



ERP Training Center

Roderick Report

Mbale City, Uganda

God is Gracious, Merciful, and Just!

God is kind, giving us gifts and benefits we do not deserve. God is compassionate, withholding from us the wrath that we deserve. God governs in perfect justice. He acts in accordance with justice. In Him, there is no wrongdoing or dishonesty.

“Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you, and therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; how blessed are all those who long for Him.” Isaiah 30:18 NASB

God is warning King Hezekiah and the Israelites through the Prophet Isaiah not to trust the Egyptians for protection from the Assyrians. Instead, they are to seek God's protection. Unfortunately, King Hezekiah put his trust in the Egyptians and suffered the consequences of disobedience—most of the land of Judah was conquered by the Assyrians and many Israelites were killed. Finally, Hezekiah remembers the words of Isaiah. “The LORD longs to be gracious to you...He waits on high to have compassion on you.” Hezekiah repents and God fights for Judah, and in one night the angel of the Lord killed 185,000 men of the Assyrian army, and they fled Judah.

As we look at this passage, we can see these loving attributes of God's grace, mercy, and justice. The Lord also longs to be gracious to us—He waits to be compassionate. He is ready to act on our behalf according to His perfect justice. How easy is it for us to look for help outside of God protection? No situation is too small or too big for God—He's ready to fight for you! How blessed are those who long for Him—wait eagerly, desire, or hunger for Him.

The Lord used this simple message to bring people to a saving knowledge of Himself. Several people trusted Christ, and two people re-dedicated their lives to Christ after Steve shared this encouraging “New Year” message at Nasenyi Christian Church. God is always working on our behalf, and desires to have a personal relationship with you and me. We praise Him because He is gracious, He is merciful, and He is just!

Prayer Requests:

- ♦ For ERP students to teach with boldness and be encouraged to make disciples.
- ♦ For the SS teachers—not sacrifice the truth of God's word over cultural ideas.
- ♦ For peaceful Ugandan Presidential Election, 14th - 19th January.
- ♦ For continued opportunities for us to learn, teach, and proclaim God's word.
- ♦ For new believers at NCC to be discipled and grow in the knowledge of the Lord.

God is Loving

He is eternally, enduringly, steadfastly loving and affectionate. He does not forsake or betray His covenant love.

Equipping Rural Pastors and Leaders

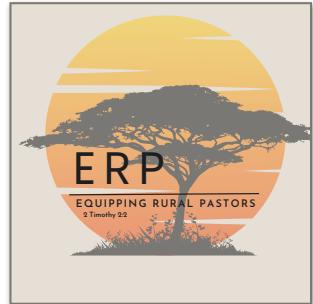


We finished 3 months of teaching for ERP and we are blessed by our students and the one year commitment they are making towards learning the truth of God's Word.

We are training pastors, translators, pastor's wives, youth workers, and elders/leaders in 9 different churches—visiting them in their homes and churches on the off weeks of teaching.

Our challenge to them—teach what you are learning to members of the church, community, family and friends. What an encouragement it has been for us to see each one putting this challenge into action.

Evangelistic teams have been created, new teaching times at churches have been added, and confidence in teaching God's word with clarity is evident.



If you want to contribute towards the monthly training needs to help equip pastors and leaders, you can go to tentmakersbiblemission.org select "Mbale Project" then donate to the "ERP project." Please let us know if you have any questions, we would be glad to send you any information on the details of the program. Thank you for your prayerful consideration for the equipping and edification of the church.

Thank you for praying—all the prayer requests we shared in our last newsletter, the Lord has answered!

- The Lord has continued to open doors for us to proclaim His goodness and His word clearly.
- We have 15 women who are attending the Discipleship Training and are committed to the challenge (scripture memorization and homework questions) at the Women's Fellowship at Spring Bible Church.
- We are so thankful that Grace has had a successful diagnosis and treatment—we saw God's healing hand at work!
- We have 12 students that the Lord chose to be a part of ERP. They are faithfully attending each month and putting what they are learning into action by teaching others.
- We are also so grateful to the Lord for our Landlord who renewed our rental contract for 3 years without an increase!
- By those that the Lord has placed on their heart to help financially to Equipping Rural Pastors training program.
- And, after 6 months of frustration and a deferred status on our visa, we have now received a 3 year Work Permit. **All praise goes to the Lord!**

God is faithful. He is incapable of anything but fidelity. He is loyally devoted to His plan and purpose.

We are honored by your faithfulness in prayer and support—no words are quite adequate enough to convey our gratitude. May the Lord lovingly make straight your path this New Year, and may the Lord receive all the glory!

Because of HIS love,
Deb and Steve

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tentmakersbiblemission.org
"Mbale Project"
"ERP Project"

We had 21 churches represented at the annual Spring Bible Ministries SS Workshop.

We are very grateful for having 42 SS teachers learning to have confidence in teaching the Word of God, and to be equipped with the "99 Adventures" curriculum for another year. During our questions and discussion time; these are some of the comments we had.

What do you like about the curriculum?

"It promotes happiness." "Clear lesson structure." "The part of teaching memory verses." "We get to know more about the Bible." "It has made me to know how to teach even mature people." "It teaches me to handle well my class." "It is simple and easy to teacher and train."

Has this curriculum helped you understand the Bible more? How?

"It connects the big picture...the lessons show how individual passages fit into God's overall plan." "Yes, it allows you to know/discover new scriptures that you didn't know." "Yes, because you can't teach without reading the Bible."

How have you grown as a SS teacher?

"Gained confidence to stand." "Gained confidence, knowledge, and necessary experience." "Being patient, and my love for children has grown." "I've learned to teach for understanding not completion, and I have become more flexible and creative." "I have grown spiritually."

How have you seen your SS class grow?

"Faith is becoming more personal." "Have seen students being to apply lessons to their everyday lives." "How they treat others, pray and how to make decisions." "A deeper engagement with scripture." "Students ask more questions, participate more freely and more willingly." "SS child have learnt that they sinned before God, and to hate sin." "Yes, my class know how to make memory verses and to evangelize." "Grown in how they react."