

May 2007 Report

There was a relative calm in May. We had short rains together with dry spells in the month.

Prices of essential products stayed high like they were in April. Prices of our own local agricultural produce have stayed high. The effect of fuel crisis in April has kept inflation high. As I said, prices of beans produced in Uganda moved from equivalent \$0.48 to \$0.84 and have stayed high even though of new beans are being harvested in many parts of the country.

Our economic situation has remained poor like in April. Power rationing, insufficient water supplies, bad roads, high transport costs, etc. are the experience down here. Kampala City was very calm when the Government accepted to withdraw from selling part of the national forest reserve.

May Baptisms

I baptized 2 woman and 2 men in Jinja on May 2, 2007 (Moses (man, 35), Moses (man 33), Akoth (woman, 40) and Juliet (woman 34). (... there is joy in the presence of the angel of God over one sinner who repents, Luke 15:10. The Lord has continued to add the number of those who are being saved. Seeing sinners turn to God repenting and being baptized is my only motivator.

Lakeside Church of Christ, Jinja

We had persecutions last month among the Muslim community again. They came through one 'former muslim brother' who I baptized last year into Christ but backslid and began to spy out freedom in the church for the muslims. The Lord helped us when he confessed that he among us to spy freedom in Christianity. He became ashamed and left the church. We are praying for him, in obedience to the Lord in Mat 5:44.

We thank God the church continues to grow. The attendance is persistently over 50 on Sundays and over 15 in the midweek meetings.

Masese meetings are going on well every Thursday. We continue to transport our destitute Christians who live in 'horrible' Jinja city slum (Masese) for worships on Sundays. We are requesting brethren to pray for us to find reliable transport system to bring these poor Christians to church for worship.

We urgently need a self-drive automobile to best serve this purpose and ease my hectic transport to and from Jinja 4 times a week, on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays, 86km away. Travelling on public means of transport is such a pain in the neck: tiring, risky, time wasting, horrible. But, "You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" 2Tim 2:3, strengthens me in the Lord.

Kampala Church of Christ

We still meet in the afternoons for Sunday services and I preach. Southside elders send support to rent a worship place, tent and seats. We thank God who has sustained the work in Kampala.

We have continued to study the word of God once a week, every Saturday within the worship place,

Rosemary has continued to be instrumental in gathering women and children in the gospel work in Uganda. She works with me to ensure that we secure the worship facilities every first day of the week.

Tororo Church of Christ

I am yet to secure a second day to visit Tororo brethren.

The Church still meets in their grass thatched temporary shelter. They still have not secured land of their own. Attempts to secure a plot of land have remained futile. We thank God that the grass-thatched shelter has still survived storm during the rainy season, though it is leaking.

The Brethren still request me to visit them more frequently but resources are still a hindrance. So far I can only afford to visit the church in Tororo once a month. I trust that Lord will give me more opportunities in future.

Rosemary's Efforts

Please remember to pray for and support Rosemary my fellow laborer in the Lord (Rom 16:1-2). She has continued to work with women and children in Kampala, Jinja and Tororo congregations. She teaches and evangelizes among women. Rosemary is very useful to the church in Uganda.

I still expect that female saints will contact Rosemary and encourage her personally. We share support from brethren to make sure she can feed her children, pay their school fees and can rent where to sleep in.

As a reminder, our Monthly expenses cover:

1. Transport:
 - a) to preach in Jinja, Tororo and Kampala,
 - b) to transport destitute Christians to church for worship
 - c) to transport children to school
2. Family needs:
 - a) Food for the family
 - b) Others (medications, clothing, house help, toiletry, etc)
3. Utilities:
(Electricity (revised), water, postal services, communication, others)

4. Helps to destitute brethren during emergencies. In March we transported a dead body of one Christian's dead child and one lady was operated in hospital with twins, ...
5. School fees and scholastic materials paid per term 3 times per annum: January, April and August)
6. Church rent, lighting and water.

(As a result of shortfall in support received in the Among the things we did not pay for in May are: second term children's school fees, arrears on rent, utilities and debts, some of these carried forward from April. Please continue to lift us to God in prayers dear brethren).

Brother Keith sharp

Keith Sharp has remained an anchor to us. We have appreciated his tireless efforts to ensure that the church of Christ in Uganda is strong, that we have food and school fees for our children and that transport to church, rent and regular bills are paid for.

Brother Keith approached many of you and thank God some of you have responded positively. We hold you all in our routine prayers, "that God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work" 2Cor 9:8. May all of you find Grace and Favor before our Faithful God as you continue holding us through your spiritual and financial support.

In the Lord's Name,

**Francis Okech,
Uganda**