



*“ . . . And you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
(Acts 1:8)*

June 11, 2009

Dear Friends and Family:

I have noticed that each of the trips we make to Africa can be identified by some special feature that separates it from all the others. At times it is a poignant remark; at others a memorable action; and at others an incident during a training session. In our recent journey it is the setting that was distinctive.

Picture this! In Uganda we traveled north for almost an hour from the city of Jinja. Turning off the paved highway, we drove 10 kilometers over a bumpy, rough road, barely a lane wide, with treacherous ruts and potholes, as the dense foliage of a tropical forest closed in on us. Clay and brick huts with thatched roofs in small clearings housed families who lived there. Untended children who were dressed in rags stared in a daze at the white people going by. We were strangers passing through a remote world. I wondered who teaches these people about God's love and His provision for salvation.



**Did we take a wrong turn? Was there a misunderstanding with the conference organizers?
Where were the church leaders?**



Finally, we found them--close to 100 of them---in an abandoned building. They were singing hymns and waiting for us to arrive. Our teaching venue was a former primary school with run-down, half-destroyed buildings, with openings for doors and windows without doors and windows, no electric, limited water, and toilets defiant of description. A generator supplied enough current through paper thin wires for a microphone, but when a rain storm leaked water through holes in the tin roof, the teaching stopped.

To what can we testify from this experience? We can and do bear witness to the presence of our God in a corner of His creation that is unknown, primitive, and far removed from the world with which we are familiar. We bear witness to an army of dedicated and courageous leaders laboring in this isolated place who in turn will bear witness to other pastors, their congregations, and beyond. We bear witness to an unending chain of witnesses, of which we are a part, who serve the Lord across space and time and who seek to glorify Him and advance His kingdom.

From these thoughts comes the realization that God desires to be known by all of His creatures, that He has a plan to accomplish His purposes, and that His ways and means are often beyond our comprehension. We ask you, our partners and fellow witnesses, to join us in praying that we remain obedient servants and open channels to the Lord.

In Christ's name,

Jerry Brown
Executive Director





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Clockwise starting top left: Stephen Bamuleke aka Bamo teaching Spiritual Health of Pastors; the conference participants and teachers in Naminage, Uganda; participants listening to a lecture; Brian Stout teaching Bible Study Methods; students copying information; Patrick Foss teaching Theology; the teaching team: Bamo, Patrick, Jerry Brown, and Brian; the source of the Nile River— Jinja, Uganda.

