



Uganda



The Van de Ruit Report

*If the Lord is on the move,
who can hold him back?*

With some little shock we realised that already a whole year has passed since our last news-letter! Excuses won't suffice I'm afraid! Just enjoy the newsletter and let us know your thoughts! As always, we love to hear from you!

During our years in Uganda, we have been praying for key leaders with a heart for Christ, to be trained and to train up others. The significance of divine appointments and God's timing is revealed in the following accounts:

Six years ago I met Rev. John Basingwire, then a senior leader in the Church of Uganda. He was interested in working full-time with Veritas, but when we were looking into this, his Bishop had other plans for him. Now he is back as the Provincial Education Secretary! John's view: "If the CofU is to survive, it is through the Veritas (ILD) Department, giving knowledge of the Bible to the people at the grassroots, because here the church is dying due to ignorance."



That very year I also met Hannu Happonen, a Finnish Missionary to Uganda. Hannu is the Principle of a Bible College in Kampala. He has integrated the Veritas Curriculum into the Bible College. His students shared

that he has finally started to really train them instead of spoon feeding them! I was asked to address their denomination's annual conference in Nairobi to challenge his fellow missionaries in East Africa regarding their approach to leadership training. He plans to introduce Veritas training in Ethiopia next year.

Also at about the same time, I met up with Rev. Simon Peter Emiau, the country overseer of the largest Pentecostal church group in Uganda, the Pentecostal Assemblies of God. I recently met up with Simon Peter and he has invited Veritas to formally work together with the PAOG to train their 2000 plus leaders! We are working on a strategy for the whole of Uganda and plan to start with training beginning next year.

After 3 years of waiting and praying, the Lord has raised up a young man to implement, further develop and oversee Veritas training in New Hope Uganda, a children's centre for 400 orphans. He will be responsible to ground all their leaders in the Word of God.

Another dormant training opportunity was with World Vision, Uganda. Now however, due to Michael training one of their staff, WV has invited us to train a group of 40 pastors. Even more amazing, they pay for everything! This could well be the breakthrough we have been waiting for in WV. They are assessing the impact of the training of these leaders and may decide to fund training more widely and in different parts of Uganda.

Michael is also on the move! In a different way from what we expected. We have been praying for a 4WD vehicle

(and still are) for his use as he is doing a lot of travelling to training projects around the country. A couple of months ago a dear friend of ours asked if we were interested in a new motorbike for Michael. Now Mike has wheels! We are very thankful for God's provision.



The Veritas office has moved as we are continuing to grow, we plan to double our office space by the end of the year. We are in a great location on the outskirts of Kampala.

'Night Commuting' is a strange concept for folk in Europe. However in Northern Uganda, where Joseph Kony reigns with terror, tens of thousands of people, mostly women & children, commute at night to the towns, to find a 'safe' haven where they sleep on the streets of the towns. Please pray for a solution to this 16 year long war.



The Veritas Team

"The Lord is on the move and who can stop him?" We want to be in on this and swept away in his work in the world.

We are confident that the Lord has the answer for all the many challenges this country and this region is facing. The need for well qualified, faithful leadership who lead with integrity is a big answer to the needs of hunger, famine, AIDS, orphans, war, corruption, terror and poverty. With godly leadership at every level of society and in every church, can a more lasting solution be achieved!

Michael & I had the opportunity to visit our training project in Kitgum, right in the heart of this war-torn region. Our facilitator there Rev. Charles Oketch is training 12 other leaders and we were touched deeply by their testimonies of how the training had changed their lives and given them hope and confidence in ministering to all the needy folk who descend upon them daily.

We value your continued prayer and support for the work here as well as for our staff and us as a family, for God's continued protection, provision and strength.

We thank our Lord for all of you who have made this ministry to the Ugandan church leaders a reality. We thank him for your 'partnership in the gospel!'

There are also some areas where we do not see much 'positive' movement yet. Two in particular:

- **Financial Resources:** Ministry Fund and personal support for all Veritas Staff. We are all feeling the bite, which is an encouragement. Our funds are moving... in a downward trend.
- **Co-ordinator of a Translation Project:** We are in big time need for a full time co-ordinator so that we can provide the training in the 5 major languages of Uganda (44 languages in total!). Finances also play a major role in this. We envision a 2 year project for a full timer to co-ordinate this project. Please let us know if you know of anyone who would be able to help us (you do not need to know these languages). We have more information on this project and the kind of person we are looking for.

If you are interested in receiving a CD Presentation of the work here and details of how you can be more involved or how you can encourage others to be involved, please let us know. It will be a pleasure to help you.

May the Lord give you his Grace & Peace as you seek to do His will in your area this coming New Year.

The family is doing really well! We were apprehensive how especially Sue would cope with all the moving around during our summer home assignment. We praise the Lord for all who have carried us in prayer through this time. It has been the best furlough we have had in ages. The blessings we received in availability of vehicles, accommodation and loving support from family, friends and our churches has been ointment to our souls! Thanks to all of you who have embraced, helped, hosted, loved, prayed, listened, showed interest and given to us!