

Today's Prophets of Uganda

It was Ex Zambian President Dr. Kenneth Kaunda who said so proverbially: ***"It is not that we need a Christian President in Parliament but a Prophet of the Lord to direct him!"***

In Uganda there are countless small churches, which have sprung up all over the country. Our home overlooks a valley on the outskirts of Kampala and almost every evening, and even during the night, prayer and praise meetings are broadcasted loudly via PR systems into the night sky as a form of evangelism.

Many of these churches are led by self-appointed prophets who claim to have the insight into divine revelation and the church members are totally committed to their interpretation of God's Word. Even though Uganda is full of spiritual fervour, doctrine is shallow and change in people's lives superficial. There is a need for prophets in churches and for churches to fulfil their prophetic calling in society: A sound application of the Word of God, to encourage godly change and a life of holiness and to check the advance of evil and financial and moral corruption. Only then will we see true and lasting change, which is heartfelt and not skin deep.

The Office of the First Lady is a good example of godly leadership. Mrs Janet Museveni has an enormous report with the young people in Uganda. She has used her love for & commitment to God as a platform

to stress sexual purity in the country. Billboards from her office communicate a strong message: abstinence and faithfulness as the only effective keys to avoiding HIV/AIDS. The internationally sponsored approach has persistently shunned this biblical message, but the effects are clear: ***"those who abide by it shall live by it!"*** **Ezekiel 20:11.**

We have come to the end of the financial year. We thankfully look back on a year of God's provision and enablement in the work we have been privileged to do. We have been able to meet our goals and objectives and many more leaders have been trained 'to handle the word of God correctly'. Indirectly Veritas has a tremendous influence in local churches through equipping church leaders to become men of integrity. We thank the Lord for all His faithful provision.

The Lord has granted Veritas College favour with: Individual churches, Church groups, Organisations, Bible Schools and theological colleges.



Richard van de Ruit & Michael EjokEdeke

Let's take a look at one of these. Over the last 40 years the church here has experienced explosive growth producing a daunting challenge of leadership for these new churches. The traditional approach is desperately trying

to provide the needed leaders but their method of training has not changed since the 1960's and the training they do provide, is hugely expensive and too often irrelevant to the present needs in society. Not to mention the fact that the residential institutional approach simply has not got the ability to provide the number of leaders needed now or for the church of tomorrow.



Our Facilitators from the Pentecostal Assemblies of God

Overhauling the Traditional Approach to Theological Education

We have been deeply encouraged by a number of leaders of Bible Colleges who have become aware of this challenge. They have decided to either incorporate the 4 Veritas Modules or to completely overhaul their existing approach and change their whole curriculum.



Three in particular are standing out in this area: The Pentecostal Assemblies of God (PAOG) Bible School, the Finnish Pentecostal School of Theology and International Need Bible School. We must always humbly examine our approach to missions and leadership training and come in line with what God is doing or risk the possibility of becoming irrelevant and ineffective!

Rev Simon Peter Emiau

The National Overseer of PAOG Rev Simon Peter Emiau who has the responsibility for almost 4000 local churches has been challenged by the rapid growth of this church group, which happens to be the fastest growing protestant church in Uganda especially in the war-torn northern region of the country. He has been aware that their Bible College was not able to meet the needs of this growing church and had already activated a rural training approach 'The In-service Bible School' some years ago.

A flexible, practical & multipliable curriculum to equip rural facilitators to train the leaders was all that was lacking was.

"For the local churches to survive we need to focus on developing the Pulpit Ministry through training church leaders to preach the Word effectively and relevantly", as Simon Peter put it. Veritas is now in the process of training 20 of their key facilitators who are presently engaged in training other leaders who together have the potential to influence half a million church members!

Networking

This is a key word in today's missions. It reminds us of Jesus telling the disciples to throw out their nets on the other side of their boat. In other words: *do things differently and doing them together with others; do things His way and by His instructions.* Veritas Uganda is a dynamically growing organisation with the challenge to remain flexible and daring. We see this challenge especially in the area of fundraising. Two areas in particular are in focus:

- Networking with local Christians and organisations in Uganda in fundraising. A recent local fundraising event 'netted' £350 and a live bull!



- Encouraging present donors and supporters of Veritas to draw in other potential donors to invest financially in the challenge of bringing essential Bible based leadership training to the growing local churches in Uganda.

Let us know if you are interested in becoming a *network partner* with Veritas, connecting other potential supporters to this life changing ministry, which you have come to know to be a worthwhile

investment in the Kingdom of God. We greatly value your help!

Comings & Goings

Integrated Leadership Development (the official name for Veritas Training) in the Church of Uganda (Anglican) continues to multiply in 13 different dioceses, regional colleges and at the Christian University. We thank Rev Jem Hovil for co-ordinating the implementation of Veritas Training in the COU for the last 4 years.

The relationship with the Church of Uganda has reached a new and exiting level. Together with the Provincial Board of Education, Veritas College is in the process of finalising a Partnership Agreement to formalise the relationship in order to give a greater ownership and responsibility for training, fundraising and co-ordination to the respective leaders in the church.

Bildad Koske is our new man in the office and is responsible for Operations and IT. He comes from Kenya and is also a missionary to Uganda. We welcome him to Veritas Uganda!



Finally, the birth of Andrew Nomore EjokEdeke, born to Margaret & Michael. 'Nomore' stands for the fact that he will be the last born of their tribe of 7 children! Michael is the assistant to the National Director of Veritas in Uganda

A Testimony about one of our Facilitators in Action



Charles Lubega, one of our facilitators, preached a few Sundays ago from the Gospel of Luke about the healing of the paralytic (Luk 5:17-26). It was obvious that he had applied the skills of 'How to Interpret Narrative; Problem, Solution & Outcome'. At the end of his sermon he

concluded that these days in our churches the members are expected to praise the pastor who prays for healing.

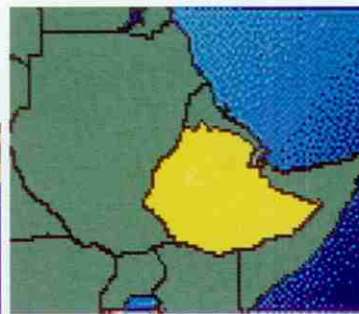
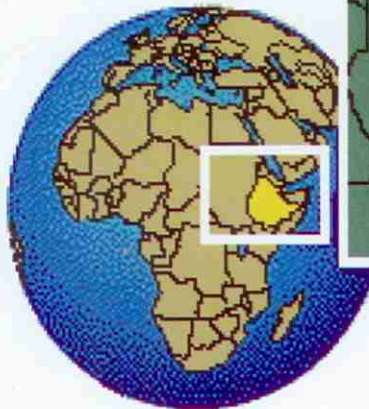
However, in this passage the outcome is very different in that the people praised God for the healing that took place and not the church leaders! He challenged both the members and the church leadership to focus of their praise on Jesus and not draw praise to themselves.

This was especially challenging for the leadership of the church in which Charles preached. A sound understanding of Scriptures brings authority and boldness!

Partnerships in the Gospel

One of the exiting challenges in missions is the growing awareness amongst missionaries and their agencies that we do not have a monopoly on truth or on the 'right' approach of doing mission work. The Bible challenges us about a Partnership in the Gospel through the example of Paul and the Philippian believers (Phil 1:4). We are witnessing this in our relationships here in Uganda.

The Finnish Pentecostal Mission, where we have trained key partners as Veritas facilitators, who in turn have integrated the Veritas' curriculum in their Bible College in Kampala will be introducing the Veritas Programme in Ethiopia in September 2005. They have been invited to present the training to a group of 20 Bible school lecturers from 5 regional colleges. No need to reinvent the wheel! Please pray for this new opportunity as we



Ethiopia

trust that this initial training will result in these regional colleges using the Veritas material to train all the local church leaders of this denomination and will spill over to others also. It is exciting when the Lord raises up others who go to areas where we are restrained from going!

The next area they are focussing on is Southern Sudan. Due to the recent peace deal vast opportunities have opened up. For the last 16 years of civil war untold Christians have been without church or shepherds to lead them.

Even though Veritas has only 4 modules, the translation of the curriculum in the local languages, Amharic for Ethiopia and Juba Arabic for Southern Sudan, will be a daunting task.

Outreach in Kabale, South Western Uganda

One of the facilitators, Pastor Emmanuel Mugambo, approached us when he came for the next workshop and asked if he could translate the first module in the local language of his people group. He had already translated a third of the module! He also asked us to assess some of his other work: his completed exegesis & hermeneutics on Ephesians chapter 1 & 2. "Would I also have a look at sermons he had prepared for **each passage** he had studied?" Talking about commitment! His work was outstanding in quality.

This pastor is the regional coordinator for rural training of church leaders and is responsible for implementing Veritas training. He shared that he had been longing for a practical method of studying the Bible. Now he not only learnt a method which worked, but one he could also teach to others!



Travelling Down Under

Veritas International will be hosting this year's International Leader's Conference in Perth, Australia where VCI has entered into partnership with Perth Bible College. The focus will be on consolidation of the existing ministry. Veritas has become a world-wide movement of leadership development and for that reason the experience we have gained in our local missions will be invaluable for the outreach into new countries and regions.

