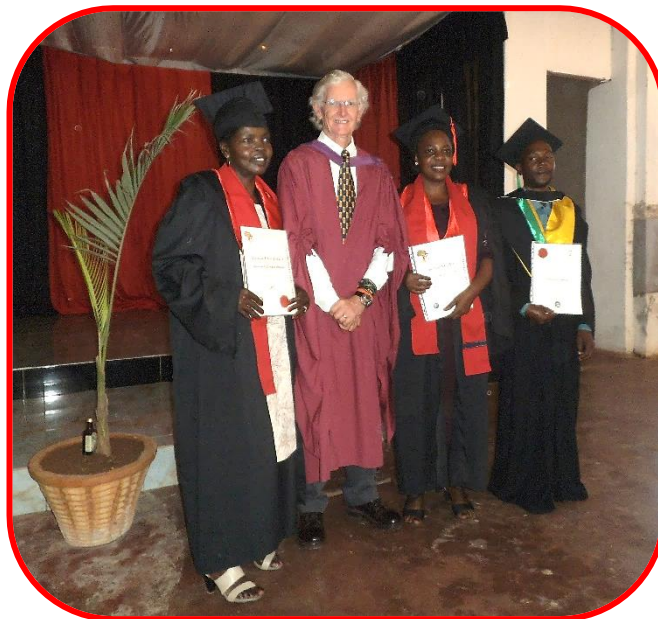


MY MISSION TRIP TO UGANDA



June 2024

By: Warwick Cole-Edwardes

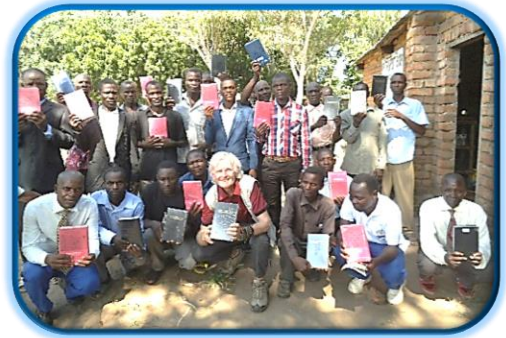


Celebrating Trip number



INTRODUCTION

What an amazing year 2024 is turning out to be for me. Besides the great joy of teaching 5 lectures every morning at my college, the Lord has opened doors for me to travel into Mama Africa. You will remember how I had the most emotional time in Malawi and Mozambique in March, where I was able to meet up with all my past students; Daniel, Lenard, Friday and John. I preached in their churches, and then I was able to distribute Bibles to every one of their church leaders from the 25 churches which they have planted. It was very moving to put the Word of God into the hands of these men, as some, of course, had never owned their own Bibles before.



In May I was privileged to speak at the ABC pastor's conference in Rwanda, organized by our past student, Fred Kiiza. It was a very special time teaching on Pastoralia for 4 hours every morning. Now I am on my way to Uganda for the 8th time. As always, my dear brother and past student, Alex Mukwabi organizes everything. He has put together the most bone-breaking programme imaginable, not another second could have been added to his programme. So, you had better hold on because I am about to take you on a ride that you will not forget. During that time, I will also be preaching in Alex's church in JOGGO. I will lead a seminar for leaders, a second seminar on Evangelism and a third seminar on the Christian family. We will then return to Kampala where I will, as the Principal of KwaZulu-Natal Missionary and Bible College do the following:

- **Ordain Alex Mukwabi into his new church**
- **Graduate Christina with her Diploma in Missions**
- **Graduate Sylvia with her Diploma in Missions**
- **Graduate Joseph with his Certificate in Theology**
- **Ordain two assistant pastors for Alex**

After all this has been accomplished, I will collapse in the plane on the way home, but this of course is what I love doing, **Oswald Chambers** calls it being spiritually exhausted.

Uganda is a land rich in missionary history, and none more so than **Alexander Mackay**. He is sometimes described as the Saint Paul of Uganda, because what he did in just 15 years is beyond comprehension. The other great missionary hero is **Bishop James Hannington**. He came out to Uganda from England as the first Bishop of Central Africa, but very tragically he was butchered to death the moment his foot touched the soil of Uganda. So, for me to kneel at their graves, which are just outside the Cathedral in Kampala is a very moving experience, and I long to follow in their footsteps.



I want you now to listen to the heart of **Mackay** as he pleaded for Missionaries to come to Uganda and assist in the work.

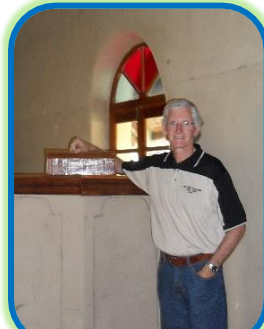


"You sons of England here is a field for your energies. Bring with you your highest education and your greatest talents, you will find scope for the exercise of them all. You men of God who have resolved to devote your lives to the cure of the souls of men, here is a field for you. It is not to win numbers to a church, but to win people to the Saviour who otherwise would be lost. I entreat you to leave your work at home and to come here and reap this field which is white unto harvest."

In my little way I now head up to Uganda, following in the footsteps of **Mackay and Hannington**. This trip is also a milestone for me, **it marks my 75th mission trip into Africa**, after that very first one which I made up to Ondangwa in Namibia way back in 1980. See photos below.



1. Rautanen's church



The first mission station in Namibia

2. His pulpit



3. The wagon which took him from Cape Town to Namibia



The most well-known Finnish missionary in Namibia was Martin (Martti) Rautanen, (nicknamed Nakambale, in Oshiwambo: the one who wears the hat), who arrived in the area of the Ongonda Kingdom in July 1870. He was given permission by the king to open a mission station.

Rautanen translated the Bible into Oshindonga, one of the seven dialects of the Oshiwambo-people. After 56 years of work at Olukonda, Rautanen, better known as Nakambale, died in 1926, at the age of eighty.

This is how **Martin Rautanen** was once described:

"To meet him was to encounter vitality and enthusiasm invariably at boiling point."

What an amazing missionary he must have been and certainly another one of my heroes, one whom I long to follow.

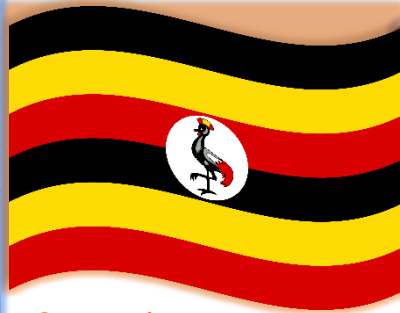
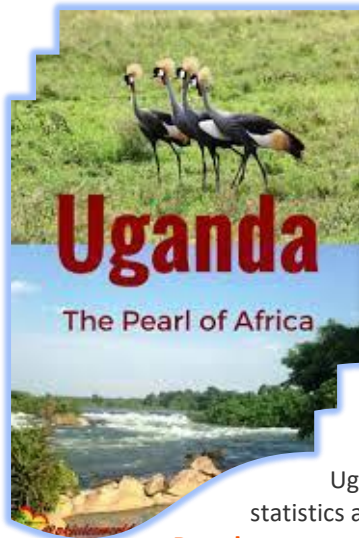
Truly after my **75 trips** I raise my ebenezer - **"Hither to hath the Lord helped us"**. I have often told you in my journals, that these have been the most unbelievable 44 years of serving Africa, and I feel the most blessed man on the planet, BUT ...

Listen to what **James Stewart** wrote:

"I will never be satisfied until I am in Africa with my Bible in my pocket."



UPDATE ON UGANDA



Geography

Much of the land is fertile and well-watered. The climate is temperate in the highlands. **Capital:** Kampala

Uganda's population has hit the 40 million mark, according to government statistics agency Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS).

Peoples

Peoples: 66 (9%unreached)

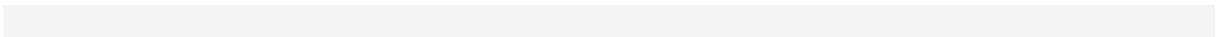
Official language: English, Swahili **Languages:** 45 [All languages](#)

State of the Church

Although Uganda is mostly Christian, there are areas where extremists are present. In these areas authorities add pressure by not assisting Christians properly, barring them from public office or denying them promotion. There has been a strong push by Muslim leaders to ensure that the majority of lawyers in Uganda are Muslims and have entrenched Islamic family courts (kadhi courts) in the constitution. <http://www.worldwatchlist.ca/>

One of the biggest needs is training resources which could aid pastors' understanding of the Bible, and train them on how to approach Muslims.

Uganda works hard to recover from many years of war, violence, and heavy-handed government. Pray for peace within the troubled region and the nation. The current president has been in power since 1986. Uganda has attracted attention through widespread child labour, and allegations of widespread use of torture by those in power. Amidst these many points of concern, Christian NGOs and ministries provide aid, shelter, counselling, spiritual ministry, and education. Uganda has one of the world's highest proportions of evangelical Christians. Pray for God's people to be at the heart of the nation's restoration. The Church is however growing and starting to work together to reach these areas.



Young people's ministry is fundamental to developing the country, given that nearly half of all Ugandans are under 16 years old. The scourges of poverty, HIV/AIDS (and other diseases), Islamist militias, and state-sponsored violence all make childhood in Uganda more dangerous than it should be. Pray for the extensive ministry of SU in schools and for FOCUS(IFES) and Life Ministry (Cru) on university/tertiary campuses; evangelism, discipleship and training are the main ministries.

Pray also for effective Sunday school and youth programmes in churches. Pray that a nation with such a high proportion of Christians and a high proportion of children might produce a generation that truly knows and loves the Lord!

MY DIARY

TUESDAY, 4 JUNE

I am so excited this morning to be going up to Uganda, sometimes called the **Pearl of Africa** - the land of Mackay and Hannington. BUT before anything else, I must go into the Missionary Workshop for my devotions. **Dr. James Packer** in his classic, **KNOWING GOD**, wrote the following, stressing the need we have to know God:



"We are cruel to ourselves if we try to live in this world without knowing about the God whose world it, is and the God who runs it. The world becomes a strange, mad, painful place and life in it a disappointing and unpleasant business, for those who do not know God. Disregard the study of God and you will sentence yourself to stumble and to blunder through life, blind folded as it were, with no sense of direction and no understanding of what surrounds you. In this way you can waste your life and lose your soul."

Not wanting to waste my life or lose my soul, my Bible readings continued in Deuteronomy, Psalms, Isaiah and Revelation, following **Robert Murray Mc Cheyne's** calendar. After listening to God the Father, preaching in the Bible about God the Son, by God the Holy Spirit, it was time to pray. Not only was I able to bring this very hectic trip before the Lord, but more than that I could pray for KHARGA people, another unreached people group living in Egypt. Then as he always does, **Oswald Chambers** closes off my devotions from his book, MY UTMOST FOR HIS HIGHEST, and this is what he wrote from Hebrews 13:8:

"If we have God's say-so behind us, the most amazing strength comes and we learn to sing in the ordinary days and ways."



I flew on the early flight out of Pietermaritzburg, "singing in the ordinary days", and after a horrible long stayover in Johannesburg, I flew up to Entebbe airport in Uganda, arriving at the unearthly hour of 1 o'clock in the morning. And there waiting for me was my dear brother Alex Mukwabi. It was wonderful to see him again after 5 years. Together we then travelled in "Joshua" to his home for a short rest, because my first seminar was to begin that morning.



My home for the next few days



Pastor Alex's house

On this trip I am going to quote some passages to you from **Alexander Mackay's** biography so you can get a sense of the greatness of this man.

"Where are the volunteers? Where are the investors? Where are the wise and talented leaders? Where are the unselfish heroes who will gladly give up their lives so that Africa can be evangelized."

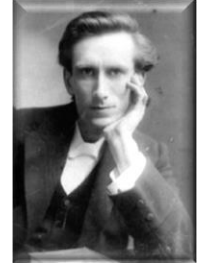


With those words ringing in my heart, it is now 3:30 in the morning, I am off for a quick nap, but wanting deep down to be one of those unselfish heroes.

WEDNESDAY, 5 JUNE

After literally only one or two hours of sleep I needed to be up early for my devotions because we have a very busy programme ahead of us. My Bible readings continue in Deuteronomy, Psalms, Isaiah and Revelation, a time to soak in the Word of God. I was then able to pray and I brought before the Lord all the preaching and travelling, but especially for the WORODOUGOU people who live in Cote-d-Ivoire. **Oswald Chambers** then challenged me from **Hebrews Chapter 13 verse 5 & 6**.

“When we realize how feeble we are in facing difficulties, the difficulties become giants, we become like grasshoppers, and God becomes a non-entity. But remember God’s say-so, “I WILL NEVER FAIL YOU”. Have we learned to sing after hearing God’s key note?”



George & Alex



Jacob



Sylvia



Christina

After a quick cup of African tea and a chipati, we set out in “Joshua” (Alex’s car) for the church in JOGGO. You may remember how last time I was in Uganda Alex was caught speeding. We took it in turns to beg the traffic officer for grace, until I offered him my Bible, which he took and let us off a hefty fine. To travel across Uganda can only be called HORRENDOUS, the potholes are huge and you are in a permanent gridlock. We eventually arrived in JOGGO for the seminar on Christian Family. Today I covered 3 aspects:

- **God’s blueprint for a marriage from Genesis 1 and Ephesians 5**
- **How to enjoy a happy marriage from 1 Peter 3**
- **The 7 ways to make your marriage divorce proof.**



These talks seem to hit a very sensitive note and there was a huge response to the messages. Alex has built this amazing church structure consisting of the main hall, a section for Sunday School and a small office on the side. It is simple and absolutely perfect for the area. Just like **James Fraser** taught me, the main thing was to keep everything simple, put no emphasis on buildings and pour your money into missions. In many ways he is the perfect model for all our KMBC students. Alex is a very gifted pastor and evangelist, and the work has truly exploded under his ministry. I was so proud to be introduced as his principal.

After a glorious day of teaching up here in JOGGO, we slowly made our way through the horrendous traffic jams to my little room. In closing this day, listen to **Alexander Mackay** again as he challenges us never to lose our passion for evangelism. To work for the salvation of souls:



"What have I been doing since I came to Uganda? Lord, make me faithful to you even unto death. May we aim at nothing short of the salvation of souls. Give me a burning zeal, oh God for winning souls."

Please pray that I will always have a passion for the lost. Now to fall asleep in the Pearl of Africa for the first time in 2 days.

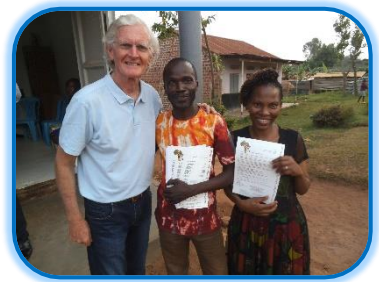
THURSDAY, 6 JUNE

I love being part of the African way of life, so as the sun slowly rises over UGANDA, let me go into the Missionary Workshop and there learn how to know God better. My Bible readings continued in Deuteronomy, Psalms, Isaiah, and Revelation, always listening to the voice of God in the Word of God. In my time of prayer, I prayed especially for my talks, that each one will know the Spirit at work, and then also for the NGAZIDJA people who live on the Comoros. **Oswald Chambers** closed off with this thought from Philippians 2:13:



"You have to work out with concentration and care what God works in; not work your own salvation, but work it out, while you base resolutely in unshaken faith, on the complete and perfect Redemption of the Lord. As you do this, you do not bring an opposed will to God's will, God's will is your will, and your natural choices are along the line of God's will, and the life is as natural as breathing."

After a small breakfast and a cold shower, we went again to the Church where I was able to "preach my lungs out" ... in the words of William Perkins! Being in Kampala there is no hot water, so an ice-cold shower shook me up for the day, but I can't complain, I only pay R250 per day for the room. We slowly made our way through the horrendous traffic, eventually arriving in JOGGO.



Today there is a second seminar on **EVANGELISM**, developing a passion for leading souls to Christ as Mackay showed so magnificently up here.

Today, on this very important subject, I covered:

- **The NEEDS of a soulwinner**
- **WHY so many Christians do not evangelize**
- **HOW to lead a soul to Christ.**

A number of pastors from the area also came, so in true African style we served them all with a small supper afterwards. I also met with 2 students, Daniel and Justine, who hopefully will be joining us at KMBC soon. What a perfect day of ministry up here in Kampala. Two weary men then made their way

home through all the dust and horrendous traffic jams – I don't think Kampala ever sleeps!! It will be good to get back to my room, enjoy another cold shower and sleep like a log!

I have tried to pour out my heart at the Seminars, so now let **Alexander Mackay** close off the day for us, on a brilliant note.

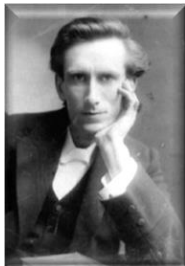
"Of ONE thing I feel sure – nothing could be better for rousing the spiritual life of a congregation, and leading it on to higher life, than the cultivating of the spirit of Missions. The progress of the kingdom of God in the world is a study well calculated to enlarge the mind and soul, and rescue torpid congregations from their self-satisfied ease. What a power for good would be our home millions of Christians, if really alive to their privilege and duty in helping forward the work of God in all lands."



That has been the **passion for my whole life** ... ONE THING ... **MISSIONS**.

FRIDAY, 7 JUNE

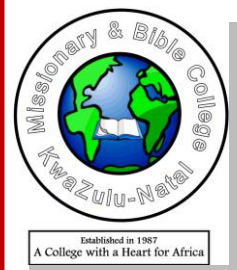
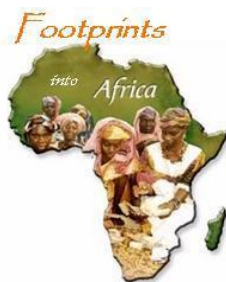
It has been wonderful to spend time with my past students, Alex, Jacob, Joseph, Christina, Sylvia and Rhoda; they mean so much to me. So very happy and blessed I made my way into the Missionary Workshop. My Bible readings continued in Deuteronomy, Psalms, Isaiah, and Revelation, after which I could pray. Not only did I pray for all the hours we will spend travelling on these horrendous roads, and for the Graduation, but especially for the OROCHI people living in that tragic situation in Ukraine. **Oswald Chambers** then closed off my devotions with a massive reminder from John 14:13 – **DON'T SLACK OFF**.



"Am I allowing my spiritual life to be frittered away, or am I bringing it all to one centre - the Atonement of my Lord? Is Jesus Christ more and more dominating every interest in my life? If the one central point, the great exerting influence in my life is the Atonement of the Lord, then every phase of my life will bear fruit for Him".

Phew ... I never want that to happen, for my spiritual life to slacken off!! Today is going to be a day which I could only dream of in the years gone by. I will have the huge privilege and unbelievable joy of leading the **graduation ceremony** for 3 of my students from KMBC.

- **Christina will graduate with her Diploma in Missions**
- **Sylvia will graduate with her Diploma in Missions**
- **Joseph will graduate with his Certificate in Theology.**



This is surely a principal's highlight, and what KMBC is in existence for. For me a dream and deep longing fulfilled. I preached from Ezra 7:10 'EZRA, OUR MODEL' and it seemed to go down well. After the diplomas were awarded and lots of photos were taken, we then set out on a horrible 3-hour drive

on atrocious roads and gridlock traffic jams to get to Christina's house where we had a fantastic lunch. Slowly we then had the long drive back to Kampala where I had to give my last talk for the day in JOGGO on "OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY". Absolutely bombed out, I got back to my room at 10pm, but overwhelmed with joy and pride.

I was so tired I fell asleep before my head hit the pillow, as my mind was racing with the thought of 3 more trained pastors and missionaries for Africa. "Thank you, Jesus". This is what was said of **Mackay** on hearing of his death ... such a moving tribute to a great missionary.



"When the Times correspondent at Zanzibar speaks of the 'irreparable loss to the cause of African civilization' involved in his death; when the Paul Mall Gazette calls him (not very felicitously, though), the St. Paul of Uganda; when great provincial dailies, like the Leeds Mercury and the Manchester Examiner, devote leading articles to him; one sees that the world can now and then appreciate a missionary, even when there is nothing sensational, as with Patteson and Hannington, in the manner of his death. Mr. Mackay's talents were of a very high order, and he brought to bear upon the cause of the spread of Christianity and civilization in Africa, not only remarkable practical resourcefulness as an accomplished cultivated mind, and a devotion and perseverance unsurpassed by any African Missionary. Moreover, he took a leading part in the direct work of the Mission, teaching and preaching the Word of God and fearlessly proclaiming Christ as the Son of God and the Saviour of men, in the teeth of bitter opposition."

SATURDAY, 8 JUNE

Another beautiful morning greets us up here in Kampala so let me go immediately into the Missionary Workshop, not ever wanting to slacken off. My Bible readings continued in Deuteronomy, Psalms, Isaiah and Revelation, after which I could spend time in prayer. I prayed much for our meetings today but especially for the MIN NAU people who live in New Zealand. Then my reading from **Oswald Chambers'** "**My Utmost for His Highest**" took me back to 2010.

WHAT NEXT?



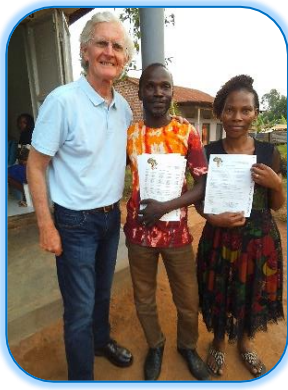
If you do not cut the moorings, God will have to break them by a storm and send you out. Launch all on God, go out on the great swelling tide of His purpose, and you will get your eyes open. If you believe in Jesus, you are not to spend all your time in the smooth waters just inside the harbour bar, full of delight, but always moored; you have to get out through the harbour bar into the great deeps of God and begin to know for yourself, begin to have spiritual discernment".

Alone in Lubumbashi, in 2010, **kneeling at this altar in the Cathedral**, the Lord broke into my life and I became so aware that it was as if the Lord was saying to me ... 'you are finally ready'. Go back and stand down as the bishop, give up your salary, car, 'all your perks' and become a missionary to Africa. Let your heart be strangely drawn by what you truly love, and so **FOOTPRINTS INTO AFRICA** was born. Here I am now on my **75th mission trip into Africa** and that reading from **Chambers** gave me the push I needed. Read it again slowly ... it stirred me very, very deeply... and pushed me out of my comfort zone into living a life of faith in Jesus, **ACROSS AFRICA.**



So, **Oswald Chambers** pushed me into the most wonderful years of my life, serving Jesus across Africa, in training pastors and missionaries for **MAMA**

AFRICA



After my little breakfast and a cold shower, we again slowly made our way to JOGGO for my final seminar on **"CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP"**. I spoke on :

- **The QUALIFICATIONS for leadership from 1 Timothy 3**
- **The MODEL for leadership from 1 Peter 5**
- **Practical examples from my own experience over 40 years**

There were many questions because **SERVANT LEADERSHIP** is a foreign concept in Africa. Afterwards we slowly made our way home, two weary but very blessed men, "blood brothers for Africa".

A final quote on **Mackay** to end off a magnificent day of ministry in Uganda, equipping her leaders.



"How deep the loss of Mackay, only those who knew him well and saw his work can understand. He was one of those few who look fearlessly forth and seem to see the face of the living God. He never despaired of any person or anything. Quiet he was, and strong, and patient, and resolute, and brave; one on whom you might depend. He endured fourteen years of Africa, and what that means this book will in some measure help the reader to understand-fourteen years of the contradiction of men, black and white; fourteen years of dangers, fevers, sorrows, disappointments-and in all and through all he was steadfast, unmovable, a true missionary, always abounding in the work of the Lord."

I fell asleep, the proudest and happiest principal in the world, I hope you enjoyed these quotes from Mackay.

SUNDAY, 9 JUNE

After all the preaching and travelling it was wonderful to wake up refreshed and ready for another busy day in Kampala. So let me go into the Missionary Workshop and re-charge my batteries. My Bible readings continued in Deuteronomy, Psalms, Isaiah and Revelation, again listening to the preaching of God the Father, about God the Son through God the Holy Spirit. Then time to pray, and not only did I pray for the days' programme but also for the HMONG-NJUA people who live in Australia. My mentor, **Oswald Chambers**, then spoke on Luke 11:10 on the theme of **THE NEXT BEST THING TO DO**.

Ask if you have not Received. *"For every one that asketh receiveth."* Luke 11:10

There is nothing more difficult than to ask. We will long and desire and crave and suffer, but not until we are at the extreme limit will we ask. A sense of unreality makes us ask. Have you ever asked out of the depths of moral poverty? "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God . . . but be sure that you do lack wisdom. You cannot bring yourself up against Reality when you like. The next best thing to do if you are not spiritual y real, is to ask God for the Holy Spirit on the word of Jesus Christ (see Luke 11:13). The Holy Spirit is the One Who makes real in you al that Jesus did for you.



How much I need wisdom ... so I need to **ASK** ... then to preach my heart out.

The seminars on **EVANGELISM, LEADERSHIP** and the **CHRISTIAN FAMILY** are now done, three of our students have had their graduation and received their diplomas, so today I will end this trip by preaching in Alex's new Church, ordaining Alex and two other pastors, and setting aside the elders for his new Church. Then in the evening I have been asked by the bishop to preach in Rhona's church, which will end an incredible day.



Pastor Alex's 2 assistants



The Bishop



The 3 men who were ordained

The three men came with brand new suits and the church was thrilled to see them being ordained by "our Bishop". I preached on 2 Timothy 2:15 **"A MAN APPROVED BY GOD"** and I think that set a good foundation. After all the prayers and photos, we made our way to one of the member's homes for a lovely lunch.

In the evening at **Pastor Henry's Church**, I gave the same message and thanked them for preparing another two students to come to KMBC.

We slowly made our way home through the dreadful Kampala traffic jams, but I was so very blessed and thankful.

What a spectacular day – preaching the Gospel, seeing souls saved, ordaining Alex and the Elders ... now **Dick Dorsett** will close off the day for us. This is the driving force ... the number 1 priority.



"IF you believe in the fire, then you cannot regard MISSIONS as a casual option or an occasional hobby – it is the No 1 priority.

This packed mission trip is now over by the grace of God. I will be able to enjoy a short sleep because Barnabas and I must leave early at 4am tomorrow for the drive back to Entebbe Airport, from where I will fly home, exhausted but so very blessed and happy. What a glorious celebration it has been of my **75 trips into Africa**. The following morning, I will be back at my desk at 05:30am at my Bible College having to mark all the exams which the students have written while I have been in Uganda.

I want **David Platt** to close off the brilliant mission trip:

"Somewhere along the way we have subtly and tragically taken the costly command of Christ to go, baptize and teach all nations, and mutated it into a comfortable call for Christians to come ... be baptized ... listen and stay in one location. With the mammoth needs of a world without Christ in FRONT of us, and the glory of Christ IN us, we face two options! We can retreat from this mission into a land of religious formalism and wasted opportunity, OR we can risk everything to fulfil the divine purpose for which we have been created."



BUT

"Without you all, I am finished! Please know I am so very grateful for your love, prayers and generous financial giving that makes my work possible."



SIYABONGA

In September I will have the joy and privilege of going up to **ZAMBIA**, spending time with my past students and preaching in NDOLA, MANSA, KITWE and then across the border at KASEMBALESSA to carry out ministry in the Democratic Republic of Congo in Lubumbashi.

My hero, **David Livingstone** once put it perfectly:

"Nothing earthly will make me give up my work in despair. I encouraged myself in the Lord my God and go FORWARD."



So, FORWARD I go following **David Livingstone** and willing to risk everything as **David Platt** said.

See you soon in **Lubumbashi** (with some dollars in my pocket just in case I need to get out of a jam!)

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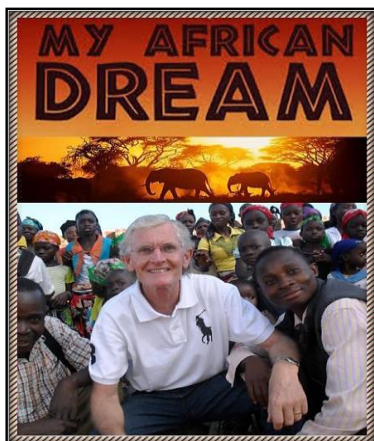
**If you would like to share in, or support my work into Africa, I would value your partnership. Perhaps you may like to consider one the followings avenues:**

- ☑ Pray for one of the countries and the past students who are working there
- ☑ Sponsor one of these men to come and train
- ☑ Contribute to supply the pastors with resources for their work
- ☑ Contribute towards my missionary trips into Africa
- ☑ General support

I always so enjoy and look forward to your comments and feedback on my Journals.

**Yours for Africa,**

**Warwick**



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**The Irresistible Pull of Africa**

**Don't let the media or the thoughts of others influence your view and impressions of Africa. It is a **wild, beautiful, raw, dynamic** place.**

**You have to see and experience it for yourself.**



*"If I have ever seen magic,  
it has been in Africa".*