

## Uganda February 2006



This was our third trip to Kampala and once again we saw God putting things together miraculously. All the finance for the trip came in, one way or another, in the weeks preceding our departure and we were able to fund all the teams' expenses, plus the hiring of halls, feeding of delegates and every other detail, and even have some over to leave as a gift.

In three visits a team of ten people have obediently gone and ministered, in various ways, for a total of under £10,000. A small price for such a deposit of life to have been left!

The church in Uganda has been described as 'a mile wide and an inch deep'. It was our belief after our first trip 18 months ago that God would use The Way of the Spirit to bring about a depth of understanding and relationship with him in churches across Kampala and beyond, and this trip was a testimony to that happening.

Since the first conference a year and a half ago pastors meeting together to study the Way of the Spirit in groups has brought an increased understanding of God and his ways, and - excitingly- fresh life to many pastors ministries: many told me how they now expect revelation from the word to preach, and so are learning to let God speak what *he* wants to the church.

Relationships between pastors also are deepening, in a culture where neither group work nor unity between pastors is strong, relationships are being forged. One pastor said to us, of a pastor from a different church in his The Way of the Spirit group: 'I know that if I had to go away for a number of weeks I could trust this man to watch over my church'.

We (myself and Tracey Wysocki – later to be joined by Vic and Laurene Ford) arrived in 40+ degree heat, and this time found ourselves staying in the centre of the dusty and busy city. It was quite a contrast to the cold February conditions back home, and it took

a bit of adjustment. Having learned from the previous trips, we decided that we wouldn't minister on the Sundays there when there was no conference – much as we would have loved to have gone out to the country churches the schedule during the week was full enough.

The first three days of meetings were spent travelling round the five districts of Kampala meeting with key pastors who had come for the first time to hear about The Way of the Spirit. From the first meeting we encountered the presence of God, and had times of ministry. The pastors, who seemed quite dry were glad to drink from the well springing up before them and were appreciative. These meetings served as an introduction to The Way of the Spirit and as an invitation to the three-day conference at the end of the week.

The conference, after beginning in the usual African style (only a handful there at the time the meeting was to have begun!) soon filled up, and I think about 180 were there by the end of the first morning. We followed the pattern God had given us at Makerere (and indeed have used in the UK in a similar way since): teaching in the morning followed by groups in the afternoon. This way they experience the essential dynamic of the Word and Spirit operating in both contexts.



Hard at work during the conference!

One essential weakness of the church in Africa – well Uganda at least – is that pastors expect to do everything and the people have little participation in things. In the groups the pastors began to discover an option to one man standing at the front doing everything (this is, of course just as relevant here!).

Interestingly, teaching the humanity of Jesus there brings astonishment to many and has the wholesome effect of starting to remove 'pastors' from their unnecessarily high pedestals, something that will inevitably bring more maturity to the body there. I guess if someone gets revelation that Jesus was in every way fully human (fully man, fully God) then it helps them see their own anointed leaders in a more healthy way!

By the end of the conference the original groups of pastors had been stirred up afresh, and many more expressed a desire to get involved in the ministry. There were a couple of outstanding times of ministry during the conference, one when God was healing unforgiving hearts and restoring relationships, and another when he was releasing a teaching anointing. Many were ministered to during these times, and it was a delight to see many potential Prophetic Bible Teachers there.



Prophetic Bible Teacher training is the next thing on the agenda for them – so I find myself crying out as John McKay used to: *where are the teachers ready to go?!* If you are being called to serve in this way please let me know!

After a days rest on Sunday we drove to Jinja. It was billed as an 8am start. We arrived at about 9am, and there were about 10 people. So we went sightseeing to the source of the Nile (or one of them at least!). We finally started at about 11.30 I think, and by now there were about 70 pastors. By now we had accustomed ourselves again to the African ways so were pretty laid back about their timing.

It turned out to be a powerful day, a good climax to the mission. They were eager to learn about how to use the material in groups, and really open to the teaching. On finishing the morning teaching session at 1pm, many others began pouring in to the church for an unexpected lunchtime service. Even more unexpected was that I was due to preach! So with 10 minutes rest it was straight up on my feet again. It was a privilege to minister to these people, who were open and hungry for things of God.

The most exciting thing about Jinja was the speed with which the message was received and taken up. Seeds were sown, as they were in Kampala previously, and we expect to see fruit there next time we go.

On our final afternoon in Kampala we were able to meet with the core group of pastors again, and with pleasure were able to tell them that students from our bible college in Norwich had collected £150 per month for at least one year to fund a Kampalan The Way of the Spirit office – something they had been praying for since our first visit. This will be a place for them to centralise the admin and resources and may become important for East Africa in due course.

Charles Semwagac, an ex Roffey student from Rwanda was present throughout the conferences. God has spoken clearly about repeating what we have done in Uganda in his country, and he is excited about the prospect.



Vic and Laurene Ford have been busy preparing the way for this next venture. It will link two East African countries, and our vision is that in due course The Way of the Spirit there will have its own momentum and resources to reach out with the word of life to many African countries.

This is going to take money, people and faith! God is a great provider and we give all the glory to him for what has begun on this great continent. Actually, of course, the beginnings of what God is doing today go back to when John and Marguerite McKay visited there many years ago. As they stood at the source of the Nile back then, Marguerite tells me, God gave The Way of the Spirit an open door into the country.

There are many Way of the Spirit enterprises in Africa, and it would be good to try and coordinate them. Let us know if you're involved anywhere.

Do contact me for any more information, about this trip or the forthcoming ventures in Uganda or Rwanda. [Richard.george@thewayofthespirit.com](mailto:Richard.george@thewayofthespirit.com) or [rcgeorge@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:rcgeorge@tiscali.co.uk) or telephone the office on 01508 520003.

Don't forget the web shop is now open from The Way of the Spirit web site: [www.thewayofthespirit.com](http://www.thewayofthespirit.com)



Tracey and Laurene taking in the sites

Yours in Christ,  
Richard George