

Africa Christian Training Institute Board Meeting
November 31, 2001 at Simpsonwood Conference Center, Norcross, Georgia

1. Present: Pete Anderson (Trinity Church, Honolulu), Carol Arnold (Equipping Pastors International), J.D. and Paula Bonner, Tom Cheeley (Missions Pastor at Briarwood Presbyterian), Mike Folk (Christ Covenant, Charlotte, NC), Wyatt George (The Tentmaker Project), Tom Graham, Bob Hayes (Covenant Presbyterian, Panama City), Dan Herron (Overseas Director of World Harvest Mission), Henry Krabbendam (Stretcher of People), Rashid Luswa (Uganda Director), Scott MacDonald (EvanTel), Don Mountain (Equipping Pastors International, near Orlando), Eric Mullinax (Assoc. Pastor of Covenant Presbyterian, Chattanooga), Bill Phillips (Fellowship of Grace, PCA—AZ), John Pickett (Univ. Presbyterian of Las Cruces, NM), Jan Price (Scott MacDonald's mother), Todd Sheldon (Biblical Counseling Foundation), David Stembridge (video producer), Jim Sutherland (Reconciliation Ministries Network), Gary Welsh

2. Bob Hayes opened the meeting by having John Pickett pray at about 1:55 PM. We then sang the doxology. Self-introductions were made around the table.

3. Dr. Henry Krabbendam reported,

speaking of the need for self-sacrifice for the purpose of unity. ACTI is a team of leaders with each having a sub-vision within the vision of reaching Africa. That we work well together, respecting each other's particular visions, is a miracle.

Past: What has happened has been a miracle of God. God has also given us Rashid Luswa. Sixty persons came to Uganda in his team in May. Chuck Weldon has been heavily funding the work in Uganda. Dr. K. is working on his mission house in Uganda.

Future: An Mbale youth ministry planned. Physician Tom Stewart heads up a PCA street children ministry and plans to visit Uganda. Henry plans to go to Karamoja for a reconciliation meeting in May. Glenden Riddle may teach Greek in Uganda for 1 month at a time. Prison Outreach Ministry invites ACTI to join them in prison ministry. A Ugandan general of the North wants a chaplain's manual. Plans are to start a biblical school of evangelism with Dan Herron. Possibly Tom Cheeley will send some seminary students to this school in May from Briarwood Presbyterian. Dr. K. wants to start work on a conference center, raising funds for it. We need to setup Rashid's next USA trip ministry starting now.

A crisis situation has developed between some career missionaries in the eastern Presbyterians and those in the west. Two issues are involved—money and properly equipped church-plant pastors. Short-termers bring in much money, and career missionaries cannot compete with their largesse. Everyone gravitates toward the money, and the possibility arises of “rice” Christians. Missionaries find that the people won't come to them unless they provide funds to meet, and suggest that short-termers have “spoiled the soil.” St. Paul stayed short-term and planted enduring churches, however. The other issue is the teaching. One who was only a deacon was made pastor of the church at Mabale. OPC and World Harvest missionaries want to stop planting churches for a couple of years to teach the already-established churches and until there are church-planting pastors ready. Both sets of missionaries are at odds with the churches in their areas over goals. (All OPC missionaries in Mbale plan to leave, except for the one among the Karamajong.) The PCU wants churches to be a mile wide and a mile deep, instead of an inch deep or an inch wide. Finally, there is a doctrinal issue. Missionaries in the eastern presbytery are now concerned about dispensationalism creeping in with some churches. Also, Morris Ogenga at Mbale (distinct from “Mabale” in the west) doesn't want church planting without leaving a permanent structure. ACTI doesn't want to create a crisis and walk away, but wants to help resolve the issues. On Dec. 7 the various missionary representatives will meet in Uganda to seek resolution.

4. Report of Rashid Luswa:

Tremendous advances have been made this year. Evangelism and church planting was mostly following-up on six existing churches, but six new churches were planted, and an existing church was added to the PCU. Some of the ministry types and venues included five prisons served, Africa Foundation Orphanage, and a Makerere University outreach. Ten primarily pastor/pastor's wife conferences were conducted, together with seven general believers conferences in various denominational churches. Nine conferences were conducted for the benefit of women, youth and children. Two professors taught at Westminster Bible College and one lecture was given at Uganda Christian University. There were medical outreaches by two medical doctors and a Ugandan aide. \$237,591.00 came through ACT Ministries in 2001. This does not include funds directly given to Morris Ogenga and others, and funds used to purchase airline tickets apart from ACTI.

Projects:

Church and health development progressed. Five of six church starts have permanent facilities. Land has been bought for two church plants. Covenant Christian High School at 1st Presbyterian in Kampala plans to open in 2/2002. Land for a primary Christian school at Kajansi was purchased. (Lookout Mountain Presbyterian Church contributed \$21,000 to the two schools and Worldwide Christian Schools another \$20,000 to the high school.) One and a half acres were purchased at Kapchura for a clinic. University Presbyterian Church is giving \$30,000 for a school upgrade at Kinkizi, and a container is being sent with a large diesel generator.

Taxi company:

\$9,000 was netted in 2001 from the taxi company. The oldest of three vehicles needs to be replaced.

Longterm/short-term conflict:

Regarding the issue of short-term vs. long-term missionaries, the PCU wants churches both a kilometer deep and wide. We need to define what "kilometer deep" means, and how long it takes to achieve this. We need to pray and harmonize. Rashid believes that long-term missionaries are critically necessary, as are short-termers. The key players need to come together to pray and seek ways to work together. The argument that we need to wait for trained leaders holds water, but how long should we wait? It is unrealistic to wait until Ugandans have US seminary degrees.

Summary:

One hundred sixty-two have come to Uganda in 10 teams in 2001. "The Word is being spread and the Church is being strengthened." The Uganda Team (ACTM) looks forward to fruitfully working with us in 2002. Unfortunately we can't function in east Nile north or Kasese and Bundibugeo due to rebel activities. Pray for sustained political and economic stability in Uganda, as well as for harmony among the various ministry partnerships within Uganda.

Finally, Rashid, on behalf of the Ugandan churches, shared his grief over the Sept. 11 attacks. They have been praying for America, that it will emerge stronger and more reliant upon Christ. The US has the infrastructure, and may be tempted to trust in that, but Jesus is the everlasting and immovable tower.

5. A discussion followed concerning the problems surrounding long and short-term missions. (The Secretary was making report copies during this time.) We adjourned for supper.

6. After dinner David Stembridge (Green Peas Productions) presented a variety of video clips demonstrating his video work, and then fielded questions. ACTI is interested in a professional Uganda video presentation.

7. Rashid Luswa (who, with the Secretary was absent from the afternoon discussion [#5] due to printing reports) again addressed the longterm/short-term issue. Missionaries sometimes build boundaries and feel threatened if others come into their ministry area. He cited a couple of examples of career missionaries failing to listen to the advice of national believers. The PCU wants to train their men. Most PCU pastors started

without training before Westminster Bible College was established. They love both short and longterm missionaries.

8. Wyatt George presented “The TentMaker Project” that he has directed for two years. TMP receives donations from US Christians that are loaned to Ugandans who pay back their loans into a revolving fund used for subsequent loans. Ninety-six percent repay.

A recipient must be a member of a PCU congregation, be experienced in business, teachable, willing to have oversight, have a business plan, and sign a payback note. They are given preliminary training. PCU leaders run the program entirely inside Uganda. Wyatt has done very little to promote the ministry and feels as though God has expanded the work.

9. Todd Sheldon is a counselor at Otterbein Biblical Counseling Ministry of Waynesboro, PA. Staff there has been trained through the Biblical Counseling Foundation, based upon the work of Jay Adams. Materials have been translated into a variety of languages in the past 25 years. Todd considers counseling to be in-depth discipling, and uses only the Bible to teach. The First Lady of Uganda wants to start a youth biblical counseling center, as does John Mugabe, who heads a prison ministry.

10. Treasurer Tom Graham Reported:

ACTI normally has \$80,000-\$110,000 on hand, which allows ACTI to conduct ministry even if certain checks have not been cashed. We receive normally \$200-\$500.00/month in interest, which will be used for Uganda salaries when necessary. Form 990 [annual 501 (c)-3 report] has been filed for the current fiscal year. We should qualify for certification as a 501©-3 organization, after the 3-year temporary approval. Tom has graciously prepared and will submit that certification document. Surplus funds from various teams are transferred to other teams and projects. A “Hold” account is established for those who have raised funds and have not gone to Uganda. Monies designated to send to Uganda are put into the “Transfer” account and generally sent at the start of the month. The Uganda “Salary and Field Fund” gathers about \$600/month that is designated for Uganda salaries and expenses. It was moved and carried that we accept the Treasurer’s report as presented, with thanks.

11. Various other questions were raised, among them the credentials needed by medical doctors. A 3-month lead-time to process a temporary physician’s license is needed. The King’s Pharmaceutical Company of Bristol, TN donates medicines to doctors to be given to national (e.g. Ugandan) doctors through the King Pharmaceuticals Benevolent Fund (see www.kingpharm.com/ “Benevolent Fund”).

12. The meeting concluded around 11 PM with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted by Jim Sutherland, ACTI Secretary.

Please try to come on Friday, **December 6, 2002** to the 2002 ACTI Board Meeting at Simpsonwood Conference Center, Norcross, GA (www.simpsonwood.org). Three very good buffet-style meals are served, which are included in the Simpsonwood fee (\$70.00 @ double-occupancy for the past two years).

Preliminary Agenda:

Friday: 10:00 a.m. Prayer meeting
Noon lunch

1:00 p.m. Opening of meeting

6:00 p.m. Dinner

11:00 p.m. (or before) Conclusion

Saturday, December 7

8:00 a.m. Group breakfast and fellowship

9:00 a.m. Departure

Some Uganda Website Resources:

<http://www.geocities.com/athens/4131/> Official ACTI site (Bob Hayes' work)

<http://www.geocities.com/athens/4124/index.html> Boy Hayes' Uganda Site

<http://www.RMNI.org> Reconciliation Ministries Network site, including Uganda and Sudan

<http://www.seanet.com/~eldrbarry/ug/uganlink.htm> Barry McWilliams Uganda website of links

<http://www.otpplan.com/> Short-term insurance site (please coordinate insurance with Tom Graham)

<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/ug.html> World Fact Book--Uganda

<http://www.walkabouttravelgear.com/index.htm> Electronics for travel and use of laptops

<http://www.worldskip.com/uganda/> Links to many general Uganda websites

<http://www.ugandapartners.org/> Uganda Christian University, Church of Uganda