



# Uganda



## The Van de Ruit Report

### A YEAR OF CHANGE & CHALLENGE!

#### Dear Family and friends,

It has been a very eventful year with a lot of changes. The Lord has been faithful in directing our every step in the midst of all the challenges.

One of the greatest blessings has come in the person of Michael Ejok Edeke, who is my assistant. He has proved to be a hardworking faithful friend as well as a fine facilitator of the Veritas Training. He has taken a lot of work out of my hands. We have also seen the Lord's blessing upon Michael and his family as the Lord has honoured VC's financial & staff policy, which states that every member raises his own support and God has enabled Michael and Margaret to do so!

We have been running the ministry from the small office in our home, which we have now outgrown. Our board has endorsed the move to larger offices where we can also accommodate more staff. We are in the process of drawing in a financial administrator. His name is Achilles Byaruhanga, who has been involved with Veritas for the last 2 years. It will be great to hand the admin over!

The Lord is bringing us to a new stage in our work, which has been growing very fast this year. A number of facilitators have expressed a desire to work full-time with us even though they know the financial implications! One of them is Rev James Both Gatdet (left in the picture next to Rev John Pech), a Sudanese refugee. He is presently working for a Christian Radio Station called Voice of Hope, which broadcasts programmes to Southern Sudan and elsewhere. James is presently in Southern Sudan and is using his free days to train a small group of leaders in Sudan. This is his 2<sup>nd</sup> time to do this. Please pray for James and for his family. Our vision has always been to equip church leaders in Uganda to also reach out to the surrounding nations.



We are praying for regional co-ordinators, which will work full or part time with Veritas. We already have 6 co-ordinators in the Church of Uganda Project. They are responsible for training facilitators who in turn train others. The Lord has really blessed the training in the COU, not only on a rural level but also in the Regional Theological Colleges, the Christian University and through recess programmes. We are now reaching all the corners of Uganda with well-equipped facilitators who are involved in bringing training to those who otherwise have no access to Bible & leadership training.

We have had many testimonies from our participants: One college student put it this way: "Here they train us to rely on the library but you are training us to rely on the Bible!" Just as well for when students leave the colleges they take only their Bibles with them and leave the library behind! Thank you Lord! Another stated: "I did not know that I was a false teacher, now I know the truth and am confident to preach it". And another: "In preaching, I used to wait till I got a revelation of the Holy Spirit, now I pray and follow the method of exegesis on how to understand the message, then I apply it (to myself and my church) before preaching it". However, it can also be challenging: "As much good as Veritas has done us in that we get messages from the Bible, it has done us bad in that when a preacher comes and preaches not God's message, now we realise it and it makes us feel bad. God's word should not be misused. Now we have the responsibility to correct it"

One of the aspects of training that is most dear to my heart is the personal interaction with our participants. Many have become very good friends and the discussions we have are really precious. It is a challenge not to give answers but time and again lead them back to the Bible. More than ever have we

come to realise that the Bible is the only foundation for our lives, family and ministry and for the people we work with.

The work of Veritas is gaining momentum also in Pentecostal Bible Colleges. The Finnish Pentecostal College has officially endorsed

Veritas Training and is running all 4 modules as part of their curriculum. KEST (Kampala Evangelical School of Theology) is also running Veritas training. The Dean of Glad Tidings, Full Gospel Bible College will be trained early next year as a facilitator within his college. Finally, a missionary with SIL (Wycliff Bible Translators) is starting to train the leadership of the Presbyterian Church in Entebbe. Part of our motto is: "Equipping, Empowering, Releasing". What a joy to see this happen and to see so many lives changed through the power of discovering the truth of God's Word!

One of the many changes was that we needed to make a decision (due to Sue's health situation) on the schooling of our children. We are still very committed to the values of home education but the Lord has provided a wonderful alternative. Last year a new international school was opened with very similar values as we hold dear. The school is run by Christians, is very small, with a special needs emphasis and follows an individual educational approach for each of their students as well as an integrated curriculum. By faith we enrolled them. Rachel and Hannah are in the same group of 8 students. Through two dear supporters the Lord has provided the needed school fees for this year. More praise for answered prayer!

Sue has also had a challenging year with her health. However, in making right decisions and choices, she has regained much strength. We praise the Lord for His continued work in our lives, knowing that His strength will only be revealed in our weakness, that is, when we really depend on Him for everything.

Another big change came when the Lord challenged us to lay down our responsibilities in the International Church (KIC) in order to be more focussed. It was a privilege to have had a role in the development of KIC (from a few families meeting in a sitting room to over 80 adults with as many children) as we have learned so much about leadership from the inside.

On a more serious note, the 16-year-old security situation in the north of Uganda has



deteriorated over the last 6 months. Joseph Kony with his Lord's Resistance Army is causing great suffering and instability in the region, killing and raping the people. Ten of thousands have fled to the cities and are finding shelter in churches. Villages & crops are being burned and children

are abducted and used as slaves or soldiers. Whilst there is real hope for peace in Sudan, we still need to see a breakthrough in Northern Uganda. It seems that Kony has no agenda or aim except to "kill, steal and destroy" which the Bible tells us is the agenda of the Evil One. The Army has not been able to bring stability but the situation has brought Christians & churches together in a united effort to reach out to the needy. Please remember those who are suffering and those who are helping in your prayers.

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR  
PRAYERS & SUPPORT OVER THIS PAST  
YEAR! YOUR COMMITMENT HAS MADE  
THIS MINISTRY A POSSIBILITY!  
MAY THE LORD CONTINUE TO BLESS &  
GUIDE YOU THIS COMING YEAR.

Much love from us all,  
*Richard, Sue, Rachel, Hannah &  
Paleb*