

Update from Jinja, Uganda

FULKS UPDATE

Dear Praying Friends and Family,

Greetings to you this Sunday afternoon from Jinja, Uganda. The weather has been hot this week, and the fan feels good.

I wanted to give you the opportunity to praise the Lord with me today. I just returned from one of our GTS graduate's new church in Buligobe, Mukono District. This church is called True to the Word Church and is in the middle of many witchcraft shrines. The degree-level graduate had some help from other GTS grads to start this church with Bible studies in January. He also has a current 1st-year student working with him, which he recommended to apply at GTS. I preached today to about 8 men and 10 women, with about 20 children in the next room. The rain chased us from under the mango tree in the yard of the "man of peace" that is allowing the church to meet at his place. We went into a nearby house when it started raining.

After the 2.5-hour service, which included the Lord's Supper conducted by the pastor and about an hour of preaching (with interpretation), we moved back to the mango tree for lunch. The children sat in one area, the women in another, and we men sat around a small table. As we were finishing lunch, the pastor and others started asking theological questions. People moved their chairs closer to hear. The pastor purposefully asked strategic questions with which his congregation has been dealing. I loved the opportunity to explain how we observe what is in the Scripture well before we interpret any Scripture in its context(s). I was so happy to be a part of what was going on, both in and out of the service. It became quite obvious that God's Word was working in the lives of this young church. After we were done, we went to a home and prayed for a young girl, the daughter of the man of peace, who it seems is mentally disturbed. She smiled at the pastor as we prayed for her and her family. Then, about 6 of the men walked me back to the main road to catch the matatu/van taxi back to Jinja. It was a good day.

Please pray for True to the Word Church. They are faced with many challenges. They are growing in both maturity and numbers as the Word goes out... mainly in Bible studies happening outside of Sunday services. Praise the Lord for what He is doing there in Buligobe.

Another opportunity I had was preaching on June 15th in a GTS Diploma graduate's church in Namayingo. This growing trading center/town is near the Kenya border and Lake Victoria in the Southeast corner of Uganda. I preached in that place over a decade ago when it was getting started under a tree. I believe this was my 3rd time preaching there. It is now in a building with a large children's ministry. I preached to about 40 adults. The drive to this church was just over 2 hours, mostly on a dirt road. I had not been on this

particular road since I was collecting information and doing survey work for my PhD dissertation. I remembered many of the names of the villages and trading centers, since most of them have church leaders that have attended GTS. It was a time of reflection on many of the men and churches that we have influenced and that have influenced me... another reason to Praise the Lord! I am not yet scheduled to preach in any church in July, though that could happen at any moment. I am scheduled to preach in GTS chapel, as well as escort a short-term team from Kirby Woods Baptist in Memphis to 3 different churches. I know our family will be extremely busy in July. We are still packing up much of our household items, though our house is mostly empty of larger items - we are sitting on borrowed chairs and luggage totes around our folding dining room table.

I teach 4 classes a day for the first two weeks of the GTS term (7th-18th) then go to 2 classes a day the 2nd half of the term (21st - 1st). I get to teach Church History 1, Greek 2, Ephesians, and 1-2 Thessalonians (a course I have not taught before). The Kirby Woods team arrives on the 18th in Entebbe. I am organizing a ladies missionary retreat for them the 23rd-25th. Sometime later in the month, we will begin sleeping at dear friends' furnished apartment, so we can finalize our packing. This will cost us around \$800 for rent, but should be well worth the rest and peace of mind to know that we are going to be ready for our move.

We found out that our Kenya work permits will most likely NOT be ready before our move on August 3rd or 4th. This means that we cannot take a truck load of property across the border without being charged a heavy customs payment. So, we are planning to pack and store many of our "non-essentials" here in Jinja. RVA has a wonderful organized system of renting furniture and appliances, so we should not do without the "essentials." Logistics... logistics... logistics.

Missionary friends have begun organizing a "farewell" gathering for us on Friday August 1st. Pray for a sweet time together with our Jinja family of friends.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND DO NOT FORGOT TO PRAISE THE LORD WITH US, TOO. HE IS WORTHY OF ALL THE PRAISE WE CAN GIVE.

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