

The Dark Continent?

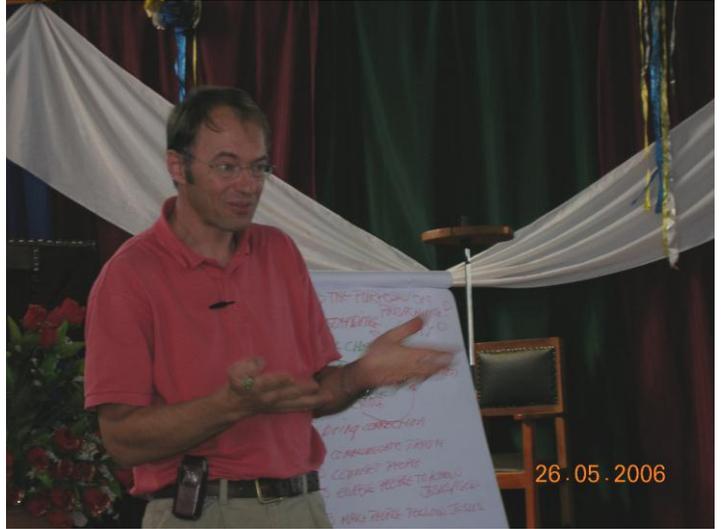
Africa is a continent of outstanding beauty. The people are gracious, friendly and very receptive to the Gospel. Nevertheless the image of this continent as portrayed by the western media is one of sorrow, poverty, war, disease, corruption and drought. Is money, which the international community pumps into Africa, really the answer? Will it make a lasting difference? To satisfactorily deal with this, one first needs to discover the root causes, which so torment the multitudes in this 'god' forsaken land...

Some theologians have routed the problems right back to the cursing of Ham in Genesis (though it was not Ham who was cursed but Canaan) and have concluded that Africa is under God's curse.

We believe that part of Africa's problems is to be found in ill equipped leadership at every level of society. What Africa needs is leadership with integrity and this is the very area the Lord has called Veritas to serve. Africa is not poor as it is abundantly blessed with natural resources, but sadly these are mismanaged for quick gain resulting in long term destruction. The many resources are exported to other parts of the world, which makes fantastic gains on processing these and Africa is left behind poorer and poorer and becomes

ever more dependant on the whims of the wealthy nations then ever before.

However, being privileged to live and minister in Africa for the last 15 years, we have come to a very different conclusion.



This is a continent of incredible wealth and potential. Though the whole of creation is subjected to decay and under a curse resulting from man's sin and rebellion, in 'darkest' Africa the light is shining! Its brilliance is far brighter than in Europe, which seems to be heading for a new dark age...

This is the era of Africa's hope and glory as the light of the gospel is shining brightly and thousands are turning to Christ; hundreds of new churches are planted weekly and this is where the challenge is.

The Lord has given Veritas College International this mandate: *And the things you heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach (train) others.*

The church faces a tremendous challenge as new churches are founded faster than the traditional method of leadership development can provide leaders.

Multiplication Trainers of Trainers is the only way in which we can catch up with the rapid expansion of the church in Africa. We praise the Lord for the many opportunities he has given to Veritas all over this continent as men of God are equipped for every good work and are able to train other leaders in their own churches as well as in other churches.



The Eagle Approach

Equip, Empower and Release! This is part of Veritas Uganda's mission statement. We can see evidence of this in God's creation in the way eagles get their young to fly. When the parents believe their young are ready they push them out of the nest high up in the mountains. The young have only 2 options, fly or die! They do not know that the parents are watching and will dive underneath them to catch and bear them back to the nest.

This last year was an eagle approach for Veritas Uganda. With the National

Director on a long leave to Europe, Michael Ejok Edeke had to learn to fly! He has been heading the work, overseeing the training and meeting all the challenges of being in the 'hot' seat. But as with the eagles, the arms of the Lord have been there to carry him through this time and we thank the Lord that Michael's wings have grown strong in this new position of leadership.

A Deepening Relationship

When we were praying recently, I (Richard) had a clear impression of a plot of land with crops growing on it. The crop needed watering and the farmer had already dug shallow trenches for the water to flow through...

Over the last few years a deep relationship has developed between the Pentecostal Assemblies of God and Veritas College. They have been blessed with a leadership who had anticipated tremendous growth and the subsequent need for well equipped leadership. An In-service Bible School had been started to provide the much needed training. About 2 years ago Veritas was invited to start with the training of the teachers of the ISB. The exciting aspect of this relationship is

that they already have a system in place and we simply have to 'pour the water in the shallow trenches in order to water the crops'. Veritas has already trained a group of key leaders of which a number have started to train others in different parts of Uganda. We are now starting a Training



of Trainers Project. The leaders who will be trained by the key facilitators in the PAG will in turn train all the teachers in the ISB programme. They are responsible for the training of all the 4000 pastors and assembly leaders in this dynamically growing church group. It is a privilege to work together with leaders who already bear the vision for leadership development.

Rev Simon Peter Emiau stated that it is the pulpit ministry which needs developing so that the members of the local churches will be fed with the rich food from the word of God. Through the PAG Veritas is now expanding to new areas in Uganda.



Training in the Mother tongue

Last year we were blessed with 4 laptop computers, which were donated to our translation project. We now have the first 2 modules available in 5 of the local languages of Uganda. The demand for the Veritas modules in the mother tongue of our people is steadily growing and continues to be a challenge.

A Word from the Chairman



"It was so exciting to go with Michael to Kabale in the south of Uganda. Not only was I able to see my old Mom, but had the opportunity to see my home town reached by Veritas. The excitement was real as the training was being introduced."



Remote North East Uganda opens up

Karamoja: Land of the nomadic gun trotting cattle rustling warriors, who face unstoppable change of their traditional lives by the encroaching globalisation of Uganda.

This is one of the new areas where we are now training a wonderful group of key trainers from different towns in this vast area. Rev Emma

"The response was immediate. My challenge to them was that if they are not aiming at training others, they shouldn't join. Most of them are my old friends with whom I have ministered together before. I was greatly honoured to have the opportunity to introduce it to them".

"One of the challenges Veritas is facing is that the focus of the participants too often remains on completing the modules instead of the trainees starting with the training of others, which is a requirement for the next step. This will lead to the traditional Bible College mentality which is not our goal. I felt we should change this immediately and require that no one starts the next Module until he has trained/started training other with what he has completed."

"When I started training other after chapter four of module one, my excitement grew as I was learning along with my trainees. My appetite to learn more grew also as I saw the effect of what I was teaching on those that I was training. If trainees are not training others their knowledge will puffs them up. The end goal should not be for titles but for serving others."

By Pastor Jonnes Bakimi

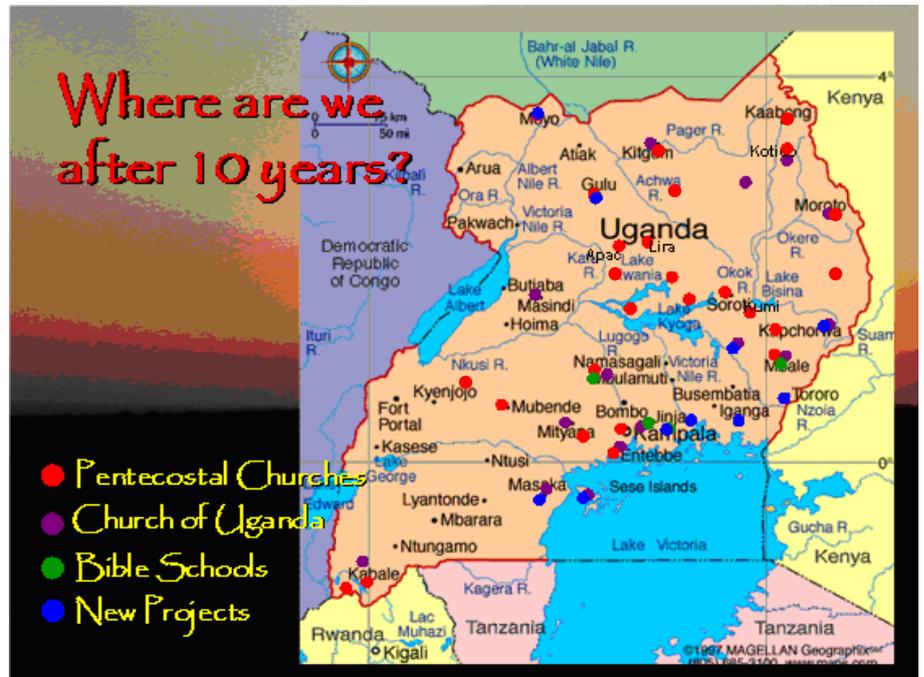


Mugambo is facilitating the training of the first module: 'How do you interpret the New Testament letters' with a group of ex warrior Karamajong church leaders.



Years of Harvest, Years of Favour

As an organisation, we are very grateful to our God for his favour which he has poured out upon the ministry in Uganda. Not only has he provided faithfully over these years, he has also given us many opportunities to minister through his word to church leaders who otherwise have no access to any form of Bible based training. It is such a privilege and a joy to work with the rural pastors who are longing to be equipped to truly minister God's word to their people.



Ministries Dovetailing Together

Over the last few years a group of pastors from the UK have been coming to Uganda leading preaching workshops for local church leaders.



We have enjoyed the privilege of organising and attending their workshops.

"This year's Galatians studies and the Bible Overview seemed to be especially

helpful to the participants. The Preaching Workshops made good progress. It was evident that the majority had a genuine desire to faithfully preach and teach God's Word. We were impressed by the calibre of the participants and the ability of those who led the morning devotions.

All the invited participants, except one, were Pastors and Church Leaders who were trained by Veritas College and or involved in a training ministry.

The participants were keen to have another conference next year.

Rev Gerald Tanner.

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES!

For donations to Veritas College Uganda please contact: finance@veritascollege.org

Or go to our website and follow the instructions:

www.veritascollege.org

Home Again

It is great to be home again in Uganda after 10 months of Europe! It was great to be with family,

friends, to meet many of you and to renew friendships and make lots of new friends. We really enjoyed our break. The kids have done great. They are the stars of this time as they have mastered the Dutch language, endured 8 months of schooling in what was at first for them a foreign language. We are so proud of them.



Words of Gratitude

The work of Veritas College in Uganda has become a reality through all its friends, supporters and others who have committed themselves to reach out and make a difference in the lives of the many Christian leaders in Africa through their involvement in providing leadership training. A BIG thank you to our Lord for His faithful guidance, provision and protection!

Veritas College, PO Box 6016, Kampala, Uganda, Tel/Fax: +256 41 501278 Mob: +256 772 445597

EMAIL: richard@veritascollege.org, sue@veritascollege.org & michael@veritascollege.org

INTERNATIONAL OFFICE: Veritas College, PO Box 100, Harpenden, Herts. AL5 5EU, UK.

Tel: (44) 01582 466050

EMAIL: ivan@veritascollege.org INTERNET: www.veritascollege.org