

April 2008 Report

Again, I'm sorry for sending a late report. Children have come home for first term holidays, meaning my role doubles. These children are growing up, Mercy (12), Samuel (7), Mary and Benjamin (4), and therefore need careful parental care and observations. Their time at home for holidays make me very busy and stretched to the limit.

We continued to experience very heavy rainfall and so floods and rain-related problems were major issues. Floods continued to destroy dirt roads that are widely used here, causing high prices of locally produced foodstuffs due to transport problems.

General prices of essential commodities have continued to bite. These are some of the indicators: A loaf of Bread (from 2000 to 2600), 1 kilogram of rice (from 1500 to 2200), beans (from 900 to 1700 per kilogram), 1 liter of cooking oil (from 3500 to 5000), 1 kilogram of meat (from 3000 to 4500), 1 liter of diesel (from 2100 to 2600). The list is endless.

Well, the soaring prices are a global issue but we are feeling the pinch. We now need \$1800 for what \$1000 used to cover. We shall continue asking the brethren for prayers over this matter.

In all these we have continued to lean on the word of God for strength and encouragement. Brethren have continued to come for meetings though sometime we experience hardships to move in the mud due to rains.

Lakeside Church of Christ,

Over 60 adults have continued to attend church at Lakeside on Sundays and over 30 come for midweek meetings. We had a very hard financial problem in the month and it was many times hard to support transportation of the destitute brethren to the church.

I studied the letter of Paul to the Colossians. I reviewed with the saints what Brother Gert-Jan from The Netherlands taught for the first few days of the month and shifted to Colossians later.

We continued to study on Wednesday at Lakeside, on Thursdays at Masese slums and, and meet for prayers on Fridays. Due to weather, we now meet between 2 and 4pm in the weekdays.

The Lord has remained faithful to us even when the number of brethren testing HIV/AIDS positive has continued to increase. I know many brethren are praying for us, but I will continue to encourage more friends and brethren to pray for us.

Kampala Church of Christ

We have continued to meet in the afternoon at Kampala in a tent. The Lord has continued to encourage brethren.

I am studying the Acts of the Apostles with the saints. The saints are encouraged to know how the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ was spread by the Apostles to the glory of God.

We are blessed to have steady attendance of 35 saints on the first day of the week and between 15 and 20 in the weekdays.

Tororo Church of Christ

We continued to hire for a place for worship for the saints in Tororo as from the time Gert Jan visited with us in Uganda. It was hard to keep worshipping in the village under licking grass roofs. I thought Brother Keith Sharp could be still acquainted with this type of shelter that is too temporal. These grass roofs will be re-done whenever it is rain season.

But, the saints have maintained their joy in the Lord. I visited the congregation on the last Saturday of April 2008.

Over 60 attend church on the first day of the week to the glory of God our Father. I'm encouraged to know that the body of Christ all over the world is praying for these brethren and us.

Rosemary is continuing to work with women and children in Tororo as well.

Rosemary's Efforts

I will endeavor to include Rosemary in my reports, as her unfailing efforts have remained a landmark in what we are doing in the Lord's kingdom in Uganda.

Rosemary is such a useful in the Lord. She has persisted amidst challenges of raising up her children.

I will always remind all of Rosemary's labor with me and that more prayers are needed for strength and welfare.

I want to thank Sister Debra and Sister cruse for standing by Rosemary. May the Lord bless them very richly.

Children's holidays

Children are back home for holidays. Rosemary and I face challenge of their school fees the must be covered within the first two weeks of May 2008. We ask brethren to pray for us over this issue. We already have needs of meeting their welfare as children.

Challenge

Rosemary and I faced abnormal financial hardships in April. Unfortunately, the hardships have crept into May 2008, with the arrival of children for holidays and school fees and school requirements at the same time. Sincerely, our financial requirements are higher now, with high costs of essential commodities reported above. (I called some brethren for help and may the Lord bless a few saints for the relentless support).

Heavy rains have continued to affect our movements especially on weather roads that most times are flooded and become impassable. We get into many troubles on Thursday meetings whenever it rains as we meet under a tree for study. (Meetings in Masese take place under a tree).

Francis Okech, Uganda