



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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UGANDAN SCHOOLS EXPAND BY LARRY NEESE

Bob is letting me share a part of the story of the Uganda Ministry Training Institute expansion with you to give you some background on the development of this new addition for the training of African church leaders.

When I first arrived in 1997 LeRoy Curtis, the founder of KMTI, told me that there was great interest in Uganda to train leaders but first KMTI Kenya needed to be well established in order to have trained Kenyan teachers to send there. I put the idea aside and then in 2005 my wife, Beverly, and I spent Christmas with a Wycliffe Bible translation team in Entebbe, Uganda. While we were there we began to search out the possibilities of opening a branch of KMTI in Uganda, but we did not feel good about Entebbe or Kampala. As we traveled back to our home in Kitale, Kenya, we passed through a small city by the name of Mukono. We asked some questions when we stopped to refuel our car and felt a real peace about the possibility of this location.

In the early part of 2006, a Ugandan Bishop crossed the border with three of his pastors into Bungoma, a Kenyan town near Uganda, looking for a place to study the Bible. He met with George Wafula, who was our branch manager of a satellite school there at the time, but we did not have boarding facilities in Bungoma. George sent him to Kitale to enroll the men there. We were able to accommodate them with full boarding while they studied. The interesting thing about this Ugandan church leader was that he came from the very city—Mukono—where Bev and I had prayed the year before and felt this was where we were to begin in Uganda.

In early 2007 Bob Vande Brake went to Kenya to teach and look at the work in Kenya while I was back in the States. The rest is history. Bob became our East African Development Pastor and was blessed with donors who wanted to help him start the first school in Uganda. They opened it in Mukono, which is the witchcraft capital of Uganda and where they have their altars for sacrifice located. Over the first year Bob faced much spiritual resistance from the enemy, but **today Uganda Ministry Training Institute is nearing its first graduation in September.** Through these first three years of working in Uganda and Kenya, Bob has had to overcome prostate cancer and is now recovering from major back surgery that must heal before he can return to his much needed service in these two countries.

In your times of prayer, please remember Bob as he recovers from this surgery. His great gifting and willingness to go to Africa even when he wasn't well truly made the difference while I was back in the States with Beverly who was so sick. He is such a blessing to the work in Africa. —Larry ■

JOBS FOR KENYA—FIRST NEW BUSINESS!

Patrick Busolo is one of KMTI's star graduates. He had polio when he was a child and has little use of one leg. We have helped him go to Nairobi several times for new braces and check-ups. Even with polio he has been able to ride a small motor bike and travel to plant at least five new churches. As with most Kenyan pastors, he has to work to support his family. He and two of his men have been making bricks by hand to sell. **George told me that with a Kick Start Block**



Ugandan class in Mukono, May 2010



Ugandan classroom in Kapchorwa



Ugandan class in Kapchorwa, May 2010

PRAYER REQUESTS

- 1) Gabriel asks you to pray about sponsoring a new student for the Uganda class. It is only \$600 for the two-year school.
- 2) Quick healing so Bob can travel.
- 3) For a vocational training school to be completed



Gabriel Thuku overlooking school site in Uganda



Larry Neese teaching in Kapchorwa

Please check out
our new website:
www.JobsforKenya.com

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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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making machine they would be able to make several hundred bricks a day rather than just seventy-five. Patrick is going to be testing the machine while building his business with three other men. Patrick told me: "George has been praying with me the God will see me through financially so I can serve Him while it is still the day." **We are excited to be able to provide jobs for four men and their families as they serve the Lord in Kenya.**

GABRIEL THUKU — ONE OF KMTI'S FIRST GRADUATES

Gabriel was one of the first students at KMTI after Larry Neese moved to Kitale, and he graduated in 2000. It turns out that **God had been preparing Gabriel for almost twenty years to help Uganda.** I'll let him tell you the rest of the story:

Uganda suffered great civil strife for decades, but the worst was after the fall of Idi Amin Dada before the present regime of President Yoweri Museveni took over power. The present government has proved better than all the past regimes because now we can talk about peace in most places in Uganda, as well as travel to most parts without fear.

It was in the eighties when I met many Ugandans mostly from the eastern region around Mt. Elgon who were fleeing away from raiders that took advantage of the government instability in Uganda. Some of the people who were running away were Christians. We welcomed them and assisted them both with material and spiritual needs. It was through this interaction that we got to understand their spiritual backgrounds as far as Christianity is concerned. Evangelical revival had just begun in the early eighties and was reaching to the far east of Uganda, but with the devastation of war not much of a spiritual foundation was being laid.

After the war ended in the early nineties, the situation began to improve and the brethren who had run away began returning. We began visiting them and discovered there was much confusion in the church there. We shared with them what little we knew, but there was much to be done. I remember praying and asking God to remember Uganda and particularly the eastern region.

After enrolling in Kenya Ministry Training Institute in 1999, I began to understand much of God's Word and how to apply it. By this time I had established a very close relationship with my Ugandan brothers, and I was a regular visitor there, training them with every teaching on leadership I came across. After completing my studies with Kenya Ministry Training Institute, I began asking the Lord to help establish an institution in this area where ministers could get training. I am very grateful to KMTI for opening the Ugandan schools and the recent Kapchorua School situated on the slopes of Mt. Elgon where I had noticed a great need for many years. **The school had over twenty students in the first quarter of 2010 and even more are expected in August 2010.** I must admit that the Lord is very faithful to answer prayers. —*Gabriel* ■

THE LAST WORD

I want to thank you for your words of encouragement and prayers during my back surgery and continued recovery. I have a new titanium lower back. (I had hoped it would be steel so I could say I was part Iron Man.) Four vertebrae were fused together using rods and plates, and a fifth was repaired. **My two surgeons are working to have me back in running (literally) shape by fall when we return to Kenya.** I told the doctors that I had to be able to dodge a hungry baboon if I ate its last banana.

God has a plan for our lives. He has a finishing mark that He wants us to press toward. **It is our desire that both Dee and I be able to complete that plan and fulfill the call of God on our lives.** I start physical therapy in 3 weeks (bone has to grow over the rods first), so please don't quit praying. I know God is good—all the time.

God's blessings,

—*Bob and Dee Vande Brake*