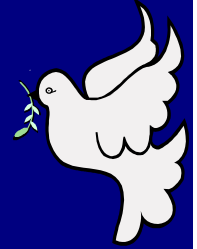


SFM UPDATE

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REPORT ON OUR TEACHING TRIP IN SOROTI, UGANDA March 6 - March 26, 2008

Sometime during 2007 we were asked by missionaries of the Christian Reformed World Missions, Tim & Angie Sliedrecht and Josh & Mandy Shaarda, to come and teach at Bethel Bible College in Soroti, Uganda. They asked for teaching on Christian marriage. John Klingenberg, Anne and I received a very warm welcome by the Sliedrechts and the Shaardas, and their children were an absolute delight to us. Every night after the teaching they fed us and we had a good time together.



Since most people are very poor, it is customary that the visiting teachers feed the people attending, so we furnished the mid day meal which consisted of rice, beans, cabbage and some sort of meat. Some days we furnished chicken and on other days goat meat, and all very tough. We ate the food with our fingers, no utensils.

A Baptist church was our host church while there, with a total of 77 attending the teaching (7 students, 70 pastors and some of their wives, with some crying babies). We set the starting time at 9 a.m. and in typical African style, most days the first ones there arrived about 9:45, with the last ones arriving at 10 to 10:15 a.m. Even the chairman of the Soroti Pastors Association, the day after he announced we would start at promptly 9 a.m., arrived at about 10 a.m. There were about 20 denominations represented. The average attendance was about 50.

The temperature during the first week of teaching ranged from 95 to 102, and John noticed that it was 105 degrees on a couple of days. The second week was a little cooler--in the mid 90's.

We were asked to address such things as men not understanding their responsibilities towards their "wives" and families. So we did, from the viewpoint of how Scripture looks at all of those issues, and how God instituted marriage and gave us instructions.

We taught about the **Biblical view** of men having multiple "wives"; having more children than they can afford to feed and educate. The separation between men and their children, where the men don't often associate with their children except on a disciplinary basis. Most men sleep around and think of their wives as their possessions due to the dowry system.

Since that region of Africa is mostly an agriculture based society, fathers are asking for what they think is an appropriate number of cows for a dowry, so as to be adequately compensated for the loss of their workers (daughters). Later on we found out that the tribal chiefs also have a very important say in the bride price, because they receive a percentage of the dowry.

In some cases a strong tribal chief has almost absolute control over his tribe. People must do what he says or they will be economically and socially punished.

The teaching was very well received and many pastors asked us to come back for more teaching and said that they should have had this teaching many years ago.

On the last day we ended the teaching with the Lord's Supper. On Fridays and Saturdays we led the students and others through steps of confession and forgiveness. Some of the sins and strongholds found in that area are: witchcraft, divination, fortune telling, sorcery, drunkenness, idolatry, cattle raids, murder, immorality, demon sacrifices, human sacrifices to demons, dedicating children to demons, etc.

We also visited the district jail and led a rapist to repentance and he took Jesus as his Savior. He is most likely to receive the death penalty. We visited an orphanage with HIV/Aids children, and another YWAM orphanage for older children. We spoke at a Training School for Nurses.



We witnessed the baptism of 21 people in the local river at Easter (with terribly dirty water) and preached at several churches.

We want to thank all of you who supported us first and foremost with prayer and also finances. We sure needed and felt your prayers. We know that God's Word will not return to Him void, but will accomplish the purpose for which He sent it.

Written by Paul & Anne Taming

GOD IS AT WORK

About a year ago Tim Sliedrecht was teaching the students and suggested they consider bringing the gospel to the Karamojong people to the North. They laughed at him, thinking he was joking. The Karamojong were the enemies of the Teso people (their tribe) for many years. In February 2008, the students traveled to Karamoja and brought the gospel message to a number of villages. A pastor there had a congregation of about fifty people. By the end of the two week period of time the students spent sharing the gospel with the Karamojong people, there were fifteen hundred people coming to worship.

Let me share how God works. On Thursday and Friday, Avalien, Tim and Angie's three year old daughter, had a severe ear

ache. The ear drum ruptured. A local doctor told them the damage was severe and would have to be surgically



repaired by a specialist at a later date. Sunday evening before we returned to the guest house we had a time of prayer and thanksgiving with the missionary families and asked God to heal Avalien's ear. Monday the trip back to Kampala went well and we arrived at the guest house in the afternoon. Tim and Angie visited an ear specialist who examined Avalien's ear that afternoon. He confirmed the damage to the ear drum. They were to return the next day to plan a schedule for future procedures. Upon examination the next day, the doctor discovered the hole on the ear drum was small so "come back tomorrow for another checkup." At the visit the next day the doctor said there was no hole in the ear drum and it looked normal to him. GOD HEALS!

Written by John Klingenberg