

Report for October 2006

October was a very difficult month for my preaching and teaching work as a result of my father's death, but God is returning strength to me.

There were many deaths also of Ugandan soldiers and army commanders in the war ravaged areas, unfortunately. Ugandan Government and the 20-year-old rebel movement of lord's resistance army in Northern Uganda/Southern Sudan are continuously accusing one another for unfaithfulness.

We received good rainfall in October. There is hope for agriculturists if it continues this way to the end of the year.

Economists have recorded high inflation rate as a result of increase in prices of foodstuffs. The report says prices of foodstuffs went up because of rise in transport costs due to bad roads and high fuel costs.

No Baptisms

There was no baptism in October. But I want to start from where I stopped. The teaching will continue this month. As it is in Corinthians, '... I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more, to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.' 1Cor 9:19-22. I hope to continue preaching and teaching with intensity in November to compensate the lost month.

Jinja Church of Christ

There was a major shake up in the month of October. Many brethren, especially among the new converts became so weak as a result of my lengthy absence during sickness and death of my father. During the last part of October I was doing a lot of one on one follow up. The attendance on Wednesday and Friday became as low as 10, and Sunday attendance was still above 35.

I will start sleeping very late again, read and study the word of God, and teach and preach the word of God as before. I must visit homes and study with Christians and non-Christians again.

We still study the book of James on Wednesdays, 4 to 6 p.m., and Sundays, 9 to 10 a.m. and we still have prayer meetings on Fridays, 4.30 to 6 p.m. We meet for Sunday worship at 10.30am and observe the Lord's table and take collections as required on 1Cor 16:2.

I still teach the new converts sometime as a group and sometime individually, when applicable.

Major Challenge

My father passed away first week of October. I was so devastated especially this being a major member of my family, hardly two years after burying my late dear wife Mary. What hurts me most is that he had not been baptised into the one true Christianity. He was such a staunch Catholic. But its written, 'to everything there is

a season, ..., 'a time to be born and a time to die, ..., a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance' Ecl 3:1-4, and 'Blessed are those who mourn, they shall be comforted' Mat 5:4. Even so the Holy Word of God comforts me. I have a big challenge of taking care of my aging widowed mother, lest I become 'worse than an unbeliever' 1Tim 5:8.

I am back to stiff financial challenge again following reports from my brethren who were standing with me since June 2006. I was told that I shouldn't expect anything from them again. If it stays this way, my preaching work **MIGHT CEASE** for sometime because I'll have to urgently look for odd jobs, if I can find any, to have food for my little fragile 4 children. I've pleaded for support until I find reasonable convenient job but this is what I was told. And so God has got to do something in accordance to HIS word, 'Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live by the gospel' 1Cor 9:14, if I should continue preaching His divine word. God who is not partial (Jam 2:2-9, 3:17) will help me.

(NOTE: I spent money on food for children, for transport to Jinja (86km away) to church, for rent and others including communication, electricity, medications, water, etc). If brethren stop supporting me, however little, I'll be totally grounded and therefore fail to preach. Children will lack, I'll be unable to travel to preach, not able to pay rent and therefore grounded in as far as gospel work is concerned. I am appealing to brethren to continue supporting me. Those who have and support poor brethren ought to glorify God because, 'He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord' Prov 19:17.

Of course I don't have a paid job, yet to get. Church program has been taking all my time for the week. Life is very hard here. Uganda is a very poor country with all things poor.

Muslims are again waking up from sleep after baptizing some of them. They're becoming very jealous and are casting bad eyes on church.

We still need bibles, both English and Luganda.

God bless you all,

Francis Okech,