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Dear Friend,

Missions to Buliro and Nyabuhuka Jan 14th-Feb 5th 2009 - Report

I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it (Matt 16 v18)

We are so, so grateful for all your prayers. We hope that you will rejoice with us as you read some of the wonderful answers!

“Heaven has opened in this place!”

Buliro is a sparsely populated “back of beyond” place spot – wide open countryside with occasional clusters of traditional mud walled and grass roofed huts. Some questioned whether enough people would come to the crusades and to the gatherings of leaders that we were organising – quite apart from the fact that this is a Muslim stronghold, and where the locals also have a strong attachment to witchcraft!

Very much to our surprise, the first crusade was opened by the Muslim leader of the local council who urged everyone to bring others along to “meet the visitors”. Wow! We were thrilled to find a crowd of at least 4-500 each evening. They came by foot and bicycle from up to twenty-five miles away to gather in front of the platform erected in a field just two hundred yards from the local mosque. Despite strong attempts by a group of ten witchdoctors who had gathered nearby to curse and pray against what was going on, we saw as many as one hundred and thirty people a night come eagerly forward to pray the prayer of salvation – a most encouraging percentage.

Many others also came forward each night for prayer for healing. The crowds grew even larger as we showed films in the evenings; this is such a rarity in these parts that they made a huge impact, with the crowd erupting with cheers when dramatic things occurred, such as when the dove alighted on Jesus’ shoulder while being baptised .

Such was the sense of God ‘s presence that one elderly lady fell on her knees and declared “Heaven has opened in this place!”

“In my name they will cast out demons”

We praise God for the many He healed and set free. Just some of these were:

- A young man and a young lady who were previously both deaf but can now hear
- People who felt things moving around inside them – delivered!

- A man who had suffered with intense headaches and balance problems for three years was healed of both complaints
- A child who could not stand but kept falling over and who could not speak was completely healed
- A former witchdoctor afflicted with a skin disease that kept her awake each night testified that all inflammation gone and that she could now sleep
- A lady with a foot so swollen that she could only wear flip flops was now wearing shoes
- A single mother with three children was so frightened by demonic attacks that she gathered up her children and fled the house into the darkness each night . She is now delivered of this fear and testifies that they can all sleep in peace now

A local pastor exclaimed: “This land has been bound by demons, but Jesus is setting people free!”

Witchdoctor and family give their lives to Jesus through door to door visitation

We were delighted to have nearly 200 leaders drawn from 30 churches from a wide area. Many of them slept on mats each night on the floor of the host church. Our heart is to equip and envision local leaders so that they can carry on the evangelistic work by themselves in the months and years following any mission. A highly effective method that we encourage is for the churches to carry on house to house evangelism working together in unity in the area around each church in turn on a monthly basis.

After giving training in both how to lead someone to Christ and in testimony sharing we sent teams out. Even in this remote area, where some had to walk over half an hour to some of the places, to everyone’s great joy we saw *117* souls come to the Lord within the space of just two hours on one morning- *including both a witchdoctor and his family!* What a joy!

The following day they went on follow up visits to the same homes and saw another *103* salvations!

The Holy Spirit falls!

In addition to all the evangelistic training, we also provided training on how to set up new converts classes. Steven Trint gave some very anointed teaching on personal holiness, and we then commissioned the leaders for the ongoing work. During this time the Holy Spirit came in power with many falling on their knees weeping.

We had the great pleasure of being able to give out over 240 Bibles. These were often received with immense and overwhelming joy – many crying out and some kneeling down, clasping the Bible to their chests with one hand, the other raised in the air praising God.

Eternal impact

We praise God for over seven hundred commitments in all to Christ in this very remote spot during the week that we spent in Buliro. Many of these were Muslims, who had been involved in witchcraft but who wanted to surrender their witchcraft items for burning. To Him be all the glory!

Follow up visit to Nyabuhuka

Three of us went the following week to spend two days in the village of Nyabuhuka, close to the Ruhengori Mountains forming the border with the Congo, making a visit to the place where we had held a mission five years ago. Whilst we had only expected a hundred people, we were warmly welcomed by nearly double that quantity drawn from some twenty churches- some travelling nearly fifty miles and sleeping on the church floor.

Many there were showing us with pride the New Testaments that we had left five years previously and testified about the number of churches planted since then.

As we had not given so much emphasis to training in the earlier mission as we do these days we were able to make this good now. The teaching was hungrily received and we had the privilege of witnessing the Holy Spirit take over even during the teaching. This occurred when we had asked the two hundred people to break into pairs to practice praying the prayer of salvation and then asking the Holy Spirit to fill the person prayed for. There was a sudden wave of sound when this occurred, with people shaking under His power, and it was only with great difficulty that we were able to continue with the session!

Pastor Samuel Kamuhunda, the local pastor, is by heart an evangelist and he was thrilled with the training and evangelistic resources we left him in the local language.

The door- to- door work was interrupted by heavy rain. Despite this set back we still saw 21 new souls coming into the kingdom. Most importantly of all people were given the experience of doing this. We pray that even with this brief 'taster', fires were lit that will continue to burn in the days and weeks to come.

Fires still burning!

We were delighted to receive updates from previous trips. These included the following news:

Ten churches have now been planted in the 90% Muslim area of *Kikandwa* since we were there just two years ago!

In Kasokwe visited one year ago, the church that was planted after the mission, on a plot in a nearby village given by Rashik, a Muslim who was converted when we were there, has now grown to *seventy* people!

In Wobulenzi, visited five years ago the fires are still burning with teams of 20 going out from a large number of churches each month into surrounding villages doing door to door and holding crusades every three months. They are seeing many hundreds of people being saved each year on a consistent basis.

To God be all the glory!

A humbling visit to Nakaseke and Toggo

I spent two days at the end of the trip visiting the ministry of Pastor David Sseruwagi, particularly the secondary school that was acquired some two years ago (now with 250 pupils) to provide a follow up education for the 600 pupils (with very many orphans) that he already has in his primary school. It is indeed a wonderful faith enterprise as only one half of the outgoings are found by pupil sponsorship and the fees of those who are in a

position to pay. The balance of the outgoings come in purely as a result of prayer. I was much humbled and moved by the great burden on him and reminded strongly of the inspirational work and ministry of George Muller.

I also went to Toggo, a remote village, where Steven has recently planted a church and is about to establish a school. Even though he does not expect to have the latter completed for at least a year, he already has a waiting list of parents who are eager for their children to attend it.

Praise Points

- For the **744** people who accepted Jesus as their Lord and Saviour
- For the many healings and deliverances that we saw
- For the wonderful sense of unity present between team members that greatly challenged the local pastors. It was indeed a 'dream team'!
- For the 244 Bibles that we were able to distribute in a place of great need
- For God's continuing provision and for the excellent P.A. system we were able to acquire
- For good health and protection for the team
- For the big improvement in the fuel situation that had been affecting Uganda
- For the fires still strongly burning in places where we have previously visited

Ongoing Prayer Pointers

- For God to continue to work in a major way in the two main areas visited, particularly through the churches to continue to grow in their newly found unity and to embark on joint evangelistic programmes.
- For sufficient funds to be found to acquire our own film projector- the film ministry makes such an impact in these rural areas, with many praying the prayer of salvation at the end of them.
- For sufficient funding to cover the salaries of the teachers and staff at the new Christian secondary school at Nakaseke (Christ the Rock).
- For money to finish the roof of the church at Toggo before the wet season starts, as well as to complete the building of the new primary school there.

Once again thank you all *so* much for all your prayers, support and encouragement. They are such a key element in all that we see God do through these missions.

Terry Charlton and the Mission Africa Team