



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).

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FEBRUARY 2011

BRINGING TRUTH TO EAST AFRICA

Friends—

I hope you have lost 10 lbs on your new after Christmas diet. We moved to Oklahoma just in time for it to qualify for the most overweight state in the nation. Good to be among those who can't throw the first stone. We have had an old fashioned North Dakota winter. It set all time snow records and beat the lowest temperature recorded several times. I hear it is called global warming.

We have been working on several projects in both Kenya and Uganda. The third school will start on the 21st in Kimu, Uganda. We should have over 50 pastors taking their first Bible college class. Our director, George Wafulu, told me, “This is the first Bible class in this area since the world began.” Your gifts have funded the printing of all the textbooks and sponsoring the pastors to attend. We are also funding a new class in Mukono. The first one graduated in September 2010. These two-year schools will have a great impact on the body of Christ in Uganda. Truth in any form is hard to find in that country. Truth about the Kingdom of God is non-existent. Uganda Ministry Training Institutes's goal is to train 500 pastors in 5 years. It is well on its way to that goal. (See picture of new class in Kapchorua at bottom right.)

Usable Bibles have been hard to find for our pastors in Uganda. In the new class of 50 pastors only 10 had usable Bibles. Dee and I want to personally thank those of you that donated the money to purchase 150 new NIV Bibles. This will be enough for each new student to have the same Bible to use in class. I will show you pictures next month of them receiving the Bibles.

Also, note the class picture of the graduation class of pastors in Nakuru, Kenya. This city of 500,000 was hit hard in the violence two years ago, but KMTI has trained over 200 pastors in this city. Sammy Rotich has done a great job running our schools in Nakuru. (By the way this was the first town I visited when God called Dee and I to Kenya four years ago.)

Bill Watts and I continue to work with our friend Wycliffe on the credit union project for Bumgona, Kenya. We are about 30 days out from funding the office equipment and setting up a location for the business. They will be making loans for new businesses by this summer. (I think working out the details of this project have been the most difficult of any we have attempted so far.) This savings organization will be able to revolve money as loans are repaid for many years into the future. We will be providing our graduates with a way to break the cycle of poverty over their families and churches.

In this newsletter I have included two articles—one from Larry Neese, director of KMTI, and the other from our KMTI accountant about his experiences at KMTI.



New Bibles for students



Graduating class of Nakuru



Uganda Class with Larry Neese

PRAYER REQUESTS

- (1) I still am not strong enough for the 16 hour flight to Nairobi. It is hard for me to admit that the doctors were originally correct that there would be a 12 months recovery, but they were right. I am going to work from the US until later this Spring.
- (2) Larry Neese has been sick for a month while in Kenya. It started as Typhoid Fever.
- (3) We are praying for George Wafulu to get his visa to come to the US this Spring.

RECORD GROWTH AT KMTI & UMTI! BY LARRY NEESE

The new year has brought record breaking enrollment for both KMTI (Kenya) and UMTI (Uganda). As most of you know we have now moved into Uganda the last two years. By March 2011 we will have three Bible Institutes operational in Uganda with over 100 pastors enrolled in class. They will soon be making a difference in the spiritual climate of that nation. As far back as 1990 our founder LeRoy Curtis had Ugandan pastors crossing the border asking us to come to Uganda. The need was great. There had been little if any Bible training during the rule of Idi Amin and the decades of civil war after his ouster. But the limited funding at the time had to be focused on Kenya and KMTI. Today we have trained over 1,000 pastors and church leaders in Kenya many who are ready to go into Uganda to pass on what they have received from the Lord. Pastor Bob VandeBrake made his first trip to Kenya just prior to Beverly's cancer diagnosis. He was the perfect complement to KMTI, being both a pastor and educator. He turned out to be God's answer to help us open schools in Uganda. Bob developed UMTI (Uganda Ministry Training Institute) based on our work in Kenya and the rest is history. A number of his friends joined with him to raise support and now we have three schools operational in the "Word of God" starved nation. Please consider helping us with this great opportunity in East Africa by sponsoring a pastor's two years of training. It only takes \$600 to give a pastor his two year degree. Help us as we see God change a nation. —Larry Neese

A WORD FROM SILAS CHELIMO, KMTI ACCOUNTANT...

I am Silas Kiptanui Chelimo born in 1971 as the seventh child in a family of ten children. Before I was born, my father and mother had been blessed with one son and five daughters. Because boys were valued more than girls, this caused my father to marry a second wife and live with her for five years before I was born. Unfortunately she had no child and as soon as I was born as a second son to my father and mother, she ran away and never returned. I thank God that when I was eight years old, both of my parents received Christ as their personal Savior. They therefore introduced us to the Christian life, always instructing us to live upright life as we grew up. When I was in high school, I decided to accept Christ as my personal Savior too. Before then, I was attending church and trying to live the Christian life through my own efforts. This was very hard. After my high school, I enrolled in a CPA course for me to qualify and work as a professional accountant. After doing some parts of the CPA training and being involved in church ministry, I decided to enroll in biblical training to enable me to serve God's people better. KMTI became the college of my choice and without wasting time I enrolled for the two-year diploma program being offered by KMTI in October 2000. I graduated in February 2002. Little did I know that three years later God would open a door for me to work with KMTI and be a part of what God is doing here. I left working for Kenya Seed Co. and joined the KMTI team in October 2005 after I got married. I gladly accepted work at KMTI as my prayer had been to work for a religious organization, which God faithfully answered.

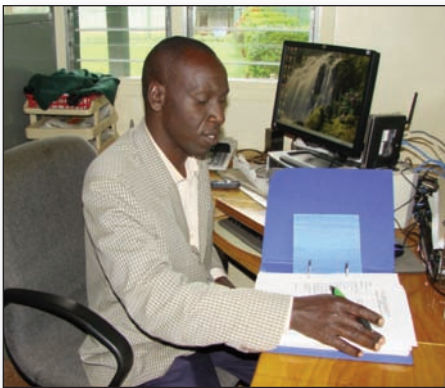
While at KMTI God has continued to bless me and expand my ministry in the church where I work as an assistant pastor overseeing home churches. I have also proceeded with my CPA qualification and I am now left with only a paper to do to become a fully certified public accountant. I thank Brother Larry Neese for his constant support and encouragement for me to finish this qualification. May God continue blessing him abundantly. I will be doing this paper in December. I believe in February when the results come out I will be celebrating together with all those who have been praying for me to finish this course. God bless KMTI! —Silas Chelimo

A FINAL WORD

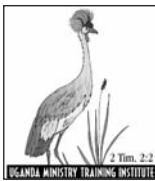
Dee and I have been snowed in for two weeks in beautiful Oklahoma. Now today it is 75 degrees—a 100 degree change from last week. We are ready to go back to Kenya where the temperature is about the same 365 days a year (Spring all the time). Keep the Credit Union concept in prayer. We would like to have it up and running by this summer when Dee and I are back in Kenya. Thanks again for your gifts and prayer support.

God's blessings,

—Bob and Dee Vande Brake



Silas Chelimo, KMTI Accountant



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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

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