

## **April 2007 Report**

April witnessed very heavy down pour to mark the beginning of rain season in the country. Vegetation has suddenly become green and beautiful. Crops are promising in all parts of the country.

However, on the contrary, the economic situation has remained poor. Fuel prices almost doubled forcing rise market prices of everything, including agricultural products like beans (increased from Ushs 800 to Ushs 1400 within April).

Poverty level has therefore worsened. We still go through electricity rationing, lack running water, roads are very rough, and prices of essential commodities have risen very high. Transport fares with commuter vehicles are very high making our transport expenses higher than ever.

Kampala, our capital city experienced greatest demonstrations and riots almost daily during the month. 5 people were died on April 12<sup>th</sup>, during one major demonstration. Demonstration is against sale of 7100 hectares of Mabira forest reserve by the Government. This portion of the forest is supposed to be cleared for sugar cane plantation. All Ugandans hate this move and so there have been a series of demonstrations against the sale.

### **Lakeside Church of Christ, Jinja**

Thanks to all brethren who support and pray for the body of Christ in Uganda.

The church has continued to prosper. The impact of Brother Keith's visit to Uganda is still being felt after encouraging brethren with the word of God. Last Sunday, attendance hit 52, while attendance during weekdays is still between 15 and 25 people. I travel to Jinja on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sundays, 86km away.

Our dedicated saint, Christine Ayo, who was operated during delivery of twin babies in March, has recovered and her children are doing well.

We still meet on a rented building approximately half an acre land at a cost of \$170 per month in Jinja town.

We also still need reliable transport system to bring our poor Christians to church for worship and studies. When we acquire our automobile it'll be easier.

### **Kampala Church of Christ**

My initial plan was to conduct bible studies on Saturdays and Tuesdays, but we (brethren and I) found it convenient to have bible studies on Saturdays only at the moment. We still meet in the afternoons for Sunday services and I preach. The attendance is between 25 and 35. I have still not been able to start bible study on Tuesdays in my home as I wished. Brother Keith had wonderful bible studies in my home when he came to Uganda. Some of the people brother Keith studied with still attend church in Kampala with us. Rosemary still pays for a place of worship in Kampala church of Christ out of support from brethren.

### **Tororo Church of Christ**

I visited Tororo Church of Christ in the last weekend of April. The saints were encouraged. I went through Rom 12:9-21 with them and put major emphasis on love (Rom 12:9). Brethren requested me to visit them more frequently but at the moment resources might hinder me. Rain season keeps the peasant brethren very busy in their

fields. Their grass thatched roof shelter for worship is licking, threatening to collapse. Pray for them to acquire stronger worship shelter built with blocks and iron sheets on top.

### **Rosemary's Efforts**

Rosemary has continued to work with women and children in Kampala, Jinja and Tororo congregations. She teaches and evangelizes among women, and teaches children. As a single preacher, things that I cannot handle among women as a single male preacher, my sister stands tall and teaches. She is very useful to me and the church in Uganda. I am appealing to brethren to remember to pray for Rosemary for strength. I also appeal to female saints to contact Rosemary and encourage her personally in her tireless service to God. Please pray for my sister and support her whenever possible. I am committed to share support allocated to me with her and ensure that she has basics, food, fees for children and rent for shelter (Jam 2:15-16).

### **Financial Report**

Thank to brethren and congregations that gave me support. May God bless you all. I received \$640 from Church of Christ Cortland Ave (they pledged to send me support per quarter) and \$315 from one brother, total \$955.

Spent it on Transport to Jinja and Tororo, and on family needs.

#### **Monthly expenses cover:**

1. Transport:
  - a) to preach in Jinja, Tororo and Kampala,
  - b) to transport destitute Christians to church for worship
  - c) to transport children to school
2. Family needs:
  - a) Food for the family
  - b) Others (medications, clothing, house help, toiletry, etc)
3. Utilities:  
(Electricity (revised), water, postal services, communication, others)
4. Helps to destitute brethren during emergencies. In March we transported a dead body of one Christian's dead child and one lady was operated in hospital with twins,  
...
5. School fees and scholastic materials paid per term 3 times per annum: January, April and August)
6. Church rent, lighting and water.

### **Major challenge**

My financials were quite insufficient to cover all my last month's necessities, leaving me with debts to pay to food stores, electricity, rent, water, others.

Sister Rosemary's situation with children require dedicated prayers and support as she labors with me in the vineyard of the Lord among women and children.

Commuting to Jinja and Tororo in public transport is an urgent problem. I appeal to brethren to pray with me that provides for me an automobile to make my movements faster, easier and cheaper.

### **Francis Okech, Uganda**