



The East Africa Connection

"Teach these great truths to trustworthy men who will, in turn, pass them on to others"

2 Timothy 2:2 (Amplified).

Bob and Dee Vande Brake
3804 S. Poplar Ave.
Broken Arrow, OK 74011

2010 MINISTRY REPORT

Dee and I want to thank you for your prayers and financial support this year. God had a different plan for us in 2010 than we had expected. But despite everything, we were able to accomplish quite a bit even though it was done long distance. We look forward to travelling and ministering again in Uganda in the beginning of 2011.

During this time we have continued to work with our pastors and friends in Kenya and Uganda because you have helped us provide funds for many projects in 2011.

THE LORD OPENS DOORS OF MINISTRY IN UGANDA

1) Our first class of pastors in Uganda graduated September 18th from our school in Mukono, Uganda. Twenty-five men and women received the first diplomas with gratitude and joy. Many expressed how much better equipped they felt, having undergone the UMTI biblical training classes, to serve their congregations and to preach the gospel with great confidence and authority. The graduates were so excited they rounded up another group of 25 pastors to begin the next class.

2) The second school in Kapchorua, at the base of Mt Elgon, the giant volcano separating Uganda and Kenya, is beginning its third quarter of study with great enthusiasm. I hope to teach there later in the Spring of 2011.

3) Through a major gift, Dee and I were able to provide the funds to start our third school in Uganda. It is in a more remote area than our other schools, but with a strong church that needs training to bring change to their society. Dee and I are planning to open this school in February on our first trip back to Uganda. George Wafula (our Director of Schools) comments on the area:

"We had a great time with the Teso community who live in Northern Uganda. It is a beautiful part of Uganda. They have never had a Bible College in this part of Uganda since the world began. The need for training leaders there is just awesome. When we arrived, the senior pastors (bishops) of the area came out to meet us and informed us that there were over 200 pastors that wanted to be trained." —George Wafula



First graduating class in Mukono, Uganda



Cutting the ribbon on KMTI's new Dr. LeRoy Curtis lecture hall



Larry Neese teaching in Kapchorwa, Uganda



Kapchorwa Class

It seems to me that Paul could have written George's paragraph about one of his missionary journeys to the Asia Minor. It has become apparent to me that our first step into a new area must involve the training of the pastors. Then they can teach the people of the area how to build the society on Christian principles. Paul wrote it best to Timothy when he said: "And the things you have heard me say . . . entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others" (II Tim. 2:2). I have instructed George to select to the best 25-30 leaders and teachers for the first class. After their training we will entrust them, with the truth to take back to their districts. It will be a real high point in my life to stand before these men who have suffered so much for the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



Pastor Godfrey and some of the orphans during the food and gift distribution

CARING FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

1) Today in a slum in Mukono, Uganda, Pastor Godfrey prays for God to intervene and provide food and schools for several hundred orphans that live in the streets close to his church. In January we were able to send him enough money to provide food and school gifts for 200 orphans. There are 10,000 orphans in Mukono and over 10 million in the nation. Godfrey does all he can and more, but it is never enough. Dee and I did pre-marital counseling for Godfrey and his fiancé while in Uganda. They were married this summer.

2) Sammy Rotich and his wife conduct the best marriage seminars in Kenya. They suffered the loss of most of their congregation during the civil disturbances after the last election. Many of their best members had to flee to another region. His church met in a rundown storage building full of dump trucks. After losing so many families, he was not even able to pay the rent for the bad location. We wanted to invest in Sammy and his wife so they could continue to bring change in Nakuru. With your help we were able to buy Sammy a building that will seat 200 people for meetings. It is one of the best locations in Nakuru the fourth largest city in Kenya.



Sammy Rotich at his new building

3) In Uganda we have been discipling a young pastor and his wife. Pastor Chris is one of the best entrepreneurs in Uganda. To support his family he runs a cleaning business and a small retail shop selling grain. His church had a bamboo roof that let the rain through but stopped the sunlight. Last year we helped Chris start an elementary school in the church. Some of you contributed school supplies that Dee and I put in our suitcases. The church had to have a real roof or the children would get wet and sick. With your gifts we were able to put a new tin roof on Chris's church.



New church roof on Chris' church

4) This summer after a year praying for a building to use as a church, Ken Andayi, the best worship leader in Kenya, received a building given to him by a pastor in Nairobi. This building will seat 150 people. Ken and I know Nairobi needs a church that can touch God's presence in worship. Most if not all Kenyan churches just make a loud joyful noise but do not know how to worship. Our friends from Eddie Blalock's church (The Orchard Community Church) provided the start up funds last year to plant the church. Ken was forced to move to Nairobi as his first church was broken up by the ethnic conflicts that took many lives two years ago. Ken had to go into hiding for several weeks in a national park. Through your

support we are providing 50% of the rent for the long term lease on the land the building is on. It needs work: like glass for the windows, a bathroom, and a door that will lock. We are praying we can provide some of the funds.

5) This summer after a year praying for a building to use as a church, Ken Andayi, the best worship leader in Kenya, received a building given to him by a pastor in Nairobi. This building will seat 150 people. Ken and I know Nairobi needs a church that can touch God's presence in worship. Most if not all Kenyan churches just make a loud joyful noise but do not know how to worship. Our friends from Eddie Blalock's church (The Orchard Community Church) provided the start up funds last year to plant the church. Ken was forced to move to Nairobi as his first church was broken up by the ethnic conflicts that took many lives two years ago. Ken had to go into hiding for several weeks in a national park. Through your support we are providing 50% of the rent for the long term lease on the land the building is on. It needs work: like glass for the windows, a bathroom, and a door that will lock. We are praying we can provide some of the funds.



Completed lecture hall

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

In Kitale Kenya, Larry and I have been praying for a vocational school to empower pastors with skills they can use to support their families. Now that the lecture hall is complete, with your help we have been able to commit funds to convert the former classroom building into a vocational school.

(1) George Wafula (our Kenyan director) is working with us to find men and women who can build a business with integrity. With your gifts designated to buy enterprise creating machines, we have committed funds to create a building block business in Bungoma, Kenya. We will use this to test a Kick Start machine and develop record keeping systems to use with all new businesses. Heading up the business is Patrick Busolo, KMTI graduate and church planter. He has a team of men making bricks by hand to support the church and their families. Patrick has polio but still pulls himself on a small motor bike and has planted five more churches. We have funding for 10 irrigation systems, 2 block making machines and 2 oil press machines. George will have potential owners ready when we return this winter.



Patrick Busolo and new block press machine

(2) Through your generous gifts we also funded a bike repair shop earlier in the year. The brother informs me that he has now moved up to basic repairs on motor bikes. This income helps feed his entire extended family who have all been unemployed. Glory to God!



Bike repair shop

(3) One of our best friends in Kenya is 67-year-old businessman Wycliffe. He has started a credit union to teach the principles of saving and has over 2,500 members to date. I am the first international member. He had been funding a community feeding program providing lunch to all the orphans in his home city. When the economy took a turn for the worse he felt he should care for as many of these children as possible. He took 32 into his own home and started a school in a building in his backyard that has over 150 students. His living room has become a church and beds are placed in every vacant square foot. Wycliffe did not have the funds to pay for their food and care. He just knew he had to help. Our good friends, from Orchard Community Church in Lake City, FL, are providing basic food money for the next 18 months while another church in Atlanta is collecting hygiene, school supplies and personal items for the orphans. Your gifts are providing milk and meat along with school supplies.



Wycliffe's orphans receiving gifts from Atlanta



A Special Letter to Our Friends . . .



DEAR FRIENDS,

With my ticket to Kenya already purchased last January, I was all set to return to Africa and finish the last details needed to launch our team's second school in Uganda. However, in February I was recalled by the manufacturer for major repair (even a Toyota can be recalled). The pain management injections that I had been receiving for the last three years were no longer managing the pain in my back.

As Toyota also discovered, my recall was worse than expected. First, in April I had surgery on my left knee to repair an old football injury. (Old like older than dirt—I played football 1958-1962.) Then there were more tests for the back repair. It seemed to me that a small shim (like on a door frame) would allow the sciatic nerve in my leg to function normally (I had been falling down without warning or respect for retaining my dignity). On May 25th the small spacer turned into the fusing of four vertebrae while rebuilding my lower back. Needless to say, you will not want to go through airport security in the same line with me. I have 6 rods, 12 plates, and 24 screws in my new "Iron Man" back. But God is good: I am walking without pain and not falling down. Then in September I went into the hospital to repair my right shoulder (seems I tore my bicep muscle during one of the falls).

God guided the doctors. It has been six months since I returned home from the hospital using a walker and back brace. (In the months after surgery, Dee won a Florence Nightingale Award for nursing the hardest patient in recent remembrance back to health . . .) Today I am growing bone over the implants and waiting to fly back to Uganda to start our third school. Praise God! This will give me about three additional months of physical therapy and time for the bones to finish growing over the rods. My back is like a car driving in between Dallas and El Paso. You do not want to throw a rod half way to El Paso or the rods in my back in Uganda!

Dee and I are praying that this Christmas your family will be able to gather around the Baby who became the soon coming King and thank Him for the blessings He has given us in the USA. We pray that the call to follow Him is just as strong today as it was in during the founding of our nation.

Dee and I want you to feel personally involved with us as we serve the Lord in East Africa. Your gifts can have a direct affect on people that we feel will be the next generation of Christian leaders in Kenya and Uganda. If the Lord shows you a family or a project you would like to support, just designate the gift and we will see it delivered, usually in person. I shared a few of the best examples in this report. Other gifts range from repairing a pastor's motor taxi so he can continue to feed his family to sending money for malaria medication to help fight a new strain resistant to cheaper medications.

I just returned from three doctor's appointments for my final release to travel back to Uganda. All the doctors were positive about the progress of my back and released me to fly back to Uganda in February. Dee has not released me totally as she will be on the plane and keeping an eye on me the first trip. We will leave the middle of February to start the third school in Uganda. I did not think I would be hungry for mashed green bananas, but after 8 months at home, they even sound good to me. Thanks so much for your prayers and gifts this year. We look forward to a great year back in Africa teaching Bible classes to pastors and starting new enterprises. Please ask the Lord if you are to assist with our ongoing humanitarian programs or in sponsoring a pastor to go to school. Better yet: actually come to Kenya with Dee and I to assist in the ministry.

May God bless you and yours during this season of the celebration of Jesus our Savior's birth and may the coming year be one of health, abundance, and joy for you and yours!

—Bob and Dee Vande Brake

For tax deductible contributions, mail a check to I.O.M. at the following address and please add a note that the contribution is for Bob Vande Brake: INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH MINISTRIES, P.O. BOX 2140, MCCOMB MS 39649