

## **January 2008 Report**

Apologies for the late report (explanations in the report).

Once again, I would like to wish the entire body of the Lord a prosperous and a great 2008. I must continue to send many thanks to the individuals and the congregations that have continued to support to the Lord's work in Uganda. May the Lord bless you all.

The month of January was very heavy for me. I took care of my children who have been on end on academic year holidays since December till 4<sup>th</sup> February 2008, and I had to continue preaching and teaching the Lord's word to believers and sometime non-believers. January was extremely hectic but I thank God for the strength HE gave me.

Neighboring Kenya has remained bloody since December 30, 2007 till date. Post election violence in Kenya has brought us shortages of essential goods like fuel (prices are very high in Uganda), other imported products are scarce and very expensive, our exports that go through sea port are stuck, revenue has fallen and we have over 20,000 refugees from Kenya. Over 1000 Kenyans have perished in one of the worst violence ever in Kenya as a nation.

Diseases that I reported in December 2007: (Ebola, meningitis, cholera, and others) has been controlled by the Government, though not completely wiped out. HIV/AIDS continues to hit the majority of the population plus members of our own congregation.

The saints have continued to attend church and worshipped the Lord as ever and the Lord has remained faithful to us. Thanks for your prayers and financial support.

### **Baptism in December**

A number of bible studies I now hold with two muslims ladies, both called Aisha, are promising. Time caught up with our study programs especially when time came to prepare children to go to school. I trust the Lord will continue to add the number of those who are being baptised into Christ.

### **Lakeside Church of Christ,**

Scovia (22 year old mother) and George (20 year old young man), both of whom I baptised in December are very active. They attend bible studies and come for worship on Sundays with ease.

The saints returned slowly from their season holidays and by the end of the month, the majority was already in the church.

I started the year with a message of love: 'you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind and you your neighbor as yourself' Luke 10:27. JESUS CHRIST came to this world to bring and preach love that world does not have. I am teaching the saints to form an 'L' relationship: love the Lord our God who is UP above and our neighbors who are by our side. (1Jn 4:7). Having love as a foundation will be a great benefit to all souls because Christianity is founded on love.

### **Kampala Church of Christ**

The message of love (Luke 10:27) has featured in the beginning of the year. I also emphasize that brethren should understand the Lord very clearly, LOVE GOD and LOVE NEIGHBOR the way you LOVE SELF. This is where 'L' relationship comes from. Relationship with GOD and ME (vertical relationship) then relationship with ME and MAN (horizontal relationship). I won't love anyone else unless I have already loved myself. This was and is my teaching so that Love may be perfected in the Lord's body. Christianity was founded on that 'foundation stone' - LOVE. This is what I am teaching and will continue to teach for a while.

The church is responding well. I continue to encourage brethren to forget what is behind and reach forward for those things that are ahead (Phil 3:13) in 2008. Many saints kept coming back from season holidays.

### **Tororo Church of Christ**

I was unable to visit Tororo, but Rosemary visited the church in Tororo and specifically talked to women and children. The heavy schedule with my children kept too occupied.

This makes Rosemary very special to the Lord's work in Uganda. She had something to talk to women as the year started and look at the few who do small businesses that side. They are standing strong in the Lord. The men there are equally hit by poverty like the women. They need our prayers.

When I visit them, I will encourage them with word of love as well.

### **Rosemary's Efforts**

I will always inform you that Rosemary has remained an encouragement to the church and me. She began the year with rare zeal, visiting women and children, evangelizing among women and children, and encouraging women to run their small business well.

As children have been on holidays we were very busy. Thanks to all the brethren for all their support. We were able to feed the children, though school fees are wanting. We have not paid the school fees yet.

### **Shalom (12 and Mercy (11)**

Shalom, the daughter of Rosemary sat for a primary living exam late last year and scored 4 distinctions out of 4 subjects, and my daughter Mercy also sat for the same exams and scored 4 distinctions out of the 4 subjects done. Both of them are beginning senior secondary education this month, in a week's time. We are in great need for their school requirements plus fees. Each will require about \$1000 to start the term. Subsequent terms will be less than half the beginning costs. I am requesting brethren to pray for us so that the Lord can provide these children's school requirements and fees in full and on time.

**Francis Okech,  
Uganda**