

Report for January 2007

We experienced very great calm in January. Unlike December, the month had scanty rainfall contrary to speculations by weather forecasts. Cholera and other rain related diseases reduced greatly.

However, cost of living remained very high due to many other economic and natural factors. Prices of produce, vegetables, fruits, sugar and many other essential commodities have remained high. We still experience electricity rationing, and still lack water for the last 12 months.

The Government has started repairing roads, beginning from the city roads, but the countryside is still appalling.

Political atmosphere has remained uncertain. Peace talks with 20 year old Northern Uganda Lord's Resistance rebel movement has refused to yield results due to mistrust from both sides. Tear gas and rubber bullets make headlines Kampala City, our capital city. The oppositions are fighting for good systems of Governance but the Ruling Government remains adamant under their 20-year-old corrupt regime. In summary, there is great prayer need for our country.

January Baptisms,

I started the year very well. I baptized 2 men: Akim, 23 (formerly a Muslim), and William 43, formerly in Pentecostal denomination. Again God added the number to Lakeside Church of Christ, Jinja. This kind of result encourages me and makes me prefer to even preach more to unbelieving members of the community. I will continue preaching and teaching the word of God this year.

See picture of the two brothers I baptized on January 7, 2007, the first Sunday of the year.



Jinja Church of Christ

Midweek attendance is between 15 and 25 and between 35 and 45 on Sundays, first day of the week.

I have been teaching about prayers (Phil 4:6-7), and faith in God, and 'faith without works is dead' (Jam 2:17), with the view of getting Christians seriously involved in productive work and eradicate poverty.

I have lots of expectations that when Brother Keith comes in February, we shall experience great teaching and preaching of God's word in Uganda. We are praying for him daily to have him safe and strong in Uganda. It will be special for us to have a brother from USA visiting with us for the first time, under my invitation. I believe we shall learn a lot from him.

See one of most recent pictures of our congregation in Jinja, probably not all were covered in the scene. I am preaching right in front.



Major Challenge

Thank God for brethren who sent me support during the month. Debts, well over equivalents USD 500, generated in December 2006 continued to haunt me through January and these debts follow me up to February. The Support brethren sent could not cover debts, plus daily expenses: school fees, transport costs, bills and rent, children food ...

School fees are another challenge. I pay a total of Ushs 1,471,000 (USD 826.50) per term (3 terms a year), total of USD 2,479.50 per annum - payable in January, April and August.

I still don't have permanent or regular support to rely on. I have found it hard to find a job and continue with effective gospel work. After very careful thought, I've decided to continue to preach the gospel on full time basis in honor of the Lord's word 'No man having put his hand to the plough and looking back is fit for the Kingdom of God' Luke 9:62. Please pray for me to find regular support to help me preach without worry. I am sure brethren are not ignorant of these words of Brother Paul, 'Even so has the Lord has ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel' 1Cor 9:14.

Therefore, having seen regular harvests through baptisms, I see reasons why I should not 'go fishing' again (John 21:3) instead of feeding the Lord's lambs/sheep (John 21:15-17), God is able to supply my needs (Phil 4:19) through faithful brethren who are scattered all over the world.

February Highlight

One dear brother is visiting with us in Uganda in February. We are warming up with great expectation to receive and hear great teachings and preaching from a very dear God fear brother in Christ. I am looking forward to giving a report at the end of his stay. I invited him to come and teach and preach to us.

Pray for us.

Francis Okech

Uganda.