

December 2006

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As we approach the arrival of the Christmas season and the end of this year, **we rejoice at the birth of Jesus Christ, God's precious Son and our precious Savior.** When we reflect upon the infant born in such lowly surroundings, we are reminded again of God's wonderful grace and mysterious purposes. We are amazed by the awesome plan for our salvation put into motion with the incarnation of His son. We are humbled by the immensity of His sacrifice and the greatness of His gift on our behalf. *May grateful hearts be a hallmark of our love and commitment to the Lord all the time!*

In retrospect, this past year has been exciting and special. We have seen the Lord using the ministry of Leadership Vistas to accomplish many things, and much of what I say in this newsletter celebrates the outworking of His will for His greater glory. But the year has also been about some key events in the journey of my own life---events that celebrate Him as our merciful physician and miraculous healer. **I join with the psalmist, praising His name and saying to all who would listen: "I will not die, but live, and I will proclaim what the Lord has done." (Ps.118:17)**

A year ago at this time I was so weak from illness that I was unable to compose a thoughtful letter reporting on the ministry's activities. But **since then the Lord has strengthened me and enabled LVIM to sponsor several conferences in Uganda and Rwanda that have provided much needed training to over 200 pastors and church leaders.** Although these men and women struggle with a host of obstacles in their daily service to the Lord, they were reaffirmed and encouraged by our teachings and they bear persistent witness to the impact which our ministry is having on Christianity in these East African countries. *For all these things we lift His name to the heavens!*

Four weeks ago in **Kampala, Uganda** we offered a **special value-added training seminar for 20 men and women** selected for their leadership and teaching abilities, visions for ministry, recognized positions in the larger Christian community, and potential to advance the Lord's work. *Our week together* not only gave these leaders a clarity and focus needed to move their ministries forward, but also *opened up new possibilities for our collaboration with them and further growth of the Christian presence in Africa.* We will begin the new year with much anticipation of how God is planning to use us.

Three weeks ago in **Gisenyi, Rwanda**, we held our **final plenary conference** for the pastors and church leaders from the Congo and Rwanda. In this session our courses focused on the books of the Old Testament as well as Mentoring and Spiritual Gifts. *The participants spoke to the cumulative impact of our teaching with joy, enthusiasm and*

*gratitude.* We wait expectantly to see how God is going to translate their renewed focus into ministry growth. We look forward to offering the special training seminar in Swahili for 20 of these Christian leaders in April, 2007. **Mungu asifiwe!**

**As you plan** for your end of year giving, we would ask that you **prayerfully consider making a regular monthly gift to support the ongoing ministry activities of Leadership Vistas.** So, too, *special donations* to cover the costs of our conferences in Africa *are equally appreciated.* Our goal is to remain faithful to God's calling and will. Our hope and prayer are that you would partner with us in this exciting adventure.

***May the Lord in His love and grace abundantly bless you during this Christmas season and throughout the coming year!***

In Christ's service,

Jerry Brown  
Executive Director