

## Uganda and Kenya Conferences April 5 – 14

Bryan Baptiste and Larry Stassel

Bryan and Larry left the US for Africa on April 2. We met in New York and traveled via Amsterdam and Kigali, Rwanda to Entebbe (Kampala) Uganda. We were met by brothers Moses and Peter from Mukono late at night on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and taken to our lodging at the Book Store in Mukono. We arrived there very early in the morning of the 4<sup>th</sup>.

Some 165 (+ some babies and infants) travelled from their villages on the 4<sup>th</sup> to be with us for the conference on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> in a rented facility in Mukono. The local brothers felt a need to consider the conduct of believers after conversion. Some felt that now that we are saved, and saved for eternity, we could live as we pleased. Our study of Romans 5:12 through 8 was very helpful to all who attended. As we considered the grace of God and the gift of grace which is by Jesus Christ many expressed that they received help in understanding what God has done for us.



A number had been trying to please God by keeping the law, but they realized their failures in doing so. We considered the sphere in which we were born (without God in an evil world) and the new sphere of blessing of which we are now part by the work of our blessed Lord. This has been made possible by His death and resurrection. Our death and resurrection with Him, which we expressed in baptism, puts us in this new sphere. By recognizing that we are dead to this world we no longer should yield ourselves to fulfil the sinful desires of the flesh but, as resurrected to new life in Jesus Christ, we can yield ourselves as instruments of righteousness to God. While the Christian life is not easy, and we all have struggles, the victory comes through Jesus Christ our Lord. We are free from the law of sin and death and have the Holy Spirit indwelling us. As we follow His leading, He enables us to become overcomers.

On April 8<sup>th</sup> we traveled east through Busia and into Kenya to arrive in time for supper in Siaya. The conference began on the 9<sup>th</sup> and concluded with the noon meal on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

The local saints had rented rooms in a secure compound where we had our meals, lodgings and a meeting hall. Their desire had been to consider "Keeping the Faith". Some of the aspects of the Faith that we considered and that we hold fast are: The deity of Christ, His incarnation, His sinless life, His death, His resurrection, His ascension, His coming again, His present ministry at the right hand of God, the truth of Christ and the assembly, His glories in the world to come, and the Holy Spirit now present here on earth. A total of 33 attended this conference. 10 saints



travelled from Mombasa (all the way across Kenya—a very long day of travel) and others from

Bungoma and towns between Busia and Siaya. The smaller number provided opportunity for personal visits with most of those present.

After the Siaya conference we returned to Busia where the conference grounds had been prepared by setting up a group of attached tents on the nice compound that was purchased two years ago. Plans are underway for construction of a large meeting hall with dormitories to accommodate those who come from distances. A book room and small medical room are also being planned for. The whole compound was surrounded by a high brick wall when purchased. The new facilities would provide accommodations for camps and conferences. Some 311 were expected but additional ones came—even some from Mukono came on their own to enjoy further teaching during the conference on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup>.



Last year we studied John 13, 14 and 15. Several local brothers reviewed those studies before we continued with John 16 and 17. We all had a most enjoyable time considering those chapters to see who our Lord is and what He has done for us.

Our busy times together quickly passed. The times together were much appreciated by all who attended. These times of fellowship are so valued by the local saints who, just a few years ago, did not know about each other in their country. What a sight it is to see them greet each other as they meet again and embrace each other before leaving! We too confess that each of them has been greatly endeared to us as we spent such lovely times together! We left Uganda just before midnight on the 14<sup>th</sup> and arrived safely back in the US on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

We observed the care of responsible older brothers in central and eastern Uganda who are real fathers to the saints. These brothers keep very busy visiting the various assemblies and other interested groups. Insufficient time is available to work in many areas where assemblies could be established. It is also refreshing to see a number of younger brothers and sisters enthusiastically involved in serving the Lord and His people.

Please continue to pray for the saints and the work of our Lord in Uganda and Kenya!

