

MY MISSION TRIP TO UGANDA

(known as the "Pearl of Africa")



MAY 2014

By: Bishop Warwick Cole-Edwardes

Trip No. 32

INTRODUCTION



On the 2 January 1890, from the heart of Africa in Uganda, Alexander Mackay wrote these words, just a few weeks before his death:

"You sons of England, here is a field for your energies. Bring with you your highest education, and your greatest talents. You will find scope for the exercise of them all. You men of God, who have resolved to devote your lives to the care of the souls of men, here is the proper field for you. It is not to win numbers to a Church, but to win men to the Saviour, and who otherwise will be lost, that I entreat you to leave your work at home to the many who are ready to undertake it and to come forth yourselves to reap this field now white to the harvest."

So here I am heading off to Uganda in obedience to Mackay's call. Some amazing doors have opened for me in Uganda following on from my trip there with my son Gregg. I will be speaking at a large conference in Kampala then another two conferences in Jinja, plus speaking at a graduation ceremony for one of our students ALEX MUKWABI, who completed his Diploma in Missions programme at our College in March this year. It should be very exciting ... but ... this time I must find the grave of Alexander Mackay for sure ... and the graves of the amazing men and women who like Bishop Hannington, laid down their lives for the Gospel in Uganda. This is how H. Jones put it when referring to the early missionary martyrs in Uganda; in his book "Uganda in Transformation".

"Yet this despised, unattractive little country made history for Uganda. Here Bishop Hannington in 1885, creeping in by a back way as the nervous natives thought, fell prey to their suspicions, and was murdered. Here Pilkington, serving as an interpreter on the side of the natives against the Sudanese in the Nubian rebellion of 1897, fell dead on the plains of Bukaleba. Here, too, at the same time Norman MacDonald, Major Thruston, Drs. Wilson and Scott met their deaths. These stories, blazoned through every town in England and Scotland, gave a fresh impetus to the interest in the Church's story of its struggles in Uganda, and indeed in the whole of Africa".

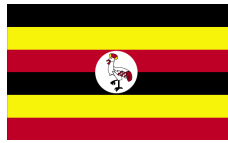
But as a result of these missionary heroes, Uganda later turned to Christ so that in 1930, Jones could write in that book UGANDA IN TRANSFORMATION:

Fifty years ago, a solitary Englishman stood alone at Mengo as His witness. To-day, radiating from that same centre, hundreds of thousands of simple Africans claim to be adherents of His Church. North and south, east and west, beyond the advances of any white evangelist, African has enlisted African in the great fellowship of Christ. Crude and imperfect no doubt has been the presentation of the gospel message, frail and variable its acceptance. Make, however, what deductions you will, this shining out of the light of Christianity at the heart of the Dark Continent constitutes one of the crowning wonders of our generation. No human explanation will meet the whole case. We are lifted up to see something that has exceeded man's highest expectation.

In addition they were part of the East African Revival so what a privilege to go there ... I am so excited and can't wait. Also let me give a short update on Uganda from Operation World, it really is incredible what is happening there today.

Uganda

Republic of Uganda
Africa



Geography

Area: 241,551 sq km

Much of the land is fertile and well watered. The climate is temperate in the highlands.

Population: 33,796,461 **Annual Growth:** 3.32%

Capital: Kampala

Peoples

Peoples: 66(9%unreached) [Allpeoples](#)

Official language: English, Swahili **Languages:** 45 [All languages](#)

Religion

Largest Religion: Christian

Religion	Pop %	Ann Gr
Christians	28,639,121 84.74	3.4
Evangelicals	12,507,182 37.0	3.7

Answers to Prayer

1. **Revival and growth** from 1986 onward – widespread prayer movements, strong evangelical presence in the Church of Uganda and renewal movements in the Catholic Church. These make Uganda one of the most truly Christians nations in the world, with church attendance high and public prayer common, even in government and judicial buildings.
2. **Pentecostal and charismatic growth** in the last 20 years is remarkable. The fastest-growing churches in Uganda are almost all from this background – from megachurches of 15,000 to house and storefront churches. The spiritual fervour – and expectation see transformed effects – in Kampala, crime rates have fallen and it is estimated that more than half the population attend evangelically oriented services.

MY DIARY

FRIDAY, 16 MAY

Today I head up to Uganda for my 32nd missions trip into AFRICA walking in the footsteps of Wilson, Hannington and Mackay, so it is very important to begin my day by reading the Bible as they did. This morning my readings were from Numbers, Psalms, Isaiah, and 1 Peter following Robert Murray McCheyne's calendar. Afterwards I read from my "UTMOST FOR HIS HIGHEST" by Oswald Chambers who warned me against self-pity, listen

SELF-
PITY

"If we give way to self-pity and indulge in the luxury of misery, we remove God's riches from our lives and hinder others from entering into His provision. No sin is worse than the sin of self-pity, because it removes God from the throne of our lives, replacing Him with our own mouths only to complain and we simply become spiritual sponges – always absorbing, never giving, and never being satisfied."

📖 As always, I bring some books with me, so for this trip I have brought the following brilliant 4 books:

1. Devotional classics - by Richard Foster
2. Slave by John MacArthur
3. Shadow of the Almighty - by Elizabeth Eliot
4. Uganda in Transformation - by C. Jones

This morning the devotional classic is from **John Wesley** who wrote the following on:



NOTHING
BUT
GOD

"Also, beware of desiring anything other than God. Jesus said, 'If your eye remains single your whole body shall be full of light.' Do not allow the desire for tasteful food or any other pleasure of the senses, the desire of pleasing the eye or the imagination, the desire for money or praise or power, to rule you. While you have the ability to feel these desires, you are not compelled to feel them. Stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ has made you free!

Be an example to all of denying yourself and taking up your cross daily. Let others see that you are not interested in any pleasure that does not bring you nearer to God, nor regard any pain which does. Let them see that you simply aim at pleasing God in everything. Let the language of your heart sing out with regard to pleasure or pain, riches or poverty, honour or dishonour, 'All's alike to me, so I in my Lord may live and die!'

What a challenge to "beware of desiring anything other than God". My bag is packed, my books are in, my camera, and above all, my Bible are all in. So now, I am on my way to Uganda and will arrive at Entebbe Airport where hopefully Alex will be waiting for me. Enjoy the trip with me!!!



The home of my hosts



Joel & Grace



Alex with his new car

The flight was perfect and I arrived at Entebbe Airport near Kampala in the dark, exchanged some money and there waiting for me was Alex in his new car. Last time I was here, he had a "Joloppie"; it was finished so I was so happy to see his new Toyota Noah. The traffic in Kampala is unbelievable, it is a permanent gridlock, so it took us ages to get to my hosts, and then an amazing thing happened ... their names are Joel and Grace ... the same as

our little twinnies and they are such a delightful family. You always are so well looked after here, so after supper and a good wash with some hot water we all went to bed. Paul Theroux was right when he said:

TRAVEL

"most travel and certainly the rewarding kind, involves depending on the kindness of strangers, putting yourself into the hands of people you don't know and trusting them with YOUR LIFE. You then go away and return a different person – you never come all the way back."

So after a long flight it is great to be back in Uganda. With everyone now gone off to bed I am alone with my books so let me close off the day with a quote from MacArthur's book "SLAVE" and then from Jim Eliot the missionary martyr in Ecuador.

SLAVE

"Since the slave was not legally a person, he could own no property and he did not even have power over himself. He only did what he was told to do. This in measure indicates the extent of Paul's self-surrender to his Master ... For Paul, 'the slave of Christ', all his goods, time, ambitions and purposes were subject to the determination of Christ. Paul was no different from the ordinary slave; he was at his Master's disposal. He was also only at his Master's disposal. Just as a man can serve only one master (Matt 6:24), so he was responsible only to his Master (Rom 14:4).

ELIOT

"God I pray Thee, light these idle sticks of my life and may I burn for Thee. Consume my life; my God for it is Thine." (1948)

Off now to sleep so privileged to be in Uganda teaching the Bible and may I also burn for God.

SATURDAY, 17 MAY

Woke up to the most beautiful morning up here in Kampala. This morning my readings continued in Numbers, Psalms, Isaiah and 1 Peter. Oswald Chambers then reminded me of the glorious application of the Ascension of Jesus, listen:

ASCENSION

"as the Son of Man, Jesus Christ deliberately limited His omnipotence, omnipresence, and omniscience. But now they are His in absolute, full power. As the Son of Man, Jesus Christ now has the power at the throne of God. From the ascension onwards he is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords".

This means that Jesus Christ now rules even over my life and nothing can ever touch me without His permission. Today the devotional classic is from **C.S. Lewis**; listen to what he says on pride:



PRIDE

"The pleasure of pride is like the pleasure of scratching. If there is an itch one does want to scratch; but it is much nicer to have neither the itch nor the scratch. As long as we have the itch of self-regard we shall want the pleasure of self-approval; but the happiest moments are those when we forget our precious selves and have neither but have everything else (God, our fellow humans, animals, the garden and the sky) instead.

Humility is not a popular human trait in the modern world. It is not spoken of in the talk shows or celebrated in valedictory speeches or commended in seminars or listed with corporate core values. The basic reason for this is not hard to find - humility can only survive in the presence of God. Throughout this journal, I will also be quoting from my hero **JIM ELIOT**, whose biography I am reading for the 100th time, it moves me very deeply every time.



JIM ELIOT

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose – 1948

One treasure, a single eye and a sole master" – 1949

Now I will have my wash, have some breakfast and then preach my heart out. In Kampala you are more spoilt than in Lubumbashi so my breakfast consisted of 2 slices of bread, an egg with some tomatoes, 2 bananas and my favourite, a cup of African tea, it is phenomenal. I need it because Alex has arranged 3 conferences for me to speak at, 2 churches with 2 services each and of course the graduation ceremony. So I'm off now to the first conference where I have been asked to preach on 'THE MARKS OF A GOOD MINISTER'.

We went to the conference attended by 430 pastors which was way beyond my expectations and in addition there was a very warm response to my message. Many stood to their feet to re-dedicate themselves to the work of **"Preaching the Word"** ... wonderful!!



World map focusing on Missions



Conference attended by 430 pastors



My "alarm clock"

Afterwards Alex and I went to a restaurant where they only serve local dishes so while he went for goat meat, I played safe with boiled fish, pumpkin and the local putu ... then I asked Alex if we could please visit the Anglican Cathedral in the centre of Kampala. It was to be one of the highlights of all my trips into Africa. After looking all around I eventually found the 2 graves I have longed for years to see, that of Bishop James Hannington and Alexander Mackay, both who laid the foundation for Christian work in Uganda.



The grave and memorial of my hero, Alexander MacKay

These are moving times for me, I so long to follow in their footsteps. It is now raining so had only a quick look at the Cathedral and then we headed back home. I think Alex was quite amazed to see how the missionaries stir my life.



The grave of Bishop James Hannington



The Anglican Cathedral in Kampala



After hours in the traffic, we eventually got to his home for my next task!!!



Kampala traffic



Alex and I enjoying a traditional lunch



Sorting out Alex's books

Eight years ago he was given 100's of books - brilliant books but he has never used them. So he wanted me to go through them all and put them into categories, which I did ... IF ... he made me some African tea ... what a man.

WOW ... what a fantastic day, preaching my heart out at the conference, visiting those graves of Mackay and Hannington, helping Alex with his books, now it is my time. Everyone has gone to bed so I can read and prepare my 2 sermons for tomorrow. Let me close on the next devotional classic by **Charles Haddon Spurgeon**:



REVIVAL

"there will be some who will agree with me that the Church needs reviving. But let me ask that instead of complaining about your minister, instead of finding fault with certain parts of the Church, cry out, 'O LORD, REVIVE THY WORK!'

'O!' says one person, 'if we had another minister. O! if we had another kind of worship. O! if we had a different sort of preaching.' You do not need new ways or new people; you need life in what you have. If you want to move a train, you don't need a new engine, or even ten engines - you need to light a fire and get the steam up in the engine you now have!

It is not a new person or a new plan, but the life of God in them that the Church needs. Let us ask God for it! Perhaps he is ready to shake the world at its very foundations. Perhaps even now he is about to pour forth a mighty influence upon his people which shall make the Church in this age as vital as it ever was in any age that has passed."

Also a final quote from MacArthur in that book **SLAVE**:

SLAVE

"When believers sing or recite the confession 'Jesus is Lord', we are affirming his absolute supremacy, not only the physical and moral universe (Matt. 28:18; 1 Peter 3:22), and not only over human history (Rom. 9:5), not only over all human beings (Acts 10:36; Rom. 10:12), whether living or dead (Rom. 14:9), not only over the church (Eph. 1:22), but also over our own lives as his willing slaves. The simple but critical point is that the two words 'Lord' and 'slave', *kyrios* and *doulos*, are correlatives".

So I am off to sleep so privileged to have been where I was today ...

SUNDAY, 18 MAY

What a magnificent morning, it certainly is great to be alive and even more to be a missionary into Africa. My Bible readings continued this morning from Numbers, Psalms, Isaiah and 1 Peter. Dietrich Bonhoeffer was so right when he wrote:

BIBLE

“therefore every day in which I do not penetrate more deeply into the knowledge of God’s Word in Holy Scripture is a lost day for me. I can only move forward with certainty upon the firm ground of the Word of God”.

Afterwards my friend and mentor Oswald Chambers wrote:

LIVING SIMPLY

“If you want to be of use to God, maintain the proper relationship with Jesus Christ by staying focussed on Him and He will make use of your every minute you live ...”

So let me wrap up my quiet time by quoting from that great book by John MacArthur, *SLAVE* which I read with great profit, it really was brilliant.

SLAVE

“Notable is the threefold repetition of *kyros* in verse 8: the Master is the focal point of the slave’s life; everything is evaluated in terms of the Master’s pleasure and profit. The absoluteness is depicted in temporal terms – the Master’s good reigns supreme, whether in continuation of his slave’s life or with the advent of his slave’s death. Believers are divine property, invested at the discretionary will of the Master for his own profit.

The slave was completely subservient to the master, living in ‘a place of absolute subjection ... his very identity is imposed by the owner who gives him his name.”

Now I am ready for today and have the thrill of preaching the Word of God.

As I go listen to Jim Eliot again:

“saturate me with the oil of the spirit that I may be aflame. But flame is often short-lived. Canst thou bear this, my soul? Short life? In me there dwells the spirit of the Great Short-Lived, whose zeal for God’s House consumed Him – make me Thy fuel, Flame of God.”

Now I am ready to have a wash, some breakfast then preach my heart out in JINJA, in the Buwenje District.

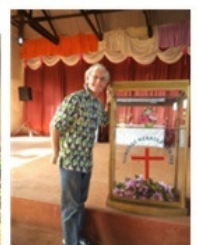
The trip to BUWENJE took just under 2 hours and we arrived at George Bugaga’s Church, one of our past students. He was so glad to see me, overwhelms me at times!!! My first talk was to the children, about 150 of them where I spoke on how to grow as a Christian. Then the main morning service had about 300 in attendance which was great. The Church has really grown since I was last here. I spoke on the NOMINAL CHRISTIAN from Matthew 7 and there was a huge response afterwards, it was very, very humbling.



Pastor George Bagaga's Church in Buwenja



With George and Alex



Next to the Pulpit

George then took us to a run down restaurant in the village where I had goat meat and rice for lunch. Afterwards we went back to the Church where I will speak 7 times on 2 Timothy over the next 2 days, so I began with:

2 Timothy - Chapter 1

The making of a man of God

It has been another full, rich and rewarding day. I got back to my room where I enjoyed a piece of bread and some African tea for supper and could then relax and read which is wonderful.

Tonight our devotional classic is from **John Bunyan** who describes his preaching at Bedford (where of course Jon and his family lived).



BUNYAN

"I began to see that the Holy Spirit never intended that people who had gifts and abilities should bury them in the earth, but rather, he commanded and stirred up such people to the exercise of their gift and sent out to work those who were able and ready. And so, although I was the most unworthy of all the saints, I set upon this work. Though trembling, I used my gift to preach the blessed gospel, in proportion to my faith, as God had showed me in the Holy Word of truth. When the word got around that I was doing this, people came in by the hundreds from all over to hear the Word preached."

Let Jim close off a wonderful day with a quote which he wrote in 1948:

ELIOT

"Father if Thou wilt let me go to South America to labour with Thee and to die, I pray that Thou wilt let me go soon, nevertheless not my will."

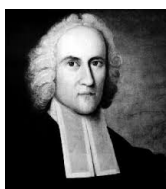
He did lay down his life in Ecuador as James Hannington did here in Uganda. Please Lord set me alight for Thee ... like these men were!

MONDAY, 19 MAY

It is amazing being here in BUWENJE, living with these dear people. Today my readings continued from Numbers, Psalms, Isaiah and I began 2 Peter. Afterwards Oswald Chambers wrote on our times of trouble and heartache and simply said:

"out of the wreck I rise ... every time"

Our devotional classic for the day is from **Jonathan Edwards**; listen to what he wrote on religious affections:



RELIGIOUS
AFFECTIONS

"A person who has a knowledge of doctrine and theology only – without religious affection – has never engaged in true religion. Nothing is more apparent than this: our religion takes root within us only as deep as our affections attract it. There are thousands who hear the Word of God, who hear great and exceedingly important truths about themselves and their lives, and yet all they hear has no effect upon them, makes no change in the way they live.

The reason is this: they are not affected with what they hear. There are many who hear about the power, the holiness, and the wisdom of God; about Christ and the great things that he has done for them and his gracious invitation to them; and yet they remain exactly as they are in life and in practice."

What a rebuke to so many today - without religious affections we have never engaged in true religion!! My bucket of cold water has arrived so let me have a good wash and get ready for the conference, where I will preach 3 times from 2 Timothy.

By God's grace the day went extremely well with the numbers growing as the day progressed. I was able to preach on:

2 Timothy - Chapter 2	The marks of a Christian leader How to be useful to God
2 Timothy - Chapter 3	A thorough going Bible Christian

A lovely Christian teacher came to thank me for the teaching and said he had taken 2 days leave to be at the conference. The hunger for good teaching and especially for expository preaching is huge which makes my little effort so incredibly beneficial.

Preaching for 3 hours is tiring so it is good to be back in my room, to have some African tea and then read until I could read no more. So let Jim Eliot have the final say tonight:

"As your life is in His hands, so are the days of your life. But don't let the sands of time get into the eye of your vision to reach those who sit in darkness. They simply must hear. Wives, houses, practices, education must learn to be disciplined by this rule - 'let the dead attend to the affairs of the already dead, go thou and attend the affairs of the dying.'" 1948

Off to sleep now in BUWENJE in the Jinja district with such amazing memories of my time in Uganda ...

TUESDAY, 20 MAY

Already I have preached 7 times and today I will speak another 3 times from 2 Timothy so let me get into the Word of God and a time of prayer before anything else. My readings continued from Numbers, Psalms, Isaiah and 2 Peter. Then my friend Oswald Chambers wrote from Luke 21:19.

THE CURSE

"we have to take ourselves by the scruff of the neck and shake ourselves, and we will find that we can do what we said we could not. The curse with most of us is that we won't wait. The Christian life is one of incarnate spiritual pluck."



This morning our devotional classic is **JOHN BAILIE**. Read this amazing piece of writing which describes a prayer he prays each morning of his life:

MY FIRST THOUGHT

"Eternal Father of my soul, let my first thought today be of You, let my first impulse be to worship You, let my first speech be Your name, let my first action be to kneel before You in prayer.

For Your perfect wisdom and perfect goodness:

For the love with which you love mankind:

For the love with which You loved me:

For the great and mysterious opportunity of my life:

For the indwelling of Your Spirit in my heart:

For the sevenfold gifts of Your Spirit:

I praise and worship You, O Lord.

Let me not, when this Morning Prayer is said, think my worship ended and spend the day in forgetfulness of You. Rather from these moments of quietness let light go forth, and joy, and power, that will remain with me through all the hours of the day;

Keeping me chaste in thought:

Keeping me temperate and truthful in speech:

Keeping me faithful and diligent in my work:

Keeping me humble in my estimation of myself:

Keeping me honourable and generous in my dealing with others:

Keeping me loyal to every hallowed memory of the past:

Keeping me mindful of my eternal destiny as a child of Yours.

Through Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.

Time for a good shave, wash some clothes, have breakfast and then close off this second conference with the last 3 talks:

2 Timothy - Chapter 4	Preaching the Word
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Wow ... I got the fright of my life last night!!! At about midnight there was a loud banging on the door ... "open, open", they said, "Ugandan Police" - all the books I have read came flooding through my mind as I went to the door. For some strange reason it was just a spot check, but I really battled to go back to sleep. Life in Africa has so many twists and turns. **Jim Eliot** was then such a blessing this morning, listen to what he said:

'how few, how short these hours my heart must beat – then on, into the real world where the unseen becomes important.'



Such hospitable people, we shared wonderful fellowship



The Leaders



With George, his wife & Alex

This second conference has gone well and I feel the people have loved the teaching from 2 Timothy. Pastor George, who will be coming back to KMBC in January, was particularly encouraged. After the final talk we all enjoyed a traditional lunch together which the ladies had been getting ready all morning. These dear marginalized people are so very hospitable and will share their last cent with you.

10 sermons are now delivered and tomorrow we move to Soweto a district of Jinja for our 3rd conference. So it is good to be alone with my books and get ready for tomorrow. Betty Eliot, Jim's wife tells of some amazing words spoken by Abraham Lincoln, read this as I close the day...

DEVOTION

"His death was the result of simple obedience to His Captain. Many thousands of men have died in obedience to their captains. The men at Gettysburg were among them. Abraham Lincoln's great words, spoken on that battlefield, apply as well to other soldiers whose obedience to commands is not the less to be imitated: 'We cannot dedicate – we cannot consecrate – we cannot hallow – this ground. The brave men ... who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract ... It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us – that ... we take increased devotion to that cause for which they have the last full measure of devotion.'

Lincoln and those who were present at that ceremony viewed once again the ground whereon the men struggled – common green fields of Pennsylvania, but fraught with new significance. As I read again Jim's own words, put down in battered notebooks during the common routine of life, they become, for me, fraught with new meaning. To them I can add nothing."

It has been a great few days in BUWENJE, now on to SOWETO in Jinje, so privileged to serve these dear people as a missionary into Africa. James Engel wrote: "missions therefore requires a fundamental association and identification with the most marginalized ..." and that is what I want to try and do.

WEDNESDAY, 21 MAY

We had some rain during the night so I woke up to a beautiful morning in BUWENJE and now head off to the 3rd conference in JINJA TOWN. As always, before anything else I read from the Word of God and my reading continued in Numbers, Psalms, Isaiah and then finished 2 Peter. Then Oswald Chambers was at his very best when he wrote on Matthew 6:33 "seek ye first the Kingdom of God." Listen to what he wrote:

FIRST

"Jesus taught that a disciple has to make his relationship to God the dominating concentration of his life, and to be carefully careless about everything else in comparison to that."

What a massive challenge that is. Then to close off, our devotional classic comes from **WILLIAM TEMPLE**, one of the archbishops of Canterbury. He wrote:



VISION

"Education may make my self-centredness less disastrous by widening my horizons. But this is like climbing a tower which widens the horizons of my vision while leaving me still the centre of reference. The only way to deliver me from my self-centredness is by winning my entire heart's devotion, the total allegiance of my will to God – and this can only be done by the Divine Love of God disclosed by Christ in his life and death."

I asked Alex what that visit from the Uganda Police was all about? At the moment there is tension between Kenya and Uganda and Uganda is on the alert for any attack from Kenya ... things are so on the edge up here ... bit nervy ... but that is Africa. The whole of this region is volatile.

James Engel wrote in his book that missions should be among the marginalized. Well that is where I have been for the past 3 days; no one else would go there. But what precious people – they were overwhelmed by my presence and teaching, it was very moving to say good-bye to them. Alex and I then went to Pastor George's house where we had a great breakfast of bread, avocado pear and of course African tea. From there we drove to JINJA TOWN and began with a 2-day conference again among the poor. The Church was packed and the pastor has also started a Bible School running in the Church, very similar to what KMBC and Holy

Trinity were like. It was brilliant because he is thoroughly evangelical and I felt very at home there, and the Church is on fire ...I spoke twice on:

Titus Chapter 1	The character of a leader
Acts Chapter 2	How to grow your Church

Afterwards we enjoyed lunch together; it was a very special time for me.



Church in Jinja Town

Ladies serving lunch

Alex with the Pastor & lecturer

Alex and George knew how much I wanted to go to the source of the Nile which is nearby, so off we went to see something so very special and inspiring, a sight which sadly, David Livingstone longed to see, but never did. That was left to SPEKE to discover. We spent some time there and it was one of those special memories in my life, enjoyed with some precious brothers.



The Source of the Nile



The magnificent Nile River

I have now preached 12 times (one hour each session) and I felt tired so I said to Alex I would pay if we could stay in one of their "Inns", just to end off our time in Jinja. It was clean so I think it was worth it and enabled me to catch up on things and have a good sleep because tomorrow I will speak 3 times at another conference then drive back to Kampala and speak to an outreach to "Professional People" in one of the hotels. While the "Inn" was clean, the local prostitutes make good use of the rooms ... so!!!



Our day draws to a close, and what a day it was!! Let me close off ... I miss Jon so much at times, he loved reading my journals and would have been in his element being here with me. Listen to Jim Eliot:

DEATH

"I must not think it strange if God takes in youth, those whom I would have kept on earth till they were older.

God is peopling Eternity and I must not restrict Him to old men and woman.' (1950)

So now, I can drift off to sleep in the place where the Nile rises and begins its long 6000km journey up to the Mediterranean ... amazing!

THURSDAY, 22 MAY

Today is the final day in the Jinja area. It has been a very blessed time, the incredible kindness of the people; the warmth of their love and fellowship has been overwhelming at times, but now I move back to Kampala after the 3 talks at the conference. My reading this morning from the Bible again came from Numbers, Psalms, Isaiah and I began 1 John. Then Oswald Chambers reminded me from John 17:21-

MOULDING

"the things we are going through are either moulding us sweeter, better, nobler men and woman, or they are making us more irritable and fault-finding, more insistent upon our own way."

Along those very same lines, Jim Eliot said the following:

TRIALS

"Overcome anything in the confidence of your union with Him, so that contemplating trial, enduring persecution or loneliness, you may know the blessedness of the 'joy set before', for 'we are the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise.' And what are sheep doing going into the gate? What is their purpose inside those courts? To bleat melodies and enjoy the company of the flock? No. Those sheep were headed for the altar. Their pasture feeding had been for one purpose; to test them and fatten them for bloody sacrifice. Give Him thanks, then, that you have been counted worthy of His altars. Enter into the work with praise." (1949)

Also that great missionary to China, **ERIC LIDELL**, more well known for his Olympic Medal victory and shown in the film "Chariots of Fire" wrote:

PLANS

"Circumstances may appear to wreck our lives and God's plans, but God is not helpless among the ruins. Our broken lives are not lost or useless; God's love is still working. He comes in and takes the calamity and uses it victoriously working out His wonderful plan of love."



Now to have a wash and shave in cold water (for the last time ... hallelujah), have some breakfast and then preach my heart out. I feel rested and refreshed and 3 of my books are now read and digested, Jim's biography will take me to the end of this mission's trip.



A refreshing Fantal The Evangelical Church/Bible College lecturer and 2 of the Bishops

This conference is perhaps the best conference I have spoken at for years. It is held at the Church/Bible College which is situated in a very poor area but what a great work is being done. As I said, it is evangelical, and the church was packed out, in addition about 40 pastors and 4 bishops attended. Today I spoke on:

Acts 13:1-5	The ideal Church
Matthew 28:19-20	The challenge of Missions
Isaiah 6:1-8	The call of Isaiah

Afterwards, as always, we enjoyed a communal lunch, which was cooked by all the ladies over the fire, and shared wonderful fellowship together. More contacts were made for my visit next year, so I hope I can meet all their expectations. At 3:30 we left, driving back to Kampala for a meeting at 7pm. Interesting that this Bible College teaches Greek so I offered the lecturer an invite to come to KMBC ...

It was chaos and what should have taken us an hour ended up taking us 3 hours. The meeting was organized by the Professor of Human Resources from the local university, held in a Sports Centre at a local hotel. It was geared to "professionals" and was brilliant. I spoke on:

Matthew 5:16-18	The influence of a Christian
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Showing them how in the lecture room, law chambers, offices or wherever they can have a profound impact on the lives of others. Going home, we were both exhausted, so in a lapse of concentration, Alex drove across a double barrier line and passed a vehicle on a corner. We were stopped and the official was furious wanting to fine Alex 100,000 Ugandan Shillings. So I put on my best negotiating skills, begged for forgiveness and eventually the officer agreed to forgive us if we gave him a Bible ... two happy pastors drove away ... less a Bible but no fine ... Alex was so relieved and said I should be a politician ...

It was so good to be back again at Joel & Grace's home. Some African tea was ready and my HOT water ... wow it was great!! Having now given 16 one-hour talks, I was tired so we all hit our beds. But before I end a glorious day let Jim Eliot have the final say:

LIFE
IS
FULL

"only I know that my life is full. It is time to die, for I have had all that a young man can have, at least all that this young man can have. I am ready to meet Jesus. Gave myself for Auca work more definitely than ever, asking for spiritual valour, plain and miraculous guidance." (1952)

What an unbelievable day, some treasured memories for life, and like Jim, it was FULL.

FRIDAY, 23 MAY

Enjoyed the best sleep ever and woke up to another brilliant morning in Kampala. (The loo is outside so I must wait for them to open up before I can go ...) afterwards got straight into my Bible readings and continued with McCheyne's calendar reading from Numbers, Psalms, Isaiah and 1 John. After prayer, Oswald Chambers reminded me from Matthew 6:25:

ABANDON

"Jesus sums up commonsense carefulness in a disciple as infidelity. If we have received the spirit of God, He will press through and say – nowhere does God come in this relationship; in this well mapped-out holiday, in these new books? Whenever we put other things first, there is confusion. The great word of Jesus to His disciples is ABANDON."

Jim Eliot then wrote:

"The will of God is always a bigger thing than we bargain for. Give me a faith that will take sufficient quiver out of me so that I may sing. Over the Aucas, Father, I want to sing." (1952)

Today I want to live like my heroes ... abandon ... sing over the Aucas ... What men they were! My breakfast is prepared and I am ready for the day. One of the girls even offered to wash my clothes, which were so dirty after spending time in the villages ... what a kind gesture ...



Pastor Alex's Church – The Kireke Miracle Centre

Today I will be giving 3 talks, 2 of which will be at Alex's church. From the photos, you can see what a beautiful building they have, seating 2000 people. My talks were on:

James 1	How to face trials
Luke 11	How to pray

There are 4 pastors at the Church and Alex is so highly respected, it was a huge privilege to preach there. After lunch we then went to another Church on the outskirts of Kampala where I spoke on:

Titus 1	The marks of a leader
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After giving my 19th sermon, I got back to the home of Joel and Grace. They are such loving hosts and I think they love having me in their home. After some African tea, I headed for my room to read and have another good rest after preaching my heart out. Let Hudson Taylor close the day for us:

PLACED
BY
GOD

"it is no small comfort to me to know that God has called me to my work, putting me where I am and as I am. I have not sought this position and I dare not leave it. He knows why he places me here – whether to do, or learn or suffer."

SATURDAY, 24 MAY

Enjoyed another good sleep and woke up early to do my Bible readings and to spend some time in prayer. My reading continued this morning from Numbers, Psalms, Isaiah and 1 John. Afterwards Oswald Chambers reminded me:

SANDERS

"God can do nothing for me until I get to the limit of the possible."



The story of **George Mueller** is incredible and well known but so very challenging:

"Fuelled by a new understanding of God's grace in salvation, George Mueller embarked on a path of profound and sacrificial ministry. Over the course of his lifetime, he would oversee the care of one hundred thousand orphans in nineteenth-century England – providing for them and educating them to the point that he was accused of elevating poor children above their natural station in life. As a fervent prayer warrior, he never solicited funds for his orphan houses but rather took all of his requests directly to the Lord. As an itinerant evangelist, a work he began in earnest at age seventy, he travelled more than 200,000 arduous and slow miles, preaching in the United States, Australia, India, China, Japan and dozens of other countries. In all of this, Mueller's heart was captivated by an indefatigable desire to serve and glorify his Lord. Having been rescued from slavery to sin, he was now the willing slave of Jesus Christ.

As D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones observed:

A statement, which the great George Mueller once made about himself, seems to illustrate this very clearly. He writes like this: 'There was a day when I died, utterly died, died to George Mueller and his opinions, preferences, tastes and will; died to the world, its approval or censure; died to the approval or blame of even my brethren and friends; and since then I have studied only to show myself approved unto God.' That is a statement to be pondered deeply."

That must happen ... I must die ... as Mueller did and then show myself approved unto God.

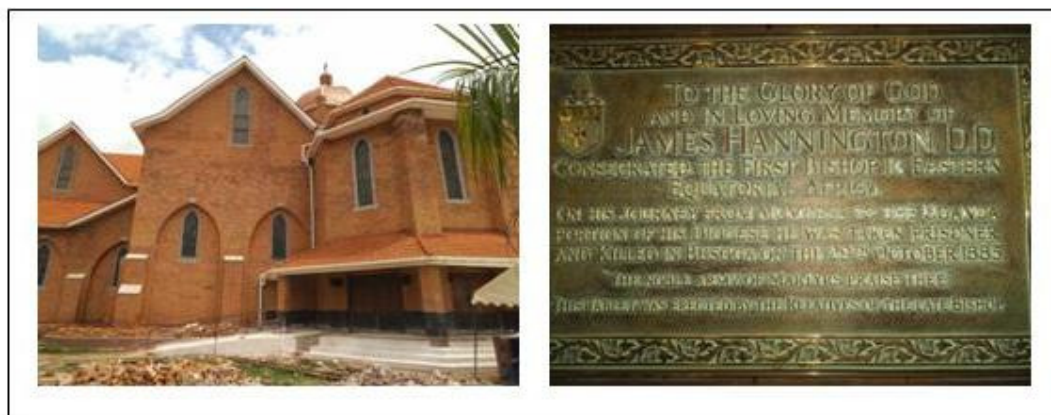
Had my breakfast, and then went to speak at a women's convention right in the middle of Kampala, where I have one talk on:

Colossians Chapter 4

Our responsibility to our society



From there we went back to the Cathedral where I wanted to revisit the missionary graves one last time and spend some moments alone with God. It has been the most amazing visit, many have responded to the Gospel, pastors have been encouraged, I have been to the slums, the villages, been with the professor at his outreach meeting, preached at 6 different Churches, so now I want to thank the Lord before I go back home on Monday morning. It has been very, very special being here - there are six graves here of the early missionaries.



The Cathedral & Bishop Hannington plaque



Alexander Mackay & other missionaries who gave their lives for Uganda

We found our way through the congested streets and there Joel and Grace were waiting with some of my favourite tea! They have been amazing to me. But as I have already often said - life is full of surprises in Africa - while I was settling down, Alex comes and says I must go and speak at their all-night Church prayer meeting and he thought the best time would be for me to speak was from 11-12 midnight ... so off I went and preached my 20th sermon. It was so moving for me to see about 300 people praying all through the night. That would not happen back home!!!

It is early morning ... drifted off to sleep totally exhausted but so very fulfilled.

SUNDAY, 25 MAY

Today is going to be another full day with 3 services at Alex's Church, with the capacity to seat 2000 people, which is situated in the Kireka District of Kampala, and then tonight Alex's graduation ceremony will take place. So I need to spend time in reading my Bible and in prayer. My reading continued from Numbers, Isaiah, Psalms and 1 John, after which Oswald Chambers wrote:

BEST

"the great enemy of the life of faith in God is not sin but the good which is not good enough. The good is always the enemy of the best."

Today I finished Jim Eliot's biography; it has been wonderful and so challenging. He wrote:

PLANS

"I know that my hopes and plans for myself could not be any better than He has arranged and fulfilled them. Thus may we all find it, and know the truth of the Word which says – He will be our Guide even until death."

So on my last day I was so privileged to preach at the 3 services in Alex's Church. Each service was very well attended, the music as always was out of this world and the fellowship – one only experiences in Africa. I spoke on:

2 Timothy 4:6-8

Don't waste your life

By the grace of God, there was a huge response and 100's came forward for REDEDICATION ... This reduced me to tears; it was something amazing to witness, all singing "ALL TO JESUS I SURRENDER ..."



After lunch, I went back to the Church for what was to be a very special and moving ceremony. Alex had arranged a graduation ceremony with 300 invited guests. At this service, I will present him with his Diploma in Missions. In true African style, it was a big occasion, full of speeches and wonderful singing, but brilliant and such an advertisement for KMBC – I could not dream of anything better. Alex was robed in a colourful gown and mortarboard, especially made for him, it was really special, plus he put on my Bishop's clerical shirt!!!



The joyful occasion of Alex's graduation ceremony

Afterwards Joel took me home, what an event, I felt very proud.

It has been a wonderful trip so I will have a short sleep because tomorrow morning we will leave at 4am to go to the airport and fly to Johannesburg and then on to Pietermaritzburg ... I begin my lectures at KMBC bright and early on Tuesday morning.

And so my 32nd trip into Africa has now drawn to a close, it could not have been fuller or busier, but this one will go down perhaps as one of the best of all my trips into Africa. After supper, lying down on my bed the memories flooded back into my mind like a magnificent collage that will forever be etched on my heart and in my mind for eternity.

How could I forget...

- ☐ People responding to the Gospel was moving
- ☐ Living with dear people in the village of BUWENJE
- ☐ Visiting the poorest in SOWETO outside JINJA
- ☐ 3 brilliant conferences for training leaders for Africa
- ☐ 25 talks provided huge blessings and wonderful opportunities
- ☐ The love and hospitality of Joel and Grace in Kampala
- ☐ The graduation ceremony for Alex was a very special occasion
- ☐ The Ugandan Police frightening me out of my wits
- ☐ The visit to the Source of the Nile was never to be forgotten
- ☐ 4 brilliant books read and summarized
- ☐ The fellowship of George and Alex is something very special
- ☐ The future of KMBC and FOOTPRINTS INTO AFRICA is HUGE
- ☐ Visiting those graves of Mackay and Hannington and 4 other missionaries - I have been waiting for years to see them, it was truly wonderful
- ☐ The thrill of serving this great continent of AFRICA and travelling around Kampala was exhilarating. The African way of life is so different but something never to be missed
- ☐ My wallet is now empty ... and my pen has run dry ...

So how better to end than with a prayer that David Livingstone prayed:

“My Jesus, my King, my life, my all.
I again dedicate my whole life to Thee.
Accept me and grant, O gracious Father,
That ere this year is gone,
I may finish my task.
In Jesus name. Amen



PERSONAL REFLECTIONS



At night alone with my Bible, my books and my thoughts, many things run through my mind. I share these with you, from the heart.

1. THE MARGINALIZED

James Engel wrote - "Missions therefore requires a fundamental association and identification with the most MARGINALIZED."

I have spent 3 days in BUWENJE, and 3 days in SOWETO, JINJA both of which were among the marginalized (this word refers to people we often put to the side as being unimportant). Not many speakers go there or spend time there BUT what they are missing is out of this world. The Churches are packed, the love and care expressed by these precious people is experienced nowhere else. Their buildings are run down, they have no resources, but that is where the Lord is working, among the poor in Africa and South America. By the grace of God, I will spend and be spent for them. Places I went to in KAMPALA are slums, but ... among them are some amazing pastors living by faith, with no salaries - driven only by a passion to preach the Gospel to all people. I have been so very privileged these 10 days up here in Uganda. In a book by **Jacques Pauw** called RAT ROADS, he wrote on Uganda:

"few places in Africa embody the beauty and the mystery of the continent quite to the extent that Uganda does. The sight of the Nile cascading over the Owen Falls, the soaring and mystical Rwengori Mountains on its western border, the big apes loitering in its rain forests have seduced poets and writers into painting with lyrical brushes. Africa's lushest garden is above all the continents friendliest destination and after a tumultuous start at independence followed by calamitous dictatorships, it now exudes a whiff of promise."



Kampala chaos

2. KAMPALA

Politically this is how **Jacques Pauw** describes this amazing city, it will give you a picture of where I have been, there is nowhere else like this city of KAMPALA.

“my worst expectations are realized when we spend much of our day navigating the potholed, congested and frenzied streets of hilly Kampala. It is one of those jumbo African cities – Nairobi, Accra, Lagos, Khartoum and Addis Ababa – that has reproduced itself many times over and over is now in a state of permanent asphyxiation, grasping for air. All day long, life on the streets resembles a palpitating heart that propels cars and buses and taxis through its clogged arteries. The sidewalks are choked with people that mill around with seemingly nowhere to go. Ugandans refer to them as BUYATE, people who have abandoned their villages in the countryside and journeyed to the city in the hope of scoring a job or something meaningful to do. Many live on the streets while others find their way to slums that are immersed in a shroud of smoke. Nobody cares ...”

But in the midst of this, the Lord is at work and it was my privilege to come and encourage them. Alex Mukwabi is an amazing man and has been brought into my life in a unique way. What a dream to work with him and now so many doors for ministry are opening for us - not sure how I can meet all the expectations!! But so many want me to now visit their Churches, lots of doors have opened up here in Uganda. Please pray.



3. KMBC AND FOOTPRINTS INTO AFRICA

To see the work of our past students here in Uganda is phenomenal, both Alex Mukwabi and George Bagaga are doing amazing work. Floyd McClung was right when we said:

“we need to build our work among the people we want to reach and mobilize. There are hundreds and thousands of teachable, dedicated, emerging leaders in the nations of Africa who are crying out for training and mentoring.”

These 28 years since I started KMBC have been wonderful and now we are seeing so much fruit. Next month I go to Mozambique and see the work of our past students, Jinx and Dawn Reyneke and then in August I go to Kenya where 34 people are meeting to study our Certificate in Theology course. The need for training and mentoring has never been greater across Africa. George will be bringing 2 pastors with him to study with us, which will be wonderful. Please pray that more will be able to come.

4. MY CALL TO AFRICA

This has been one of my most productive trips. Now let me close with 2 quotes from my heroes whom I want to shape my life - Jim Eliot and Alexander MacKay:

GIVE ALL

“Father take my life, yea my blood if Thou wilt, and consume it with Thine enveloping fire. I would not save it, for it is not mine to save. Have it Lord, have it all. Pour out my life as an oblation for the world.”

– *J. Eliot*

“My heart burns for the deliverance of AFRICA, and if you can send me to any one of the regions which Livingstone and Stanley have found to be groaning under the curse of the slave-hunters. I shall be very glad. It is no sacrifice, as some think, to come here as pioneers of Christianity. I would not give my position here for all the world. A powerful race has to be won from darkness into light, superstition and idolatry have to be overthrown, men have to be taught to love God and love their neighbour. Who would not willingly engage in such a work and consider it the highest honour on earth to be called to it.” – *A. MacKay*

GOD BLESS AFRIKA

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