

DRUM BEATS

Why Do the Righteous Suffer?

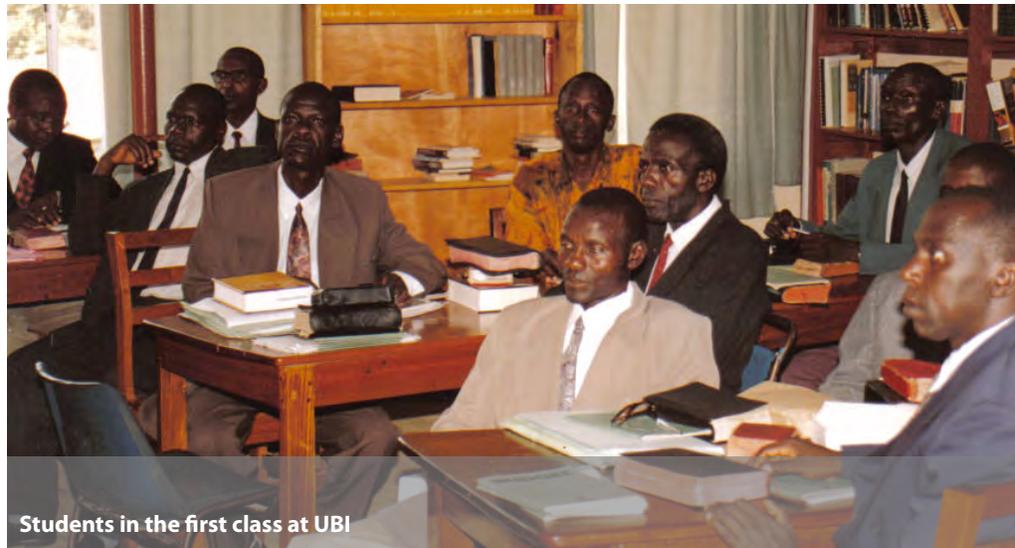
"Therefore, having been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us." Rom. 5:1-5

Enoch, one of the students from our first class at Uganda Bible Institute, was killed in a motorcycle accident and his wife's legs were crushed. He was a dear believer who truly had a servant attitude: We remember one day when Fran had brought sodas and pumpkin bread to the students. One of the other students dropped his bottle making a big mess. He sat there, waiting for someone else to clean it up but Enoch quietly swept up the broken glass and wiped up the soda. In a culture where self-effacement is rare, Enoch exemplified Christ's servant attitude. We enjoyed visiting him and his family in some of the churches he served over the years we were at UBI.

Gerald, the best African preacher we have ever heard, died of a massive heart attack in June in his early 40's. He had just finished his PhD work in the States and had moved from Uganda to Rwanda to teach in a seminary. He leaves a widow with four young children. Elisha and Julie, the Kenyan couple who lived on our compound, almost lost their newborn daughter when she contracted an infection through her umbilical cord. She was hospitalized for 3 weeks.

James and his family have had to flee South Sudan twice as fighting broke out and are now living in a refugee camp in northern Uganda. They have no idea when it will be safe to return.

We could go on and on with examples of



Students in the first class at UBI

Christians here in Africa who are suffering or have died. God does not exempt them or us from suffering!

"For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out 'Abba! Father!' The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God." Rom. 8:14-19

Please pray:

For the families of Enoch and Gerald as they mourn their loss and for Enoch's wife's recovery.

For our upcoming travels to Dominican Republic for the MTW Area Retreat and our son's wedding in NY.

For Don's trip to Kampala in November to teach in that study center.

Give praise:

For the church in Kiryandongo Refugee Camp.

For new study centers opening in Uganda and surrounding countries



Mission to the World PCA, Inc.
1600 North Brown Road
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

Don and Fran McNeill
Christ's Community Study Center,
Mbarara, Uganda

Entrusting the Christian Faith
Through Relationships and Community

"The things which you have heard
from me in the presence of many
witnesses, entrust these to faithful
men who will be able to teach others
also." 2 Tim 2:2

Local News....

On a local note, we are almost finished with the Book of Revelation. It has been a long study with the interruptions for traveling, but a rich one as God reveals Himself and His triumph over Satan. A second course is



Amy, our youngest student

Primeval History (Genesis 1-11) using the Third Millennium videos with Richard Pratt. The class has profited from both these courses and we enjoy good discussion with our small group in Mbarara. Even Amy, Elisha and Julie's baby, gets her two-bits in! Of that group, Noowe Hannington, is now the official pastor of our local church and is

trying to bind our congregation together with sound preaching and developing relationships.

Elisha, one of our former students at Westminster Theological College and a current student in Mbarara, has blossomed into a faithful teacher and preacher of the Word. By popular consensus, he has been requested to continue his exposition of John for university students at All Saints Church. He continues to teach at UBI.

Adonia, an older man coming to the local center, has been a good example to us all as he has stood firm in his Christian principles. He had to change jobs because he was not willing to compromise. His wisdom and experience have added a great deal to our discussions.

Don was invited to speak twice at a nearby Pentecostal church by another former student at WTC. Don spoke on the Lord's Prayer the first week and false prophets the second week. False prophecy has been a continuing problem among Pentecostal churches.

Fran has helped with UBI's lost library database. She was able to help them inventory the books and get Reuben started on recataloging the ones that had been "lost".

On the Road Again.....

Don has made two more trips. The first one, in late July, was to Gisenyi, Rwanda where Vianney had gathered 25 pastors and teachers for a two-week study session on the Pastoral Epistles. They had begun this study two years ago and wanted to finish it. Don was able to make contacts with some of his former students from Congo and also connect with Gaby, a young man from Bukavu, Congo (on lower Lake Kivu – he came by boat!). Don and Gaby had several good-natured disagreements over the role of women in the church and continuing revelation. He is not fully convinced but ready to listen to alternative views.

The second trip in early September was to Kiryandongo Refugee Camp in northern Uganda where the South Sudanese fled. James Bab brought together about 25-30 students for classes on Biblical Interpretation. This was the first study session for the South Sudanese and they want to make this a regular event, whether in the refugee camp or back in South Sudan! Don also preached on the story of Joseph, a refugee in a foreign land. What a beautiful picture of God's providence in Joseph's life and in the lives of the South Sudanese. He has one more full week session on OT Poetry in a Kampala study center. On both these trips, Don was able to distribute more Kindles – thanks again to all those who have given to the project fund for these resources.