



November Report

November 1st to 23rd, 2011

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Opportunity Knocks!

Our November trip to Uganda was filled with amazing “God” encounters that only He could arrange. In our pre trip prayer time with our church we heard the Spirit of God say this trip was going to be different. There were going to be connections and relationships beyond what we had already developed that were going to be significant to the ministry of SMPI going forward. Looking back, we can identify at least three connections that we think would fulfill this prophetic word.

1. I had been asked by the Vice President of EQUIP, Tom Atema, to assist him in teaching a day seminar to the staff, students

and the pastors with Compassion International Uganda. The day was arranged by the International Coordinator, Jacob Kitonsa. Participating in this day training introduced us to the entire Compassion Staff in Uganda. They are wonderful people, doing an outstanding work in the country. EQUIP

and Compassion invited over 300 people to take the day training “Leading in Times of Crisis.” We were given the opportunity to invite 30 people that were involved in our EQUIP training classes throughout the country. What an amazing day it was! Many of the people in our seminars had not met before and yet knew one another by reputation. To be able to invite them to be together in one place was a dream come true for Jennifer and me.

2. Africa Renewal Ministries was celebrating their 20th anniversary. We had the opportunity to meet some of the board members of ARM and what a blessing that was.

They are influential people, leaders making a difference by directing ARM’s ministry. It is possible that this relationship connection will lead to the development of a leadership program offered through ARM to corporate leaders of ministry organizations and NGO’s in the entire continent of Africa. Exciting possibilities!

3. Our farm is continuing to develop. We sense we are at a point where we need some expert advice in setting up its effective production of food for Treasured kids Primary School. 700 children are fed a noon meal each day. Our goal is to use these 20 acres of land to grow and provide

for this need. Only God could have arranged the meeting we had with a couple from Denmark who introduced us to “Farming God’s Way!” We should have been in an EQUIP training session in Lira but due to a scheduling mistake, the training finished a day early and we were at the hotel when this Danish family rode in on their motorcycle. As we talked, we learned



about Farming God’s Way and realized God’s hand in this “chance” meeting. In addition, while at the ARM Bible College we were introduced to Wilber. Wilber is the overseer of three farms and had recently relinquished his duties with the ARM farm at Bethany Village. He is an expert in farming in Uganda. And he also has taken the training offered by Farming God’s Way! Two couples from our church are heading to Uganda at the end of January 2012 and will spend time with both of these new contacts. God is on the throne and on the move! :-)

Worth it All!

The following is a testimony from one of the students in the EQUIP training (Vincent Ssengaali) in his own words. Vincent has used the training he has received to develop and lead a productive ministry. This is an example of the ongoing impact of the EQUIP leadership training.

“I used to work as a Child Sponsorship Assistant in World Vision Uganda in Masaka, Lwengo Area Development Program (ADP), a job I served since August 1992 to March 2008.

In 2006, I was identified by the ADP Coordinator Madam Nakabo Sarah to attend the EQUIP Training conducted by Pastors Ross and Jennifer Gerber. That is how I joined.

I continued to attend each training session on invitation by Pastor Sam Mukabi of Masaka Pentecostal Church even after termination from the job in March 2008. I continued attending until November 2008 when we graduated. Each time I attended, I went back to my home church and was granted 1 to 2 months by my Pastor to take the church members through each level of training on Wednesday evening services. Because of the nice way I used to deliver the leadership skills, my Pastor assigned me a role of Bible Teacher in the church since then to date, a role I have fulfilled beyond his expectations.

In February 2008, I initiated a child development centre called Calvary Junior Academy Nakyenzi & Integrated Rural Early Childhood Development Outreach Centre. I started with 85 children in Baby Class, Middle Class, Top Class, Primary 1, 2 and 3. The knowledge and skills applied from EQUIP training together with acquired skills from World Vision helped a lot to run and manage this children's project. Now it has 419 children from Baby Class to Primary 6.

This year 2011 our Pastor accessed EQUIP level one and two training materials and assigned me a duty of conducting the training among 40 members of our church. For 2 months now this has been going on and it is so exciting to the participants. As a continuing student of EQUIP Leadership I am now part of the leadership process, learning it, living it and passing it on to others.



Vincent Ssengaali

Meanwhile because of the high inspiration and greater picture vision of this EQUIP training, after joining Level Two Curriculum in 2009 and based on the fruits of 1st graduation training, I have been able to design and initiate a Faith Based Community Organization called HOPE CHARITY FOUNDATION. Its mission is to work with the marginalized, the hopeless, the desperate, the disabled, the elderly and the vulnerable to restore hope, face reality, build own capacity, cause behavioral change and development and bear witness to Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

For this tremendous initiative and the big picture vision, I wish to extend my sincere and heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to GOD for His care and love; Doctors John C. Maxwell and John D. Hull, Pastor Ross and Jennifer Gerber, Pastor Sam Mukabi, my Pastor Joseph Ssekamatte and World Vision for equipping me with the knowledge and skills to realize these dreams and contribute to the fulfillment of our part of The Great Commission. My humble appeal to the entire world is for help with resources, material and financial, to enable our dreams become a reality thus fulfilling our motto AN OASIS OF HOPE BEYOND TEARS, YELLING AND GROANING.”

Blessings from Our Loving God.
Ssengaali Vincent (DIRECTOR)

If you would like to help us reach and train more people like Vincent to impact their communities you may send your contributions to SMPI, 27569 Hawthorne Rd. Sturgis, MI 49091. Make your check out to SMPI. Or you can donate online at our website www.smpionline.org through our PayPal account. In addition we have an opportunity for businesses to generate funds for SMPI without using business or personal profits. Contact us for details.

Ross and Jennifer

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