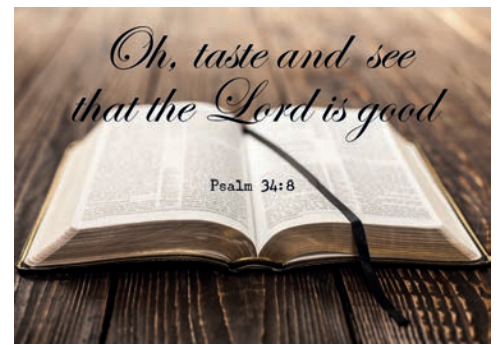


Report of our visit to Uganda from 5 till 17 January 2017 – Camps, meetings & accountancy meeting

Dear saints of God,

Last month we were able to visit the brethren in Western Uganda again. For Renate it was her first trip to Africa. Looking back we can say 'He made all things well'.



Camps

After flying to Entebbe on the 5th, and staying there overnight, we travelled to Mpondwe on Friday the 6th, where we arrived in the early evening. The next day we had preparatory meetings for the camps, as the boys'/young brothers' camp was due to start on the Lord's Day, immediately after the meetings. Both this camp and the girls'/young sisters' camp were to be held for three days. The boys'/young brothers' camp was attended by approximately 130 young people, but also older brothers stayed for the Bible studies. We studied the life of Joseph during these three days. We started with an introductory address where we saw the parallels between Joseph and the Lord Jesus. For each successive session we had a certain time of storytelling and explaining the passages, after which there were group discussions. Finally the answers to the questions were discussed together. The attendants were attentive and showed good interest; many questions – both on Joseph and on various other topics – were dealt with during these days. It was encouraging to notice that the young local brothers had put good effort in preparing these studies, which was noticeable by their participation in the storytelling and the explanation of the chapters we could study.

We saw how Joseph is – besides being a type of our Lord Jesus – a beautiful example to us as believers, when it comes to obedience, faithfulness and patience and how he accepted all things as from the Lord.

As the new Lhukonzo hymn books were to arrive any moment, we also taught some new hymns and practiced some they had just learned recently. It is important for the brethren to get to know these hymns, as this will attribute to the meetings. We noticed a lot of work will have to be put into this. For us – as non-Lhukonzo speakers – it was helpful, that the numbers in the Lhukonzo hymn book correspond with the numbers in Spiritual Songs and also the tunes in the Spiritual Songs hymn book are used in the Lhukonzo hymn book, so we could sing along with the local brethren in English! The same applies to the Luganda hymn book, that is used in Central and Eastern Uganda.

For the boys'/young brothers' camp no crafts or other activities had been planned, although they played some sports in the evenings. Due to this we could spend a lot of time on studying Scripture and take ample time to answer the many questions. During one of the sessions the tabernacle came up, and the brothers requested further explanation on that, so on Monday evening Paul prepared a Power Point with pictures of the model by P.F. Kiene. On previous occasions there was no power in the meeting hall, but during the renovation works in September last year the meeting hall was connected to the power grid, so we could use a projector this time. This proved to be



Queuing up for lunch



Bro. Samuel ↑ translating bro. ↑ Phes-to's storytelling.



Lessons on the tabernacle.

really helpful.

On the Tuesday afternoon the boys'/young brothers' camp ended and the girls and young sisters arrived to attend their camp, which was held during the next three days. About 110 attended. During this camp the life of Esther was studied. It proved to be very profitable, with many parallels which could be drawn to daily practice. Just think of Esther's obedience to Mordecai, her guardian (Esther 2:7, 20) and the way in which she was content with what was given to her, rather than demanding all kinds of special things (v. 13, 15). It was also encouraging to see how God worked behind the scenes in those days and everything was under His control, as it still is today. During this camp also many questions were answered. The girls and young sisters also enjoyed the embroidery work, Renate had brought with her. Most of the materials were donated by some sisters from the Netherlands. When they started with the embroidery, they did not exactly know what to do, as they were not familiar with this, but as soon as they found out how things worked, they could not stop anymore and during every break they were working on their art work!



Sister Scovia teaching new hymns



Renate explaining the crafts to sisters Yolesi and Jennifer.



The brothers prepared the meals during the girls'/young sisters' camp.

Also during this camp new hymns were taught.

It would be good if you would remember these young people in your prayers as they face many challenges, also at schools, as many schools have Roman Catholic background, at which many false teachings are taught; such as the issue of purgatory, the need of a cross on your grave or do good works, in order to get to heaven, etc.. Many questions were asked on these subjects. But it is encouraging to see that many have an honest desire to go on in the Lord's things. Please also pray for those who have not yet received the Lord Jesus as their personal Saviour, but heard the gospel during these days.

Visits

During the boys'/young brothers' camp Renate met with some of the sisters who would not be able to attend the camp and gave them an encouragement from the Word of God. On the Monday she travelled to Rhewingo, together with some other sisters, to visit the sisters there, who live in very poor circumstances. As the rain season has not been very good this year, a lot of crops have withered. Many brethren depend on the produce from their plots for their income, so this is a real burden to them. Please pray for rain.

During the girls'/young sisters' camp Paul made some visits in the area as well. On the Wednesday the saints in Busingo were visited, but as soon as we arrived there, we were told that others, further down the valley were also waiting for us. This appeared to be a group the brothers from this area had never visited before. They requested for more visits from the brothers, as they were eager to hear more. In the Kasese area the brothers visit over a dozen of these groups, who have a keen interest in the Truth. After this second stop we also visited in two homes where



Travelling to Rhewingo



Sisters Jennifer, Yolesi, Scovia and Renate in Rhewingo



Open air meeting in Rhewingo

there were sick people, who apparently never were visited by any church or denomination. The gospel could be preached in both homes. They were very happy to receive us and asked the brothers to come back again!

On the Thursday we visited the saints in Mahango, who had recently started breaking bread and had asked for more teaching on Assembly truths. We studied the Word for more than two hours and even the children listened the whole time.

These two trips were to mountainous areas, one cannot reach by car, so we had to use motorcycles, and sometimes we needed to walk. Travelling in this area is not without danger, but our Lord kept us safe.

On the Friday we paid a visit to believers in Mairukumi, where we made two stops.



*Travelling on the narrow path...
(Busingo area)*



The saints in Mahango in their newly built (not yet finished) meeting hall.



The mountains of Uganda



Saying goodbye in Mahango



Meeting in the home in Mairukumi



The mountains of Uganda

Accountancy meeting

Following Paul's visit in September 2016 another accountancy meeting was planned on the last Saturday of our visit, attended by brothers from Congo (DRC), Rwanda, Kenya and Uganda. During this meeting the newly developed cash book was introduced and explained. It was a good time of fellowship and meeting brothers Paul had only been in contact with through email, or had only heard of, but now we were able to meet in the flesh. During this day the local accounting challenges in each country were discussed and it appeared some more features had to be added in some cash books, due to local peculiarities. All this will be done in the next weeks.



Accountancy meeting starts with breakfast



Explaining the new cash book



The accountancy group photo

On the last day, the second Lord's Day, after attending the Sunday school, it was quite an experience to break the bread with brethren from five different countries! How true it was, when we sang the third verse of hymn 20!

*1 Blessed Lord, our hallelujahs
Now to Thee we raise;
Never could we fully utter
All Thy worth and praise.
Praise the Lamb! yes, Thou art worthy,
Who didst shed Thy blood
To redeem Thy saints and make us
Kings and priests to God.*

*2 Yes, we praise Thee, for Thou lov'st us;
And we bless Thee, Lord,
For the peace and joy and gladness
Which Thou dost afford.
Hallelujah! Thou, Lord Jesus,
Canst not cease to love;
Thine we are, and Thine for ever,
One with Thee above.*

*3 Praise the Lord! Yes, hallelujah!
Who would hush the song?
Join with saints from every nation,
Every tribe and tongue.
Praise the Lamb, for He is worthy,
Sweet eternal strain!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Praise the Lord! Amen.*



Sunday School



Five nation group photo

Conclusion and prayer points

Looking back, we can see how the Lord helped and kept us safe, gave us strength and health, both during the journeys and our stay there. He gave many opportunities to preach the gospel and many occasions where we were encouraged through His Word. We are also very thankful that everything went well with our children who were taken care of by Renate's parents. Many reasons to give thanks for!

Could you please pray for the following?

- The proceeding of the gospel in Uganda
- The sound teaching of the truths from the Word of God
- A continuing interest both in the gospel and the teachings
- Spiritual growth both in the meetings and in the groups that are being visited
- Rain and a good harvest, as this not only helps those who grow vegetables, but also will reduce food prices again, as they are quite high at the moment

Please also pray for Paul's next trip, to visit the brethren in Scotland, from 10 till 20 February, and the trip from brothers John Redekop and Tim Hadley to Uganda and Congo (DRC) from 15 February till 2 March, all in the will of the Lord.

We want to thank you for your support and your prayers.

Yours in our soon coming Lord,

Paul & Renate Meijer