

Report of visits in Uganda and northeast Congo from 12 February - 10 March 2024

22 March 2024

"For even the Son of man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mk 10:45)

"If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in" (2 Tm 4:6)

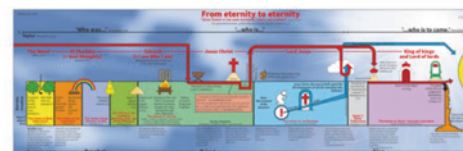
With great gratitude to the Lord, we look back on the visits we were able to make in Uganda and north-eastern Congo. For the first two weeks, brother John Redekop and I held four-day systematic studies on the gospel to Mark in both **Busia** (eastern Uganda) and **Mukono** (central Uganda). Then brother Thembo Festo and I travelled to Mputu in northeastern Congo, where we held systematic studies on the first letter to Timothy. Through the study of Mark, we were concerned with the perfect Servant, in 1 Timothy we studied the life, service and mutual relationship of two servants, namely Paul and Timothy.

Uganda

Brother John Redekop had prepared the following outline of the gospel to Mark, with each section divided into a detailed overview. All participants in **Busia** and **Mukono** received a brochure at the beginning in which was printed:

- this detailed overview in English and Luganda
- geographical maps of Palestine and surrounding countries
- An overview of the seven dispensations.

For these systematic studies, two brothers from each assembly were invited, who minister the Word in their local assemblies: "*faithful men, who will be able to teach others also*" (2 Tm. 2:2)



- Part 1. Chapter 1:1-13 - The Servant, who He is and how He came.
- Part 2. Chapter 1.14-10:45 - The work of the Servant; not to be served, but to serve.
- Part 3. Chapter 10:46 - 13:37 - The Servant in Jerusalem. Presented as King and rejected.
- Part 4. Chapter 14-15:47 - The Servant gives his life as a ransom for many.
- Part 5. Chapter 16 - The Servant: risen, ascended, and glorified to the highest. His assignment to His servants and His cooperation with them.

<p><i>Service</i></p> <p>1:1-----</p> <p>Coming of the Servant</p>	<p>2:13 -----</p> <p>Opposition of the Servant</p>	<p>8:27 -----</p> <p>Teaching of the Servant</p>	<p><i>Offering</i></p> <p>11:1 -----</p> <p>Rejection of the Servant</p>	<p>16:1 -----16:20</p> <p>Resurrection of the Servant</p>
<p><i>Sayings and signs</i></p> <p>About 3 years</p> <p>Galilee and other areas</p>		<p>About 6 months</p>	<p><i>Sufferings</i></p> <p>8 days</p> <p>Judea and Jerusalem</p>	

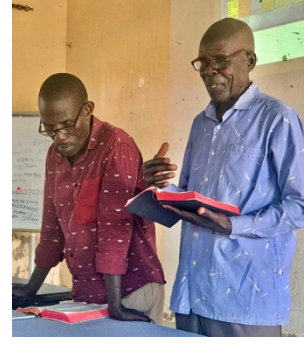
Brother Thembo Festo did the layout of this brochure and printed it using the printer at our Mukono Bible Centre. Brother John Redekop began with an introduction on Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and then we took turns covering the gospel to Mark according to the above outline. I am grateful for the fellowship in ministry with John. Occasionally, fatigue struck me due to shingles, so I was grateful that John provided more Bible studies as anticipated.

Both in Busia and Mukono, together with the participating brothers, we were deeply impressed by the Lord Jesus as the perfect Servant who "immediately" taught with authority, healed the sick and cast out demons.

From the beginning of his ministry, He met resistance, was hated, and rejected, but made his way to the cross in dependence on and obedience to his Abba, Father.

Starting on the second day, the last study was used for the brethren to reflect what had affected them most. Their contributions were very valuable, they greatly appreciated these systematic Bible studies and expressed that it gave them a growing understanding of God's Word.





Northeast Congo

A visit in the Northeast Congo requires much preparation, accompanied by prayer for an open door (Col. 4:3).

Indeed, it was not possible for me to enter Congo due to constant rebel attacks. You have read in reports over the past three years how much the population and thus our brothers and sisters have suffered. We are very grateful for the Bible Conference Centre (BCC) in Mputu, which came about during the period from 2007- 2017 through the effort and hard labor of local brethren and help from construction teams from Canada and Europe. Without the BCC, we could not have accommodated hundreds of brothers and sisters who had to flee from their villages in recent years and provided them with food and drinking water.

The plot next to the BCC's land was bought a few years ago because a denomination, whose meetings are characterized by very loud music, wanted to build a church there. This noise would be disruptive during our regular meetings, Bible conferences and youth camps.

That proved to be a good decision, as we needed a dining hall, a larger conference kitchen and more toilet rooms and water supply to feed and care for hundreds of refugees (countless families, children) for a very long time.

Many refugees did not return because of the continuing rebel attacks and settled wherever they could around Mambasa. Only our concession still has forest. That part will also be deforested and used for growing crops for conferences, youth camps and selling in the market thereby generating income for the Lord's work.

However, the Lord opened the door for me for this visit. Just before leaving for Uganda, I received my visa from the embassy in Brussels. MAF meanwhile informed me that they had resumed flights to Mambasa, so a diversion via a less unsafe route was not necessary and there was more time for the planned program.



Brother Thembo Festo accompanied me during this visit in Mputu and the surrounding area. He speaks fluent Swahili and has organized youth camps at the BCC several times in recent years, along with two other young brothers from Western Uganda and the local brothers.

He also helped to translate F.B. Hole's (FBH) commentary on the first letter to Timothy into Swahili and added a series of questions formulated in such a way that the relevant section of the Bible should be read attentively, as well as FBH's commentary as an aid. A brochure of this commentary and the listed questions in Swahili was printed by brother Festo in his own business centre.

We look back with great gratitude to the Lord on the three-day Bible conference on 1 Timothy in Mputu. Local brethren ministering the Word of God in their local assemblies, had already received the above brochure by email and/or Whatsapp. I was very grateful to the Lord that this helped them give good contributions during the conference.

The following topics were covered in close connection with the main themes of 1 Timothy, namely "Conduct in the House of God" and "Godliness" >

chapter 1: law and grace: chapter 2: prayer; position of women; chapter 3: elders and servants; chapter 4: false and true doctrine; chapter 5 widows and elders; chapter 6: contentment and wealth.

The daily schedule was such that brothers and sisters spent an hour each day in groups discussing the section studied using the above questions in the brochure. Afterwards, the answers were again briefly answered with all and explained by Brother Thembo Festo.



The facilities of the Bible Conference Centre (BCC) could not be used for Bible conferences and youth camps for several years due to lack of security. So all the greater was the joy of the brothers and sisters who were able to attend despite the presence of rebels.

We enjoyed spiritual food and mutual fellowship together. On Sundays, several neighbors of the BCC also attended the Bible studies. Consequently, most of the benches in the main conference hall were occupied.

After the conference, the brothers and sisters and their families travelled back to their villages on roads where sometimes, attacks take place. We are very grateful that they all made it home safely.



We first visited the meetings in Pekele and Tobola after the conference. Again and again, I experience how blessed it is to visit the brothers and sisters in their own villages and homes and study the Word of God for the encouragement of us all.

Then on the northern road we visited three other villages, namely the local assembly in Efundu, and two groups of believers in Kingmbi and Bandisoli. The brothers and sisters in these two villages will soon begin proclaiming the Lord's death in the breaking of bread. We are so grateful that the Lord blesses the proclamation of the gospel and the teaching of His Word by local brethren!

The last village was difficult to reach, as our car got stuck in the mud. Brother Malisawa, who has been teaching literacy courses in many villages on almost impassable roads for years, skillfully took me to the village in question on his motorcycle.



We realize that these trips and the organization of two four-day Bible Conferences and a three-day Bible Conference would not have been possible without your practical support. We would like to thank you very much for this help and certainly for your prayers!

We would like to ask your prayers for:

1) Youth camps in Kigali (Rwanda), from 12 to 14 April, and in Mombasa (Kenya), from 19 to 23 April

-2) the three-day Bible conference in Mbale (eastern Uganda) and Bible studies in the local assemblies during a trip from 22 May to 2 June by Brother John Redekop and myself.

3) Bible studies in Nairobi, Kenya,

- followed by the three-day Bible conference and discussions with the administrative group in Kigali, Rwanda
- followed by Bible studies and discussions with the administrative group in Mukono, Uganda during my trip from 14 - 26 June, together with local brothers.

These kinds of journeys need to be planned long in advance, but we pass on this program in dependence, namely "If the Lord wills, we will live and do" (James. 4:15).

Brothers John Redekop and Thembo Festo join me, in sending you all our warmest greetings in our faithful Lord,
your brother in HIM,

Hilvert Wijnholds



**“From the rising of the sun to its going down, the LORD’s name is to be praised.”
(Ps. 113:3)**