

Teach a Woman to Fish

Keith Sharp

I have made five trips to Africa and have been in four African countries (Nigeria, South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Uganda), but I have never personally witnessed poverty any worse than exists among the many women and children in Uganda who have been abandoned by husbands and fathers.

Francis Okech is a 45 year old preacher in Uganda, and, to my knowledge, he is the only faithful preacher of the gospel in that nation of 30 million souls. Francis has an economics degree from Makerere University in Kampala, the leading university in East Africa. He was head of international banking at Nile Bank in Kampala before he resigned in 2005 to preach the gospel.

His sister, Rosemary Aburu, is trained to be a school teacher. Her husband, Daniel, brought the gospel to Uganda. Tragically, he has fallen away and left her, but Rosemary remains faithful and diligent. She spends her time teaching among some of the poorest women on earth, those who dwell in the Masese slums near Jinja, next to Lake Victoria and near the source of the Nile River.

I spent 17 days working with them in Uganda in February, 2007. I found them to be dedicated, faithful, honest, intelligent fellow laborers.

Many brethren have been frustrated with the seemingly bottomless pit of benevolent needs in Africa. Francis, an experienced banking manager, proposes to begin among brethren in Uganda something that has proven quite successful in secular, third world finance - micro-finance. As operated by Francis, **Christian Women Revolving Funds in Uganda** will make small gifts (\$100 for now) to destitute women who have proven their faithfulness to Christ in order to underwrite their small business. Francis will manage and audit the fund, while Rosemary works personally with the women to teach them to run a business. Instead of giving them fish, Francis and Rosemary are literally helping them start a fishing (or other) business.

This is something to which only individuals should contribute, since it is an organization other than the local church (having oversight, pooled resources, and a common work) and involves capital for business. No church funds will be accepted.

I commend to you Christian Women Revolving Funds in Uganda and ask you to help in this noble endeavor.

Beginning in February, 2009, I plan to make annual trips to Jinja, Uganda to teach classes for young men who want to preach. I can also personally inspect this micro-finance project and report to brethren here on its operation. Furthermore, Francis will furnish a thorough accounting of all monies received and distributed to those who contribute.

To receive the information and contact information for Francis Okech, contact me at

ksharp@twcny.rr.com or Francis Okech at francisokech@yahoo.com.