

May 2008 Report

Many thanks to congregations and individuals who have continued to send us love support to Uganda. The Lord continues to strengthen and bless us, despite the prolonged hardships experienced in Uganda.

We struggled through the month and had children start their second term well though with insufficient required funds. A number of brethren sent us support at a very crucial time and may the Lord bless them. After the children start their term, I get a good time in the word of God. Normally I will be more stretched whenever children are at home for holidays. We continued to experience that very heavy rainfall and so much floods and rain-related problems.

High commodity prices have continued to bite as reported last month. Transport costs have gone very high, schools increased school fees to meet high food and fuel prices. Costs of my travel to preach have increased. Well, this is a global issue. I won't over emphasize it. But we shall continue asking beloved saints of the Lord to continue holding us in their routine prayers as we continue putting our trust in the Lord who does not fail.

Evangelism

Of recent I've concentrated my efforts in teaching the saints in the church and grounding the new converts in the word. Many bible study opportunities with unbelievers are coming up again. I expect a number of baptisms in a near future, by the grace of God. I'm now studying with two women and three young men. They are very interested in hearing the Lord's word.

Lakeside Church of Christ,

We continued to study the letter of Paul to the Colossians. The saints have been built in the month as we went through Apostle Paul's letter to the Colossians. I intend to study Apostle Paul's letter to the Corinthians, God willing. It will also depend on some questions brethren will be asking.

The type of questions saints ask will sometime guide me on what I shall teach/study with the church. The Lord did a lot of teaching after questions were asked. For example, Nicodemus John 3, the rich man, Mat 19:16, Forgiveness of sins Mat 18:21, who is the greatest Mat 18:1, Explains Parable Luke 8:9, questions of the pharisees Mark 7:5, and many others questions came up and the Lord taught while answering them.

We continue to study on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays in Jinja. Brethren still prefer to meet between 2 and 4pm in the weekdays.

The Lord has continued to encourage us as a church, with over 60 brethren attending Sunday worship and over 30 in the weekday meetings.

Kampala Church of Christ

The brethren have appreciated lessons in the Acts of the Apostles, which we've been studying since the beginning of April. The sacrifices the apostles made to further the gospel is the greatest lesson we learnt from the book. We are daily getting edified.

I have one person of catholic denomination studying with me at the moment. I trust the Lord will help him understand the word of God and get converted.

The church attendance is above 30 saints on Sundays and above 15 in the weekdays. Pray for us.

Tororo Church of Christ

The church in a hired shelter is continuing well. Rainfall has persisted till date. Long rainfall affects the timetable in rural Tororo meetings but the Lord has continued to be faithful in the hired place. As I reported earlier, it was hard to keep worshipping in the village under licking grass roof.

I visit the congregation and the Lord is their strength as usual. The joy of the Lord is with the children of God in Tororo. The last time I was with them I preached from 1Samuel 16:7 (But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart”), the brethren in Tororo when I visited. I also quoted Isaiah 29:13 (true worship). The Lord sees the state of our hearts, not how we look in the outside, to encourage the saints not look at themselves as though unworthy. We are all worthy as long as the state of our hearts are appealing to God.

The saints are fine in the Lord.

Rosemary visits them regularly.

Rosemary's Efforts

Rosemary is very consistent in the Lord's work among women and children in Kampala, Jinja and Tororo.

I will also continue to remind brethren to continue praying for her, as her responsibility has remained tough and challenging as a single parent. May the Lord bless Christians who have reached her financially.

She is continuing to do very well with microfinance services to dedicated destitute Christian women. She is steering the activity very well. More support to this effect will enable her do even better work.

We are thankful to all the saints who have given a hand.

Challenge

We had a very hard time sending children back to school, let alone feeding them. It was a very hard time. The first three weeks of the month was nightmare, almost going without food. The needs here sometime all come at the same time. This was the case early in May 2008. But thank God for all the congregations and individuals that gave us support when we were limping. God bless you (them) all.

Francis Okech, Uganda