
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief...

Isaiah 53:3A

Isaiah here gives the Christ a most unusual, yet poignant, title, Man of Sorrows. In fact Isaiah 53 depicts Christ as rejected and despised of men, hardly the picture that Israel had in mind for their promised deliverer! I wonder if we who know the Lord acknowledge this aspect of Jesus.

As a young, immature person, I failed to appreciate that those in a leadership role over me actually had feelings. So I regularly disregarded the feelings of my parents, teachers and others in the things I said and did. I pray I have grown up in this regard. Yet, how many of us have honestly considered Jesus' feelings? Do we see him as being so strong that He is above feeling? “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin” (Heb. 4:15).

Think of the rejection He felt after being abandoned by His closest and dearest friends. Imagine His sad and broken heart. Think of how He felt being on the receiving end of cruel mockings. Do we enjoy being mocked and treated unfairly? Most of us probably still remember the sting of being treated poorly or unfairly as a school-child. Did Jesus not have these feelings? Did you ever feel misunderstood as a young person? I certainly did! Jesus had those feelings as a twelve-year-old: “And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?” (Lk. 2:49)

Though Jesus at one point maintained a residence in Capernaum, He was otherwise what we today might call homeless. He said, “The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air *have* nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay *his* head” (Matt. 8:20). He had no stable home, no family, no children. He didn't enjoy the security that a happy home provides. Think of the joyous anticipation that fills a young man's heart as he joins his bride on his wedding day. Think of the joy in a father's heart when he holds his first child. Yet, Jesus never experienced these things. How lonely He must have felt at times.

Even so, Jesus had plenty of physical contact with people. Consider how many people He laid hands on and healed. Consider how many times He touched people and effected their deliverance.

And stood at his feet behind *him* weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe *them* with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed *them* with the ointment... And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped *them* with the hairs of her head. Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet. (Luke 7:38, 44- 45)

After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe *them* with the towel wherewith he was girded. (John 13:5)

Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved. (John 13:23)

But when Jesus saw *it*, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put *his* hands upon them, and blessed them. (Mark 10:14-16)

Now I ask us to prayerfully consider that we, the Church, are Jesus' Bride. Just imagine the anticipation and longing He must feel to be united with His beautiful bride! Even now preparations are being made for the wedding and the wedding feast. And yet imagine the heartache and pain He feels because His bride wanders and is unfaithful! Have you considered that when you sin it deeply hurts the Lord?

"Can a maid forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? yet my people have forgotten me days without number" (Jer. 2:32). "For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it" (1 Cor. 11:18). When I consider the Lord's feelings in this manner it really makes me truly sorry for sinning against Him. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 Jn. 1:9). Indeed, Jesus is cleansing and will cleanse His Church that He may be joined to her as a pure and unblemished Bride.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh *himself* with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth *herself* with her

jewels. (Isaiah 61:10)

For as a young man marrieth a virgin, *so* shall thy sons marry thee: and *as* the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, *so* shall thy God rejoice over thee. (Isaiah 62:5) For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, *so let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

(Ephesians 5:23-30)

Let me be honest with you about my marriage relationship. I can confidently testify that my wife has feelings! With regard to her feelings I both love her and fear her. Fear? Not in the way one might fear a grizzly bear or a tornado (no wisecracks, y'all!), but I fear hurting her feelings as I have so often done in the past. This concern should motivate me to consider her feelings above mine. Have we done the same with Jesus? Love motivates me to do little things that will please her. You husbands have often done the same when you have brought her flowers or a gift, have done something special for her or have said something to bless her. Doesn't the *love* we have for God and the *fear* of the Lord motivate us in the same way?

For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And *that* he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again. (2 Corinthians 5:14, 15)

This kind of love for the Lord is a special love, a heavenly love if you will. It looks beyond one's own situation and seeks to do the best for the one who is loved. Lord knows we all have our troubles and we can surely complain if we wish. In fact, the Lord graciously gives us permission to complain... to Him. "I poured out my complaint before him; I shewed before him my trouble." (Ps. 142:2). It reminds me of Paul, who had many troubles about which he could complain. In fact, these troubles were the result of carrying out God's work and doing His holy will. I must say that my troubles are, by and large,

self-inflicted. So, certainly, you could say Paul is more justified in his complaint. In 2 Corinthians, Paul lists the many troubles and afflictions he had endured in carrying out his ordained ministry. And then he concluded with his plea:

For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong. (2 Corinthians 12:8-10)

Conducting ourselves in a manner that pleases the Lord is no mere religious mandate. We desire to please Him because we love Him who first loved us. Our ultimate aim should be to please Him. All honor and praise and glory is unto Him because we seek to please Him.

No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. (2 Timothy 2:4)

That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; (Colossians 1:10)

But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts. (1 Thessalonians 2:4)

Let us be people who consider Jesus and the things He endured, lest we become weary and faint in our minds. Let us consider the feelings of His heart, of the sorrow He endures when we go astray and of the joy He feels when we do those things that please Him. Let us be constrained by His love.



We Will Not Boast of Things Without Our Measure

By Rudolf Illavský
Vienna, Austria

But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us... (2 Corinthians 10:13A)

The Holy Word of God declares that “the gifts and calling of God *are* without repentance” (Rom. 11:29).

Since the gifts and calling are of God, there is no sense in comparing ourselves to one another.

Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed *it*, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour? (Romans 9:20-21)

God, the all wise Creator, forms each human for His special purposes and gives gifts in proportion to this forming. From birth on we are called to fulfill certain duties to the glory of God. Even the man who was born blind in John 9 was set for a special manifestation:

And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. (John 9:1-3)

The most important calling of all times was on our beloved Lord Jesus.

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. (John 3:17)

Everything good and bad that happens to us - the place where we are born, our parents, the schools we go to, the friends with whom we hang out - is used by the Lord to form us to the person He wants us to be.

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose. (Romans 8:28)

God knows our abilities, talents and strengths because He has given them to us. He then gives us work that is according to those abilities, talents and strengths.

For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure. (Philippians 2:13)

Let me use an example. Suppose that God were to give you the talent to write good music. That does not mean you will necessarily write good poetry as well. That is a different talent altogether.

Your God-given duties will correspond to your God-given abilities, talents and strengths. He will *equip* you to do whatever He has *called* you to do. In some ways, it is the same principle as God's provision regarding human temptation. You will never be faced with a temptation beyond your ability to endure (1 Corin. 10:13). Likewise, God will never ask you to do something He will not make you able to do. Think of Peter walking on the water.

Whether you have few or many gifts, you will only be asked to give what you have received.

For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more (Luke 12:48B).

Naturally, the one who has received much should not consider himself better than the one who has little. The giving of gifts is according to the Master's prerogative.

For who maketh thee to differ *from another*? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive *it*, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received *it*? (1 Corinthians 4:7)

The sovereign master distributes his talents with wisdom. The servant receives exactly what he needs in order to fulfill the wishes of the master, no more or less. He who receives much, must therefore bring proportionally more fruit. He who receives little is expected to produce less. Yet every man is expected to make the most of what is given him. In that way, he will be a good and faithful servant.

His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. (Matthew 25:21)

And be sure, no person is forgotten, the master gives to everyone, "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." (Romans 14:12)

After the resurrection of Jesus, Peter was very concerned about the duties of another disciple. Peter asked Him, "Lord, and what shall this man do?" (John 21:21). Notice what Jesus told Peter:

Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me. (John 21:22)

In essence, Jesus told Peter, "Do not worry about him (the other disciple who happened to be John). Mind your own business and follow Me." This is a great lesson for us all. Instead of looking at others and wishing to be like them, having their gifts, let us be content knowing that God made us the way we are! Get your eyes off other men and "let none of you suffer ... as a busybody in other men's matters." (1 Pet. 4:15)

But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. (Galatians 6:4)

And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. (Revelations 22:12)



THE TREASURE IN EARTHEN VESSELS

By Apostle Brian Fredrick Kisubi
Doves of Destiny Ministries
Kampala, Uganda

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. (2 Corinthians 4:7)

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. (Genesis 2:7)

Within the spirit of man (the living soul) dwells a priceless treasure deposited therein by God Almighty that helps man to be able to live the life of Christ as ordained by God from the beginning of ages. This treasure, the Holy Spirit, is the seal guaranteeing our inheritance and the witness in our hearts that we belong to God.

Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts (2 Corinthians 1:22)

The Holy Ghost however, does not only play the passive role of guaranteeing our redemption; it is the enabling power in our lives that helps us to execute our duties as co-workers with God in His redemption plan. When man is filled with the Holy Spirit, this continued infilling becomes a river which if not hindered flows out to bring healing, deliverance and liberty to the world.

...But the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. (John 4:14B)

This inland well of living water is supposed to flow to affect and change the lives of men. The world is waiting for this irresistible flow of power that brings life. When the well is filled up, the flow of the river shall continue to the neighbouring vicinities and take God's blessing there too.

In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (John 7:37-38)

What an opportunity for us to be such a well that releases the water of life. Beloved, if the spirit of man is in constant communion with the Spirit of God, our useful-

ness will only be limited by our temporary stay on earth; but as long as we are in this body we shall always bring glory to God and be a blessing to our generation.

Taking a closer look at the earthen vessels carrying this heavenly treasure, it is important for us as Christians to understand that the heart of man is the center of all divine operations, either good or evil. This heart is the combination of spirit and the soul. When we are born again, our spirit is regenerated but our soul takes time to change.

Many times the harmonious working of our spirit with the Spirit of God is affected by the influence of our de-generated souls.

A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things... (Matthew 12: 35A)

Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by *his* fruit. (Matthew 12:33)

...out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. (Matthew 12: 34B)

A close examination of the above scriptures shows that the state of a man's heart is very important in determining what comes out of him. "A cup brimful of sweet water can't spill even one drop of bitter water however suddenly jolted." Until the heart is dealt with, it is hard to experience the beauty of God's treasure in us. When we are born again, our spirit is regenerated but our soul takes time to change. The soul and spirit of man must be controlled separately and there is no power that can separate the two apart from the revelation of God in His Word.

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)

Many Christians have successfully conquered the body but are still struggling because of the power of the soul. Our soul must be conquered in order to enjoy maximum spiritual authority.

The soul is composed of the will, the emotions and the mind. Before the soul is conquered, it is very easy to be trapped in this realm. Depending on which is stronger in our lives, we begin to be controlled by any of the three components of our soul. We can for example preach and stir others by our emotions or intellectual abilities in the realm of the mind. This can produce tremendous results due to the convincing power therein, however it is not long lasting. Give it time and it will be gone. If people accepted Christ under the convincing power of the mind,

in a little while they would be no more. What a waste of time and resources it would be to bring in those who will go out. Friends of God, it is through our spirit, not intellect, will, or emotions, that the Spirit of God will speak or preach to touch the hearts of men for God.

Today, too much of our intellect has continued to occupy our pulpits at the expense of the sweet revelatory sermons propelled by the Holy Spirit just because our souls are in control. Beloved, it is not my intention to demean intellectual abilities and the will power, nor the power of emotions because without them, we will still fail to express our true identity as converted Christians. Love, which is the most delicate of our emotions, will be lost, together with temper, which is the crudest emotion. For example, I can't afford to live without the ability to reason, which is by way of the mind. But my total dependence on reasoning would not only be pride but also foolishness. Our confidence in our reasoning ability exceeds its competence. However my concern is that this power of the soul must not override our spirit and influence it, or else, we might in the long run miss out on God's divine purpose for our lives.

The reason we can't access Him and feel His influence is because the soul has covered our spirit where He dwells. Break away from that power of the soul and you will experience the unfading glory of God. That God-given treasure inside of you will come out. Saints of God, let us seek for the salvation of our souls.

Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. (1 Peter 1:9)

If like David we can learn to cause our soul to submit to the demands of our spirit as prompted by the Spirit of God...

My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him. (Psalm 62:5)

...then salvation will be a total fulfillment in our lives and our usefulness in the Kingdom of God, based on the treasure that we possess within us, will increase to the praise and glory of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

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God's Sovereignty

By Christine Pyle
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

God is sovereign over *all* areas of our lives. Whether we live or die is in His hands every moment. He gave His life so that we can live. He purchased us with His blood. Therefore, we need to recognize God's all-encompassing jurisdiction and surrender all of our lives to Him. After all, we know that He is good and rewards those who love and trust Him.

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose. (Romans 8:28)

I have recognized God's sovereignty in particular in three areas of my life: how I spend my time, my speech and conversations, and choosing a husband in the future.

My Time

The way I spend my time determines what I accomplish for God, and even whether I obey or disobey Him. God has a will and a purpose for me, an orderly plan for what I will do in this life, "for *there is* a time there for every purpose and for every work" (Eccl. 3:17b).

See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord *is*. (Ephesians 5:15-17)

I must, then, *actively pursue* and *do* the will of the Lord. The Bible is full of commandments and charges—how am I to obey except I devote my *time* to doing so? Paul certainly did, testifying that "labouring night and day... we preached unto you the gospel of God" (1 Thess. 2:9). Micah makes our duty clear:

...What doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? (Micah 6:8B)

God's Word is permeated with charges, such as "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17). Without ceasing? That takes a lot of time. Moreover, I don't know when my Lord will return. I must be certain I am not wasting my time when He comes.

But of that day and *that* hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. *For the Son of man is* as a man

taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.

(Mark 13:32-37)

Therefore, everything I do with my time must be in accordance with God's will and to His glory.

Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31)

My Speech

Because I bear Christ's name and am an ambassador for Him, He cares what comes out of my mouth. Consider David's prayer.

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer. (Psalms 19:14)

God's Word gives many instructions for how my conversation as a Christian should sound. Here are a few examples.

Let your speech *be* always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man. (Colossians 4:6)

But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; (1 Peter 1:15)

Clearly, God takes the words of our mouths under His jurisdiction. May my speech always be pleasing to Him.

Marriage

God is the One who created the institution of marriage. He gave the first woman, Eve, to the first man, Adam. He had His hand in numerous other Biblical marriages: Isaac and Rebekah, Boaz and Ruth, even Esther and Xerxes! In the New Testament epistles, instructions aplenty abound to husbands and wives. Marriage is sacred and honored by God: He compares it to Christ's relationship with the church.

This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. (Ephesians 5:32)

God commands me to trust Him in all things, and I can certainly trust Him for a good marriage. As I acknowledge Him in this area, He will surely lead me to the right person and a happy future.

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

As for now, God wants me to seek Him fully and care only for Him.

The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit...
(1 Corinthians 7:34B)

Conclusion

In closing, I deliver the timeless wisdom of Solomon. "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man" (Eccl. 12:13). As God's purchased possession, I am compelled to commit myself to His authority in all areas of my life, including my time, my speech, and all aspects of my future. May you and I ever abound more and more in God's perfect will!

It is by God's grace alone that we can give ourselves to God and surrender to His will. As God opens our eyes to more areas of our lives that we must submit to Him, let our prayer ever be, as in the hymn, "O for grace to trust Thee more!"



one soldier speaks:

How to become a Christian

By Jay Pearson
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

In a movie I watched recently I heard a statement: "Singing in the church choir won't make you a Christian any more than standing in the garage will make you a Cadillac." I realized a truth in that statement. We don't make ourselves Christians. We cannot supply, appropriate, or create the substance to become Christians. Yes, we do believe and confess to become Christians, but the truth is that until God moves in your life you will never reach that point. It is God that works in you to will and to do His good pleasure. We are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus. It is not our work, but His. To God be the glory, Amen.

Don't be so foolish that after receiving such a gracious gift of Christ in you, that you have an inappropriate response.

Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? (Galatians 3:3)

After His resurrection Jesus Christ appeared to His disciples and showed them the prints of the nails in His hands and feet. Thomas was not with them, but when he was told what they saw he said this:

The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe. (John 20:25)

Then eight days later Jesus appeared to them again. Thomas was there and this was his response.

And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: *then* came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace *be* unto you. Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust *it* into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. (John 20:26-28)

May our response to His call and creation in us be as appropriate. For there is a reason God called you, caused your heart to desire Him, and worked a mighty wonder in you. It is for your perfection, fellowship, and eternal life in Jesus Christ. It is all to God's glory.

That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen. (Ephesians 3:16-21)

Pray for one another that we might be all that He would have us to be. If God has worked in your heart to become a Christian, Romans 10:9&10 would be the appropriate response.

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
(Romans 10:9-10)

Welcome home, Christian.

Mission Report:

UGANDA 2004



The Weapons of Our Warfare Seminar
presented in Kampala and Mbale, Uganda,
East Africa

Uganda and Answers to Prayer

By Rev. Steve Monahan
Ponchatoola, Louisiana

About eighteen months ago I was watching a video on the terrible plight of Christian believers in the nation of Sudan, Africa. I was reminded of the words of Hosea 4:6a: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." I knew that all western missionaries had been expelled from Sudan years ago, that very few Christians in the southern Sudan owned Bibles, and that they all were living in conditions of extreme poverty. Furthermore, I was painfully aware of multitudes killed or maimed for refusing to renounce Jesus Christ.

I know that those who suffer and die for their faith are the greatest of overcomers. Nevertheless, I asked the Lord if it would not also be a great witness to the oppressors if wounded saints were healed by the power of the Holy Spirit. I implored God to send teachers to East Africa to give His people clear instruction on the gifts of the Spirit. With that knowledge, they could demonstrate to the worshipers of other gods that Jehovah dwells in power in the midst of His church.

I should mention that as I prayed about this matter, I was certainly not thinking "Here am I; send me." Even the thought of going to Africa violated my "comfort zone" in a big way. It's so easy to ask the Father to put someone else to work! But what do you do when He swings the door to ministry wide open and says, "All right, GO!"?

The answer is pretty easy to figure out. You go. Even if you feel nervous and unqualified, and you realize your contribution will be that of an assistant and trainee, you go. And that is what was in my heart last year when Tim invited me to accompany him to Tanzania, East Africa where he was to teach the Weapons of Our Warfare. I didn't feel there was any other choice than to go.



Evan, Tim, Steve and David share a light moment in Kampala

One of the highlights of our trip to Tanzania was our providential meeting with a remarkable Ugandan missionary named Henry Musana. After hearing a portion of the class, Henry told us that this kind of teaching would bring tremendous benefit to the very evangelically-minded church in his homeland. It wasn't long after our return home that Tim received the invitation to minister there.

A key factor in the success of a Bible teaching mission is a group of ready, willing students; people not hardened by religious tradition and able to receive a greater, deeper truth than they already knew. With regard to the things that I had been praying for, it seemed that it would

be necessary to meet men and women who were willing to be inconvenienced and even endangered for the sake of the gospel. Such were some of the Christians that we met and ministered to during our visit in Uganda.

Over the last eighteen years, Uganda has been transformed from a place of ruin and despair to a free country in which many are experiencing a measure of prosperity. It is a nation reborn. The Church, which suffered greatly in the past and especially during the murderous 8 ½ year reign of Idi Amin, is a vibrant body seemingly bursting with men and women who are using their freedom along with such resources as they have for the furtherance of the Gospel. Are they some kind of super-Christians, whose every move and motive is perfectly upright all the time? Of course not – they are human beings, fighting the battle against iniquity just like the rest of us. Nevertheless, it was among them that we found earnest young ministers who wanted nothing more from us than the Word that we brought, and who were thankful to be taught simple and plain truth concerning spiritual gifts. There were men who had ministered in neighboring countries and had preached the gospel in cities, towns, and remote villages. They wanted to be equipped to serve more effectively.



Rev. Fred Kisubi and his fiancée Sarah

We were prompted by the Spirit to warn our Ugandan brethren about the pitfalls associated with prosperity, that they should not be trapped by it. After all, look what material prosperity has done to the American Church at large.

At the conclusion of the class in Mbale, a brother expressed his appreciation for the ministry of Workers Together With Him. He glorified God, saying, “Others have come from the West to teach about the *delight* of the Gospel, but you are the first to teach about the *demand* of the Gospel.” A pastor told us, “There are so many preachers in Africa and so few teachers,” and he praised God for bringing us to his country.

In both of the classes on The Weapons of Our Warfare, one in the capital city of Kampala and one in Mbale, many, many students were easily helped to begin speaking in tongues. I believe that was due in large part to the fact that so many of them were relatively young in the faith and free from religious oppression. Please pray for the Ugandan Church that they won’t develop too many traditions or become systematized.



Rev. Fredrick Njawuzi with Evan and Tim

There appears to be a door open in Uganda and perhaps in neighboring countries, for effectual ministry. The possibility of conferences which would consist of a week of focused instruction and “hands on” training is very real. This would be a very specific answer to prayer. Again I ask you to pray the Father that He would pave the way for these things to happen and provide protection against any interference or corruption.

As I close this excited little report, allow me to temper it with a bit of hard reality. Our trip to Uganda, although filled with joy and blessings and sweet fellowship, was also filled with object lessons in the necessity of being “wise as serpents, harmless as doves.” The enemies of righteousness are everywhere. Satan never rests. This is war and you can never be both a tourist and a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The focus of these African adventures certainly isn’t fun although there is fun to be had. It isn’t fellowship either though fellowship with the brethren is precious, indispensable. The focus is truth and the power and wisdom of God through Jesus Christ, without whom we can do nothing. We have no reason to have faith in ourselves or anyone else. It’s God alone who can be trusted. If we forget this, all our efforts are failed before we begin.



The Nile River

Victory Through Our Lord Jesus

By Henry Musana
Kampala, Uganda

I want to give glory to God who enabled me to coordinate the Weapons of Our Warfare class for Workers Together With Him in Uganda (Feb. 21st to Mar. 9th). It was my desire to have these teachings in my country, but when Rev. Tim contacted me about that issue, it seemed a bit hard for me because I had never organized such a meeting. Secondly, I thought the pastors would not believe me because of being a young missionary. But the greatest of all my fears were the Christians. Somehow there is some revival in the church in Uganda. The church is influencing a lot of people's lives. It has also played a great role in the fight against the AIDS epidemic even though this is less mentioned. Instead of indulging in immorality, most youths are serving God.



Henry Musana

But with all this there is a contentment that I see in the Christians in Uganda, especially in the city of Kampala. Let me speak to every Christian elsewhere. Never get self-satisfied with the things of God. Every day seek an encounter with Him. Remember that even after Moses had spoken with God, he still prayed "Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee" (Exo. 33:13A).

Spiritual pride is a trick of Satan to make us miss on what God has for us.

But thanks be to God which gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:57). When I shared the issue with some pastors, they were more than welcoming and when the set time was at hand, we had a wonderful class in two places in Kampala and Mbale.

This class was a prayer answered. There was a great hunger for the teachings. Many told me this was what the Church needed to be taught. Thanks to Rev. Tim and the rest of his travel mates – Rev. Steve (who was called Jesus because of his beard), Rev. Evan and David Mantock (he made 40 years while in Uganda).

Thanks to also those that have stood with this ministry. You share the blessings of spreading the Word of God. It is great to work together with Him. May the Lord bless you with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places.



Rev. and Mrs. Wilberforce Okumu



Pearl Haven Church, until the new construction is completed



Joshua Wamala, our interpreter

A Prayer for Uganda, A Prayer for Us All

By David Mantock

With great joy and humbleness of heart I can say that I had a wonderful time in Uganda! I thank God and I thank the Lord Jesus Christ for making it possible. I thank the people of Uganda for their love and kindness. We were bathed in the love of Christ which was manifested by His saints from the first day until the last. As Evan Pyle said on more than one occasion, "The people of Uganda ministered to us more than we ministered to them." Our God is a great God, and only such a great God could put together an experience like this for His humble servants. And so I offer Him praise, because He is worthy to be praised!

This, my first journey to Africa, grew from a seed that was planted last year when I saw the DVD of the Tanzania seminars, and in particular Henry Musana talking about Uganda. It was just so inspiring I could not stop thinking about Uganda. So when these classes were announced, I wanted to go along. At the last minute, God opened all the doors, and I was booked on a flight to Uganda. On the flight to Nairobi, God showed His kindness when, without any prior arrangement on my own, He put me in the same row as my travelling companions. I did not know it at the time, but this was an answer to my wife's prayer. This was just a small sign in an adventure that was truly touched by God.

While in Kampala, I learned a little bit more about the challenges that were faced by our brothers in the Lord who travelled to Tanzania last year. So I would like to take this opportunity to say how I appreciate Rev. Jerome Lucas, George Straub, and of course the other fellows who were on that trip. Their faithfulness and their love for God's people are an inspiration and a blessing. As 1 Corinthians 4:2 says, "It is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."

In Kampala, we met many more such people, faithful stewards who are right on the front line of the battle. God does not withhold any good thing from those who serve Him, and we saw proof upon proof of this in His Saints at Kampala. After being able to share in the anointing of God's people there, I am sure that we are even more determined to stay committed to the calling to serve the King of kings.

As you can notice I enjoyed this trip. It was not the

impressive landscape, the beautiful wildlife, or even the beauty of the Ugandan people. I was just touched, as we all were, by the power of God and how He moves with His people.

I used to think that people make places, but now I have to conclude that it is God's people that make places. These people are a nation of preachers. Have you ever experienced your taxi driver speaking about Christ within five minutes of your journey? Steve did. I met a lady in the airport just moments before I flew home, and once again the topic was Christ. She wisely said that as a lot of people come to preach in Uganda, she trusts that Christ will show the Ugandan people truth from error, as they draw closer to Him. As the Word says, "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (1 Thess. 5:21).

I went to Uganda with the desire to go further in my service for the Lord than I have up to now. I wanted to be challenged. I was challenged, but I can wholeheartedly say that our fight is a good fight.

The title "A Prayer for Uganda, a Prayer for Us All" comes from something that was on my heart in Mbale. I had the opportunity to share about obedience, and as I read the following verses, it struck me as God's plan for His people in Uganda, but of course it is His plan for us all. It is God's will for us to enter into the rest that He promised us.

Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he *is* God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations; And repayeth them that hate him to their face, to destroy them: he will not be slack to him that hateth him, he will repay him to his face. Thou shalt therefore keep the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which I command thee this day, to do them. Wherefore it shall come to pass, if ye hearken to these judgments, and keep, and do them, that the LORD thy God shall keep unto thee the covenant and the mercy which he sware unto thy fathers: And he will love thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee: he will also bless the fruit of thy womb, and the fruit of thy land, thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep, in the land which he sware unto thy fathers to give thee. Thou shalt be blessed above all people... (Deuteronomy 7:9-14A)

May you also see this blessing in your life, so that you can claim all that God has in store for you. Again, it is a good fight. Be encouraged and look to Him, for it is all about Him, the King of kings and Lord of Glory.

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