



## **Greetings in the wonderful Name of Jesus Christ**

**This trip to Uganda was managed by me, Michael Marsland, accompanied by Rose Khambula who managed the stock and sales of the books and Ken Banda who taught six subjects at each conference. The guide in Uganda was James Wankabi as in years before. It was among the most difficult trips undertaken by myself over the years in working for APC. Books were purchased and we managed by God's grace to deliver lectures to many folk and at times really felt the Lord's help. While we must not undo in unbelief what is sown in faith, there are some issues, I believe, that need to be addressed if we are to return to Uganda.**

**I will summaries some of the obstacles in the introduction that faced us and will face any crew in the future.**

1. The literacy rate is very low especially in the rural areas with little or no knowledge of English. This posed problems for the crew in our various posts. We needed assistance continually with communication which was not always available. This also raises questions about the books offered both because they in English and in many cases written in archaic English. Their use, I believe has limited benefit.
2. There are various languages. Luganda is spoken mainly and in other areas and Runyoro in Mabaale for instance. It is imperative to have accurate translation. I suggest more research is needed and reliable indigenous sources be found for speakers and translators. Our translators at times battled to understand us or needed correction from members of the audience.

The Theme of the Conference was: "The Pastor: Rightly handling the word of truth"

### **These were the titles of the nine sessions:**

1. The Pastor and his approach to the study of Scripture
2. The importance of the Pastor's understanding of "rightly dividing" God's word"
3. The Pastor must understand the relationship between the Old and New Testament
4. The Pastor must interpret Scripture with Scripture
5. The Pastor must understand the historical context of the passage
6. The Pastor must determine the literary form of the text
7. The Pastor must resolve the grammatical construction of the text
8. The Pastor must think theologically about the text
9. The Pastor must determine the contemporary applications of the passage

### Departure for Kampala.

Our departure for Kampala was faced with various difficulties. Checking in of the extra boxes turned out to be very expensive. The staff for Rwanda air informed us that had we packed differently it would have been cheaper.

### Our host and his family.

Rodgers Atwembere were wonderful and gave us good accommodation. We picked up the books that was stored by James at the place he hired. We then spent three days organising the new literature that had been received in Uganda and that we had carried. It took a great deal of space and I believe we tested the patience of our hosts. We packed the books for each conference spending nearly 12 hours a day organizing the many pamphlets that were sent for the Ugandan mission. We then attended the Presbyterian Reformed Church on that first Sunday held on the grounds of the African Reformed University.

### Mabaale. (11th and 12th of October)

We were welcomed warmly to Mabaale by William the Presbyterian Pastor. The accommodation was good despite the rural setting. We were notified of a case of Ebola in the neighboring village . I then questioned the wisdom of having a conference as it could have become a spreader event. We met with four ministers including William who persuaded us that the disease originated in Kampala and was brought there and no risk existed near us. We then agreed to proceed after communication with Nico and Joshua back home.

We had a late start and decided to leave my talk which I included in other lectures. Sales were not going well so I gave a 50% discount on the second day. Rose battled at the desk because of language barriers.

The lectures went smooth enough. One minister at the close of the first day stood to make announcements for the fraternal organizing the conference and landing up rambling for nearly an hour. We felt somewhat high-jacked.

We had 155 delegates at the Conference. The organizer was James Wankabi. We sold 32 books.

The free books that were given out were: "Mortification" (Various authors) and "Sanctification" (Various authors), Free Grace Broadcaster, both

published by Chapel Library.







### Kampala (Bujuuko) 14th and 15th of October

We stayed with Dave Eby, principle of the African Reformed Theological Seminary (ARTS). The accommodation was luxurious. I think it was on our trip back that the brakes of the vehicle we hired gave trouble. I suspect it was because James drove too fast over the vast amount of speed bumps in the villages. He was given about 50 000 shilling to get it repaired, I believe. Dave gave us the use of his big 4 by 4 and we paid towards petrol.

The conference was well organized but started late and we once again left out my lecture but brought in the substance of it later. The venue was wonderful and large. The folk even organized a marquee tent outside for the books but books were brought in due to inclement weather. Pastors

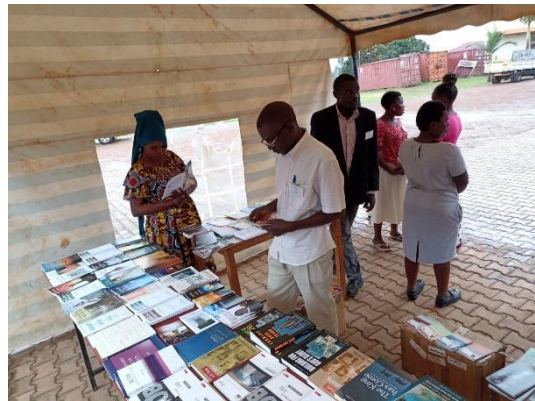
said that they expected more folk to attend the following year.

I preached that second Sunday for the Presbyterians meeting on the grounds of ARTS.

We had 58 delegates at this conference. The organizer was James Wankabi.

We sold 165 books at the conference.

The free books we distributed were, “Biblical Eldership” by Alexander Strauch and “Bible Doctrines” authored by B.A. Ramsbottom, both books were published by Chapel Library.



### Kampala (Wakiso) 17th and 18th of October

The conference in Wakiso did not go that smoothly. We started late once again and the food was served very late disrupting our programme. The venue was adequate but a little run down. The attendance rose during the progress of the conference to 80 delegates. People seemed to be less literate than the previous conference and language was a formidable

barrier. There was some complaint that we did not have enough commentaries.

We had 80 delegates at this conference. We sold 66 books. The free books we distributed were: “Biblical Eldership” authored by Alexander Strauch and “Bible Doctrines” authored by B.A. Ramsbottom, both published by Chapel Library.



### Jinja, 20th and 21st October

This conference was held as in previous years on the grounds of the Ugandan Baptist Seminary. This was probably the highlight of our visit to Uganda. The conference ran according to schedule and the lectures were well received and understood. I did change one of the lectures on grammar as it was not understood in the previous conferences. I replaced it with a lesson on how to spot the main idea of a passage in 1 Thessalonians chapter one. I used Psalm 23 in the last conference.

We had opportunity to counsel and interact with the students and faculty. Just before we arrived in Jinja I obtained permission from the Good book

company to also give them a copy of the ebook 'Preaching God's big story' and a number of the folk availed themselves of this offer. I believe that out of all the conferences, the most good was done here.

The main missionary in charge was not there but staff members were very kind and caring.

During our stay Rose developed a sore throat and felt ill. I organized a doctor to speak to her from South Africa who counseled us to send her immediately to clinic for a malaria test which I did. We were relieved when we found out that she had only a throat infection.

The cost of food here was expensive and we had to learn to cut back because of this. We visited the Nile for half price because of a shortage of money and James' friendship with the guide.

We had 78 delegates at the conference. We sold 275 books at this conference. The organizer of the conference was, Anthony Shelton, who is the principal of the Baptist Seminary.

The free books we distributed were, "Comfort for Christians" by A.W. Pink, published by Chapel Library and "Lost and found" authored by Kenneth Good and published by Evangelical Press.





**Mbale, 24th and 25th of October**

The venue was good but the organization was terrible. It seems that the Pastor of the church was expecting money from James' brother and they did nothing to get lunch going until it was too late on the first day. James

and I had to go into town and pick up cool drinks and some food as a stop gap to help the folk in the heat. I told James to inform the pastor of our displeasure. The second day went a lot better with food being prepared on time and in copious amounts. The lectures went well but once again we cut our program shorter. Both Ken and I joined up sessions. Folks battled with the books despite being offered at 50% further discount.

The first interpreter who spoke on the first day seemed to struggle and had to be corrected by James and others. On the second day a lady came up to interpret and seemed to do very well.

We also had an issue with the owner of the hostel we stayed in. She claimed that Ken damaged a tap and left it running. She demanded 100 000 shillings but under James advice we paid 60 000 grudgingly.

We had 66 delegates at this conference. The organizer was Pastor Juma Mugabi. We sold 134 books at the conference.

The free books we distributed were “Corrective Church Discipline” authored by Albert N. Martin and “Sanctification” authored by J.C.Ryle, both were published by Chapel Library.

**We received the following comments on the trip:**

- We thank God for you and your ministry.
- The analysis of Scripture was great.
- Include teaching on church planting and church membership.
- The session on “Resolving the grammatical construction of the text” was most helpful because many pastors don’t practise it. Grammar is very important in interpreting the Bible.
- All sessions were helpful. Maybe add more days than just having two.
- The session on, “The pastor and his approach to Scripture” was most helpful. This message needs to be delivered always.
- All sessions were helpful. It will be beneficial if you use a projector next time for teaching.
- The teachings were very good. Is it possible to bring it to Rwanda next time?
- The sessions, “The pastor and his approach to Scripture” and “The importance of rightly dividing the word of God” were most helpful.
- I suggest that this conference come to my country in Kenya that it can benefit many pastors
- I like the way Ken Banda and Mike Marsland teach. May God bless you and protect you and your friends and family. Food and teaching were very good.

- You also need to help different churches in different locations. Next time come with different Bibles and more Bible Commentaries of simple print.
- The session, "The Pastor and his approach to Scripture" was most helpful because as a pastor you must know the Scriptures for better leadership.
- The conference was good. I wish it happens twice a year. Each time it must last for a week. Much appreciation and best wishes on your way back.

We delivered the remainder of the books to storage that James organized and I believe APC pay for. The great surprise came when Rwanda Air organized us to fly 9 hours earlier. This meant having to organize emergency Covid tests on the morning we flew out. We already had tests in Jinja but the results were not to be out in time. Rwanda Air made up for the issue by booking us into a hotel in Kigali that was very comfortable on our layover.

I believe that good was accomplished and our lectures were over all well received. But I still believe and would encourage the APC leadership to use indigenously speakers and literature that is more appropriate to the folk there.

Zechariah 4:6.









**APC thanks:**

1. God for the conferences in Uganda.
2. God for travelling mercies, provision and help in preaching for the speakers.
3. For APC donors in the USA, UK, Australia and South Africa for their generous financial support of these conferences.
4. For all those who opened their houses and for the Baptist Seminary who hosted the team.
5. Chapel Library who has graciously donated us hundreds of gospel orientated literature and booklets for distribution.

**Please pray:**

1. That God's work in Uganda would prosper and that God would achieve His plans and purposes according to his infinite wisdom.
2. That the delegates would read and utilise the books they received and that doctrinal errors would be corrected in the churches.
3. That the talks would be remembered and applied both individually and

corporately.

4. That pastors would make effort to exegete the texts and avoid eisegesis, and that they would “do their best to rightly divide the word of God” and that their congregations would benefit from their preaching.

5. For the ongoing work of the APC in training Pastors on the African Continent.