

Elburg, 28th April 2023

"God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."  
(1 Cor. 1:9).

Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,

### Called to Fellowship

In recent months I have been able to experience in a special way the *fellowship* mentioned in the above verse with brothers and sisters from several countries. A fellowship in which "*his Son Jesus Christ*" himself is the object and the centre. A fellowship which is also characterized by personal devotion, imitation and obedience to him who is "*our Lord*".

Just a few of the many brothers and sisters whose fellowship I enjoyed



Hanni and Joy Boulos and their children



Wagdi and Fadia Tadros

Visiting brother Hohn van Dijk (Ajax)

In this report I limit myself to mentioning some of these visits.

In January, during a working visit to brother Hani Boulos, I enjoyed the *fellowship* with the brothers and sisters in *Toronto/Willowdale and Ajax in Canada*, both in meetings and in personal conversations and home visits.

Last week I spent a few days in *Yverdon, Switzerland*, visiting Robert and Germaine Gschwind. Together with brother Robert, I have visited the brothers and sisters in Rwanda many times, and Robert and Germaine have made

many blessed home visits together in that country. During this visit I also enjoyed the above-mentioned *fellowship* with other brothers and with the local assembly. I had the opportunity to show them a powerpoint presentation on the work in Rwanda and Northeast Congo and their interest was encouraging.

Between the two visits mentioned above, I had the opportunity to visit the countries of **Uganda** and **Rwanda** from 9 to 29 March. In both countries, at the beginning of my visit, the annual three-day sessions of the members of the foundation that manage the administrative matters on behalf of the assemblies in their countries were held. These members, who are obviously local brothers, work closely with the foundation All Nations (for more details see [www.allthenations.info/finances/](http://www.allthenations.info/finances/)) through their board of directors. In Uganda this foundation is called "Promotion of Christian Literature and Aid Service" (PCLAS) and in Rwanda "Diffusion de la Bible et de Traités Chrétiens" (DBTCR). The discussions of the members of these two foundations were marked by *fellowship* and resulted in unanimous decisions.

I had a very good time of fellowship in the Lord and His work during my visit with brother



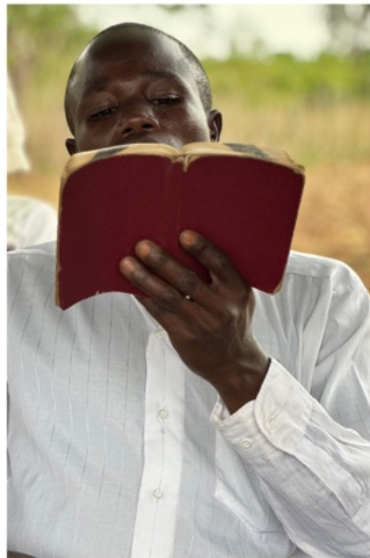
and Sister Germaine during my visit, and the same goes for the many others



I met in Yverdon and the surrounding area

### Uganda

After the three days of PCLAS sessions, I visited about ten assemblies in central and eastern Uganda with local brothers. In previous letters you have read about the development of contacts in central and eastern Uganda: in 2009, brother **Ssemueterike Deo** found a GBV booklet on gathering in the Name of the Lord in a market. A brother from the border town of Busia (Eastern Uganda/Kenya), **Wepukhulu James**, had received some of the GBV literature in 2011 and contacted brother Deo several years ago. Brother



**Wepukhulu James** had found the teaching in the booklets he received to be in line with the Scriptures. He was therefore very grateful to hear that brothers and sisters elsewhere in Uganda were putting this teaching into practice, especially by meeting in the Name of the Lord.

Through him, contact was made with many groups of believers in eastern Uganda and Tanzania. Since then, Bible conferences have been held regularly in central and eastern Uganda, and the number of assemblies in Uganda has increased considerably in recent years.

For some time, I had it on my heart to visit these assemblies in Uganda. These visits are very important because they allow us to get to know the brothers and sisters and their families, the place where they live, their living conditions.

After the Bible studies, conversations often take place, which give an impression of the particular ways of thinking and needs, both spiritual and material. A personal connection and practical experience of the *fellowship of "his Son Jesus Christ our Lord"* develops. I notice this when I meet these brothers and sisters again at Bible conferences. The greetings are much more personal, the interaction during breaks much deeper, the teaching more focused on spiritual needs than on theoretical teaching of biblical truths.

Due to time constraints, I was only able to attend a dozen assemblies, accompanied by local brothers. This gave me a good impression of the *great distances* that the local brethren travel, partly by moped, partly on foot, or by boat on Lake Victoria,

where Brother James has an increasing number of contacts with the residents of some of the islands.

These visits have had a profound effect on me, as I have met brothers and sisters - whom I only knew from the Bible conferences - now in their villages and homes. There they live with the Lord, proclaiming his death "until he comes", listening and studying the Word of God. They encounter misunderstanding and opposition, but are happy in the Lord, personally and in their *fellowship with each other*.

In Busia, the local brethren meet in the new conference hall >, where Bible conferences are held for the brethren from the many assemblies in central and eastern Uganda, as well as for the youth camps.

During our visit, a special meeting was held outside under the big tree for the sisters who were Muslims. Their testimonies were always about "*His Son, Jesus Christ*", through whom they now enjoy the above-mentioned *fellowship*.



## Rwanda

The three-day Bible conference in Kigali focused on the life and service of some Judges. Local brethren had translated into Kyniarwanda a booklet we had written for this purpose. The subject turned out to be so interesting that the brochure in question was also translated into Lhukonzo and Luganda (Uganda). The brethren in that country want to study the same subject at the Bible conference to be held next month in Mukono (central Uganda). We have often found that the Word of God is so rich that the Lord gives grace to address the same topics in a refreshing and soul-nourishing way. Thus, the author of the epistle to the

Hebrews says: "And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of ..... Barak, Samson, ..... who through faith conquered kingdoms.."

We did not even have enough time to cover the whole subject of the booklet at the conference in Kigali. With the help of about 30 copies of these booklets in Kyniarwanda, local brethren (2 Tim. 2:2) will study (again) the whole subject and then share it with the brothers and sisters when they visit the assemblies in Rwanda.

The local brethren regularly participated in the ministry of the Word, stressing in particular the importance of how the next generation is brought up. The more the future generation sees that the present generation knows God and his Word, and lives by that Word, the more the future generation will begin to do the same. What our brethren have repeatedly said is well expressed in Psalm 78, of which I quote only a few verses: "... that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments .."



In His great mercy, the Lord has in recent years gathered brothers and sisters in eight locations in Rwanda to gather in His Name and proclaim His death "until He comes". In two other locations, brothers and sisters also have a desire to start gathering in the name of the Lord: about 30 in a town in the north-east of the country and about 20 in a village in the south-west. In Rwanda, meetings are only allowed in public buildings, which have detailed building regulations. These construction rules require the construction of a building in the northern town, which costs 90,000 €. The cost of the building in the southern village is 25,000 €. As long as the brothers and sisters in question do not have such a building, they will not be able to meet to continue together "steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in

prayer". Since last year, they have been praying together with all the brothers and sisters in Rwanda for funds to build these buildings.

Five brothers from Mputu, in the north-east of Congo, made the long journey to Kigali to attend the conference. You will understand that they enjoyed the fellowship with brothers and sisters from other countries and were encouraged by the many talks and consultations that took place during the breaks. The Lord preserved them during the perilous journey there and back.

We would like to thank you very much for your prayers and practical support in recent times.

Receive, beloved brothers and sisters, my most warm greetings in our faithful Lord,

Your brother in him,

Hilvert Wijnholds

PS :

D.V. Brother John Redekop (Canada) and I will be visiting central and eastern Uganda next month:

- Visiting local assemblies in Eastern Uganda with local brothers
- Meetings in Mukono (near Kampala) with young people with whom Brother Thembo Festo has established contacts in recent times.
- Attend a three-day Bible conference for brethren who are faithful and able to teach (2 Tim. 2:2).