

# **New Tales of the Muzungu: *The Singing Evangelist***

## **WeDev Water / Mission Uganda**

### **August 2019**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The first stage of our Uganda work this year has now drawn to a close. We are thankful and grateful for your prayers and support. God has again proved His faithfulness in our work as indeed “all things work together for good to them that love God”.

On the engineering side, we installed a gravity membrane



filtration unit for Zinga Island, installed a solar well pump at Kyamagemule and constructed a

transmission line bringing a water supply down from David's well to a village at Nyanzi. Our work of last year has also born fruit. The thermal system we installed provided warm water to a school for abused children for the first time in their existence. The director told me that the babies no longer get the cough because they are now bathed in warm water instead of cold.



As every year, God always has some surprises for us. I wish to share one of them with you. It is my practice to teach from the pulpit in services on Sunday. This year, I told a story from my days at Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church. There, back in the days when practically nothing about AIDS was known, I was approached by an AIDS patient who had escaped the hospital for one last trip in the world. He came to the church expecting rejection, for so he had been told about Christians. He asked for a ride home and a burger. I can tell you that I was greatly frightened for we didn't know how AIDS was transmitted in those days, but I took him. He told me afterwards that he was surprised by the Christian attitude. He said he still didn't believe in Christ, but he now believed in Christians who believed in Christ.

That evening, I gathered with my students for supper, most who are not Christian. They had many questions. After a time, I posed one that I had been asked by a Ugandan couple: What should a Christian couple do about intimacy when one partner has AIDS? Most responded immediately with “divorce”, after all, the one had broken the marriage contract. Through this opportunity, I was able to share about the covenant of marriage and thereby God's covenant with us and how God loves us in spite of us failing Him. This surprised many of the students. I went on to clarify that God does not hate homosexuals, rather He hates homosexuality. I left them with a lot to think about.

The next Sunday, I began last preparations for Sunday school and Service. Then came the shock – my sermon notes were gone! I don't know how pastors deal with this, but I was really concerned. It typically takes me a whole year to prepare and now that work was gone! I managed to find an early draft version of the Sunday school lesson on my tablet, but the sermon was in no shape to present. I managed to teach the Sunday school the best I could, but still had no idea for service.



Standing at the pulpit, I paused for a moment's prayer and then, I began to sing! I sang an old hymn, "And Can it Be That I Should Gain" from front to back, quietly at first, but with growing confidence. At the end, seeing what it was there for, I shared the amazing love that God has for us sinners and how surprising it is that we are asked to take part in that undeserved love.

The evening again engendered many questions from my team about God's love. As I later passed the room of one of them, I overheard her sharing the Gospel with another whom I know was not Christian. The next morning that person asked if they could keep one of the Bibles that were donated for the trip. What happens from here, I cannot yet say, but I count it as great privilege to have participated in God's work.

A couple of days later, I was approached by one of the Ugandans who had attended. He was surprised, because I usually stick to lessons from the Bible. He told me I've now been christened "The Singing Evangelist" in their language. J

Your Brother in Christ

Michael