

February 2010



"But God doesn't call us to be comfortable. He calls us to trust Him so completely that we are unafraid to put ourselves in situations where we will be in trouble if He doesn't come through." Francis Chan

"Without Faith it is impossible to please God..." Hebrews 11:6a

Hello my Friends!

Recently I read a quote from David Livingstone, one of Christianities' greatest missionaries. He said, *"People talk of the sacrifice I have made in spending so much of my life in Africa...I never made a sacrifice. We ought not to talk of 'sacrifice' when we remember the great sacrifice which (Jesus) made, who left His Father's throne on high to give Himself for us."* Kathy and I are not even in the same league with David Livingstone but our lives echo his thoughts; nothing is a sacrifice when we think of what Jesus has done for us! **We are humbled, deeply grateful and our hearts are incredibly full when we think of this last trip to Uganda. It was my seventh opportunity to serve in the continent of Africa and it was simply phenomenal!** God's Spirit opened many doors for ministry and again, Jesus was showcased and God was glorified! THANK YOU to all of you who prayed and gave toward this conference! Your sacrifice in every way brought about God's purposes!



Nkumba, Uganda 2010 Conference

Over the last four years of ministry in Nkumba, word has spread about the conferences Global Training Network provides. **We were expecting 1,000 participants this year but over 1,600 came for our 5 ½ day conference!** Pastors and leaders look forward to January every year because of the training, encouragement and fellowship they receive. Pastor John Mugabi, our host and leader, put it this way, "There is no other conference like this one in Uganda and when GTN comes, they deliver. The quality and content of the teaching is very good." We are humbled and blessed by this opportunity because it is the largest and most diverse conference we do each year. **God assembled a team of 16 people from Washington, Arizona, Oregon, Nebraska and Canada, who all ministered in their unique giftedness and passion; and provided over 70 teaching sessions in six venues!** It was awesome and we were blessed far beyond what we ever hoped to give!

Ministry to Pastors and Church Leaders

Wilf Meeds, Bill Wright and I (GTN staff), as well as worship pastor, Cyndi Dillen and lay pastor/businessmen Kerry Cruze and Dale Crull, were privileged to teach 250 - 300 pastors and leaders each day. We had pastors from Uganda, Rwanda, Congo, Kenya, and from the islands in Lake Victoria who traveled hours to attend the conference. **I was particularly blessed by two pastors; both named Emmanuel, from Siloam Evangelical Church of Rwanda who travelled eleven hours by bus to receive training!** Revival is happening in Rwanda and they pleaded with us to come to their country to teach pastors how to shepherd their churches. The need for training is huge around the world! It was a great privilege to once again train pastors and leaders eager to learn the Word of God!



We not only give tools for ministry in our conferences but we also speak to character issues and look for ways to empower and strengthen pastors and leaders with their marriages. Wilf did an excellent teaching from Dr. Emerson Eggerichs' book, "Love and Respect", and he spoke to the men about sexual purity. A highlight for me was teaching with Kathy on "Ministry Partnerships"; challenging men to value their wife and work together as a husband and wife team. They were

very attentive and seemed to soak in every word. **After our session, we had a "renewal of vows" celebration. I took them through a complete wedding ceremony and had a wedding cake to celebrate the occasion.** It was a lot of fun and very powerful! One pastor said, "My marriage will be different because of what I've learned this week."

Ministry to Youth

The youth venue was the largest of the conference, with over 600 in attendance. Grady Cruze, a young man from Washington who works with Young Life, led the youth with help from his dad Kerry. **What struck me about this group was their passion. As young people came to Christ, their friends stood with them to show their commitment to pray and come along side of them in their growth in Christ. It was an awesome site!** Also, Theresa Crull, a licensed nurse practitioner, and her husband Dale did a great job challenging the youth in a frank manner to avoid the pitfalls of sex before marriage and the spread of AIDS and STDs. Many on our team ministered to this next generation of leaders in Uganda and were extremely blessed.



Life Change for our Team

In all of my experiences of leading teams, one of the most amazing things for me to watch is the life transformation that takes place in every person we travel with. **We are each**



blessed with the privilege of being able to serve; to teach the Word, to love and encourage but we are blessed even more by the strong work of the Holy Spirit in each of our lives! This year we had seven "first timers" on our team and the impact of this trip was extraordinary! Three of them were young men; Nathan Shinn (our nephew), Chris Heiser and Cody Denny. They worked with over 250

children every day and did an amazing job! Their lives are forever changed! **I believe that transformation takes place when humanity comes in contact with the Divine. May we all allow ourselves to be "transformed" daily by the life changing Word of God and trust Him so completely that obedience is the only option!**

Janelle sent me this: "I was impacted by the witness of the Ugandan believers, believing God for everything in their life. They are barren of the "comforts" of life that come between them and their pure relationship with Jesus, and rather than despair, they were filled with the joy of the Lord, seeking to give Him praise. I am humbled and was left seeking a "first responder" faith that runs to Him FIRST."

Future Opportunities for 2010

Currently we have requests for conferences in North India, Ethiopia, Mongolia, Indonesia, Cambodia, Rwanda and Uganda. *Please pray with us as we seek the Lord for His direction and provision for the tasks He has ahead of us.* Our last six months have been full so we have a great need to replenish our conference resources. **He who has called us IS FAITHFUL and He will do it! (I Thess. 5:24)**

Because Jesus is the HOPE of the entire world!

Joel Madson
Vice President
Global Training Network

