

## **December 2007 Report**

I wish to wish all the brethren all over the world a prosperous, wonderful and resourceful 2008.

I would like to convey very many thanks to all the churches, congregations, individual and families that supported the work in Uganda, and thanks to Brother Keith Sharp for identifying with us in Uganda. Thanks to Sandy, his wife for being at his side. May the Highest God bless Brother Keith and all the brethren who has stood with all through.

2007 was very successful though there were also many ups and downs. But in all the ups and downs, we give thanks. We had many baptisms in 2007 but also had some falling away and even persecuting the church.

December suffered many diseases in Uganda: Ebola, meningitis, cholera, and others. Ebola was the greatest killer though. But we thank God the Government is working very hard and hopefully things will be fine, not forgetting that tropical diseases like malaria remains a threat. HIV/AIDS also continues to torment the population including some members of our congregation. The temperatures are too high here. We are melting.

The impact of the historical meetings of the Commonwealth Heads of Government meetings is still felt in Uganda. As I reported in November, our international airport was improved, security beefed, roads repaired, houses painted, hotels built and renovated, flowers planted, businesses boosted, tourist industry grew and foreign exchange earning rose up tremendously. Rate of Uganda shillings to dollars fell from 1725 to 1670 as a result of excessive inflow. These impacts are still felt in the country.

Our consolation has remained in the firm word of the Lord. I've continued to teach and preach the word of the Lord in all situations.

Thanks for your prayers and financial support.

## **Baptism in December**

After a number of bible studies, I baptized Scovia (22 year old mother) and George (20 year old young man), on Sunday 30th 2007 after the church service. Your prayers especially for the two and others who got converted this year, 2007 will be highly required. Also pray for us that the Lord continue to open doors for HIS holy word here.

## **Lakeside Church of Christ,**

December as usual witnessed lots of movements as a result of long routine season holidays. As a culture, many Ugandans will travel to their relatives and friends who live in different places during the month of December. Sometime these relatives and friend live abroad.

But Lord kept us warm and together in HIS word. I continued to preach and teach the saints of God. The attendance was well over 50 despite the busy December movements.

We had a wonderful service yesterday and after which I baptized the two folks into the HIS fold.

I did a lot of review of what we learnt in the year during the month of December and encouraged the saints to forget what is behind and reach forward for those things that are ahead (Phil 3:13) in 2008. We still have bible studies on Wednesdays and prayers on Fridays. We still fellowship in Masese slums on Thursdays.

### **Kampala Church of Christ**

Again I used much of the month to review what we learnt in the year 2007 and to encourage the saints to forget what is behind and reach forward for those things that are ahead (Phil 3:13) in 2008. I also encouraged brethren to use what is behind to learn to be better Christians in 2008.

Many saints went out for season holidays but the church continued to gather, study the word and to worship on the first day of the week, breaking bread together and studying the Holy word together.

The attendance stayed above 30 on the first day of the week, even with others visiting their relatives and friends during the December season.

### **Tororo Church of Christ**

Rosemary and I visited the church in Tororo and encouraged them with the word of God. Poverty scourge has remained a big issue among congregation in Jinja and Tororo. The labor Rosemary is putting among women is making a little difference though finances have remained meager to make a sizeable impact.

I continued to review what we learnt in the year during the month of December and encouraged the saints to forget what is behind and reach forward for those things that are ahead (Phil 3:13) in 2008.

We shall continue to pray for them for shelter. Re-Roofing is done whenever it rains. We believe one day they get a better shelter.

### **Rosemary's Efforts**

Rosemary had a wonderful end of year visits to all the congregations and had lots of talks among women and children. As I say always, she is such a great help to me in the work here. Rosemary is readily available, a quick thinker and hard worker.

Female brethren will benefit a lot from her and can also be a great encouragement to her. She is still short of funds to help women with in their small businesses. Hope 2008 will be better than 2007.

Rosemary's children and mine are with us for holidays up to late January, meaning more mouths to feed, more water to use, more work to do, .... We thank God they are all fine in the Lord.

### **Many thanks to all**

May the Lord God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ be glorified for taking you all and all of us saints in Uganda successfully through 2007.

May the Lord bless all of you for blessing HIS work in Uganda. We are looking forward to a great time in the year 2008.

**Francis Okech, Uganda**