

3 Countries in 3 ½ weeks --- November and December 2012 Mission Recap

What a mission trip! 2012 ended on a high note for Usher International with new ministry opportunities in Kenya, Uganda and South Sudan. Our small team traveled by air, by boat, by motorcycle, bicycle, walking and 80 hours on buses packed full with people, cargo and live chickens.

Starting with meetings in Nairobi, Kenya – Randy and Usher In director Pastor Gil Harder met with local Pastors and board members to prepare for the **February 4th launch of another Bible school** to train and equip Christian leaders to reach East Africa with the Gospel. There is excitement in the area from those who are eager to be trained in the Rift Valley, at the foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro. **Randy was able to lead Miriam and Simon to the Lord Jesus** during our short time at the Maasai Cultural Center and trained them to use the Evangcube to share Jesus with their family and friends

From there we travelled from Nairobi with **Susan and Caroline Sarah, who live in Dandora, near the huge garbage dump** where there is much crime and where children spend their days rummaging through the refuse looking for anything of value. **Susan was raised as an orphan and lives alone in this dangerous area. Caroline Sarah is a widow who has a ministry to the orphan children who live there.** This trip was a special blessing for them to get a time away from the daily struggle of Dandora.

Arriving in **Mombasa**, we were the guests of **Pastor Ben and his wife Laura who minister at Tanzana! UM Church.** Mombasa has heavy Muslim population and there is often tension, including some recent rioting, regular bombings and threats toward Christians Churches. It was great to worship, share a word of encouragement and pray together for the ministry. On our return trip, we also stayed with the Pastor and his family – again enjoying another time of ministry and refreshment at his Church.

North along the coast, we landed in **Lamu – a beautiful island not far from the Somali border.** On the way, our bus picked up an armed guard because of the instability of the area we were traveling through. Arriving in Lamu by boat, we were joined by **Pastor James and his wife Choice and their children.** This wonderful family has a **missionary Church and school in Tana River** area reaching and discipling many Muslims who are hungry to learn about Jesus. They are seeing a steady flow of new believers in this very remote area. It was an honor to bring encouragement to them as they serve Jesus.

Randy and Gil spoke at a Church on top of the island in Lamu and Randy had the privilege of being best man and sharing a **message from God's Word at the wedding of Aggrey and Linet Juma** – director of Africa Hope Bible Institute in Kenya. After the wedding, Aggrey and Linet took their honeymoon joining our team to minister in Uganda and South Sudan that included a 17 hour bus ride! They are dedicated!

Eventually, after many hours of travel, we ended up in **Northern Uganda** where we prepared for the **graduating class of Africa Hope Bible Institute.** In September 2009, Randy and Gil helped to launch the first Bible school along with the Lira Pastor's and Elder's fellowship. It's always a joy to teach, encourage and challenge these wonderful men and women of God.

The quality of the graduates from this school has been amazing. In December, we participated in the second graduation ceremony. A full brass band led the graduates through the streets of Lira and the

whole town was able to join in the celebration with us. Randy, Gil and Aggrey gave a message of challenge to the new graduates to take what they have learned to shepherd God's people, share the Good News throughout Uganda and even to the surrounding countries in Africa. Indeed, a couple of our first graduates are already busy ministering in South Sudan!

Randy and Gil preached in local churches, shared Christ in the marketplace, taught at a Leadership workshop, provided Bibles, discipleship notebooks for a new Prison ministry and held meetings with Pastors in the area before heading to South Sudan.

Because of the good work of our students from Lira, Uganda – the Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Juba invited us up to South Sudan to discuss the possibility of helping train Pastors, leaders and even Sunday school teachers. This country has faced decades of civil war and the impact of the warlord Joseph Kony who lived in this area, killing, kidnapping and terrorizing many.

Now that a fragile peace has come and they have become an independent nation, they are rebuilding and need help training people with the Word of God. We were able to take food and water to needy villages and to meet with government officials, minister in the hospital and to make contacts that will help with future ministry there, should the Lord lead us to return.

There is so much more that happened, including a meeting with another Pastor in Kampala, Uganda who is preparing to launch a new Church in Mbale and is looking for potential outreach ministry and training partnership with us.

The recurring theme of this mission trip was 'Training and Church Planting'. The plea from our new friends in Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda is to come and help provide Biblical training and material – and help them plant additional Churches that can make obedient Jesus followers. Pray with us that this can happen in 2013 and beyond!

Thank you for praying – for giving financially – and for going with Usher In to the end of the earth with the Gospel of Christ!