



## SOS Ministries Annual Report

2015



## Table of Contents

Church Strengthening .....	3
Local Church (Community Bible Church) .....	11
Legacy Christian Academy .....	24
Community Outreach .....	30
Development Department .....	34
Maintenance Department .....	37

## **CHURCH STRENGTHENING**

### **Annual Report 2015**

Jacob Mayamba

#### **INTRODUCTION**

I would like take this opportunity as we close the year to present to you the 2015 report from the Church Strengthening Department. I would therefore at this juncture on behalf of the church strengthening department thank you for your prayers, support, word of counsel and advice that you have continually given and shared with us over this year. We have seen the Lords hand every day in a special way. We have seen tremendous achievement in terms of stability in our operations in strengthening all the Baptist Union of Uganda churches throughout the country as explained in different activities below.

#### **CONFERENCES**

##### **Pastors conferences (The Honorable Calling)**

The beginning of our year was launched by the beginning of our Honorable Calling conference series. The conferences provided both encouragement and great conviction. Pastors were reminded of how important their calling is, especially in taking care of God's invaluable church and being good shepherds. We held 4 regional conferences this year which covered all the regions in the whole of Uganda.

- a) Western and Southwestern: 300 pastors attending
- b) Northeastern and Eastern region: 420 pastors attended
- c) Central and Southern: 350 pastors attend
- d) Western and Northern (upper and lower) region: 500 pastors attended

In the above conferences pastors and elders were taught that just as leadership is key to the success of any organization, the same is true of the church. The church can't only have right doctrine, structure, purpose and the right program; it must have leaders who are committed to fulfilling their God given responsibilities. Because elders are called by God, they must fulfill certain God given responsibilities, and he who called them to these tasks will hold them responsible.

##### **The Devotions**

Pastors were taken through The Eight God Given Responsibilities for Every Pastor.

1. The first task all elders are responsible to fulfill is to lead the church members. The Bible is very clear that the elder has a huge responsibility to provide leadership, direction, governance, oversight. These come with accountability to God and if leadership is done well then the elder is rewarded greatly by God, but if the job is done poorly he is disciplined ( 1 Cor 3:10-15)
2. The second task all elders are responsible to fulfill is management over the church members. One qualification for being an elder in 1Tim 3:4 is that he must manage his household and his children well. If the person does not manage his household well, how will he manage the church? An elder is given the responsibility of lovingly managing Gods church.
3. The third responsibility discussed is to ensure the church members are confronting sinful practices in fellow members and lead them in restoring these members. The church hates sin and loves

holiness because the church is mostly concerned that God's name is represented well by the church members.

4. The fourth task explained was that the elders are to teach the church members. According to Jesus one of the greatest ways we can love Him is by feeding His people with His word (John 21:17). Men can't live by bread alone, but they live by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of their heavenly father.
5. The fifth task all elders are responsible to fulfill is to provide an example for the church members (1 Peter 5:3).
6. Another task all elders are responsible to fulfill is to voluntarily work hard shepherding the Church members. Biblical elders must demonstrate the heart portrayed by Paul in 2 Corinthians 2:4, when he says, "for out of much affection and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears; not that you would be sorrowful, but that you might know the love which I have especially for you". Therefore, an elder is consumed with his work of caring for the members of His church.
7. Another responsibility for elders to fulfill is to protect the church members. In Acts 20:28-30, we see one of the most neglected responsibilities among the elders today: protecting their members from false doctrine and sin. Often this is either because elders are not close enough to their church members or church members keep their elders at arms' length. Regardless, elders must keep their eyes ever roaming in the midst of its members, ever looking for wolves and ever fearful of sin's enticement.
8. The last task discussed that elders are responsible to fulfill is to pray for the church members.

As has been communicated throughout this study of the church, there is no more important institution than the church. Therefore, there is no more important role than the office of an elder. But if a church is going to be Biblical, the elders of God's church must have a biblical understanding of their responsibilities and be committed to fulfilling them.

### The Responses

During the conferences pastors were challenged in the following ways:

- Most of the pastors discovered that they were not loving God's people enough and they pledged to go back and love their members more and pray that God will help them love Him with all their hearts.
- The Northeastern-most pastors cried after being shown how they fight for the titles of pastor or elder but run from the responsibilities that come along with those titles. They promised to be committed to God given responsibilities instead loving the position and attire that comes with the job.
- Most of the pastors realized that they were not qualified enough or don't have enough training to lead God's church and its members. Many longed for when the SOS training school will open so they can get good training in their love for God's church.
- The pastors came to understand that elders are not to do all the work, but if the job is not done well they are responsible and they are the ones accountable to God. Most of the pastors in the local churches had relied on their members to do the preaching, but with messages from the conference all were charged to provide leadership to their local churches.
- In the eastern region, 90% of the pastors have not married properly so they do not have Biblical marriages. Others have more than one wife and the children in most of the pastors' families are out of control and yet they are pastors and elders of the local churches. They appreciated SOS for the conference that has helped them to know the qualifications of an elder of the church (1 Tim. 3:4)

especially the evidence that an elder manages his own household well and keeps his children under control. They left the conference wondering whether they should just leave the pastoral work.

- They learned that a true shepherd cannot allow his sheep to mutilate itself in unwise behaviors. Pastors and elders have to ensure that their members are not living in their sinful ways. One of the pastors from the west confessed that he had feared confronting some members in fear of losing them and was scared of missing the offering that they have been bringing. But after the SOS conference, he came to know that a sinful congregation demonstrates that God is powerless to transform lives, therefore God has put his leaders in charge to ensure that the church maintains purity in its behavior. He said he no longer fears the people but he will have respect for God who called him to an honorable calling and that God loves holiness and hates sin.
- Pastor Maxwell from the lower north region said that he was challenged in the conference. He admitted that he had truly been taken up with other work like looking for money and had forgotten the responsibility of his calling as a Biblical elder should be. He said that since he was taught in the conference he will be more consumed with work of caring for members of his church and providing God's Word to their lives rather than being taken up with earthly things.
- Pastor Nelson from Bukwo (eastern part of Uganda) confessed that he had never heard such challenging preaching from the word of God, so he appreciated SOS ministries for loving them and providing such materials to them. He didn't know what it means to love and protect church members. "After the word-full preaching from Pastor Shannon I know that it's my responsibility as an elder to be faithful to protect my member as it was explained in Titus 1:9."
- Some pastors learned that church and members are so special compared to other things. They acknowledged that it is of much importance to protect and love members above anything in the world and that they should love their families more.
- Others were challenged in a need to long for God's word for spiritual growth, suffering for the sake their members, their role in the church as elders, and being faithful in the sight God. Therefore the elders should know that they have a special calling before God and should live in the light of the truth God.
- The testimonies across the regions and throughout the country is that the church is now more vibrant and the pastors and their elders are working more in caring for their churches. They pray for SOS to continue organizing such conferences because there has been tremendous change in their local churches. Special thanks to Shannon and his group for opening our eyes as Baptists.

We praise the Lord for enabling His servants to see the superiority their calling and understanding their responsibility and commitment to fulfill it.

### The Challenges

Despite of the great achievement in these conferences there are some challenges.

- 70% of the Baptist pastors in Uganda don't know English or they have no basic education so it is difficult to communicate the message to them directly. You have to preach through translators and may not know whether they are translating real words or not. This sometimes hinders the wide coverage of the topics prepared.
- Also most pastors in the local churches have the calling but have no pastoral training. 60% of pastors have not had any training but they are pastors, this is because either seminaries are expensive or the

fear of the language they use during the training. This makes it hard for them to lead their churches well.

- Another challenge is that since missionaries left the Baptist Union, the churches were left with no direction. Most of the churches we taken up by the Pentecostal movement. SOS is trying to change them from Pentecostal thinking but sometimes this becomes very hard because of the promise of prosperity and wealth. But by God's grace we are seeing some pastors changing.

### **Youth Conference**

Another major event that we had this year was the youth conference which saw 800 young people attending under the theme of TRANSFORMED. "Therefore, if anyone is Christ is new creation: The old has passed way, Behold, the new has come (2corinthains 5:17)."During this conference at least every association was represented from across the country.

The topics which were handled in the youth conference included: the Christian life, walking with God, Suffering and Running by Shannon, living for the glory of God and The Relationship with the Lord by Pr. Edward, Stewardship and Talent Development by Pr. Peter Mugabi, The Mind of Christ by Pr. Otim, and How Man Should Control his Eyes by Pr. Masiko Jack.

We also had game competitions during the conference where some associations won prizes. It was an exciting event.

### **The Responses**

- Some youth decided to surrender their lives to Christ and trust Him in their daily living. They further confessed that there are no best ways like the ways of God.
- Some youth went back to their local associations to organize local conferences to teach the youth who did not make it to the national conference.
- We had 3 youth join seminary because of the teachings they heard at the conference. Because of the topics like Christian life, faith and living for the glory of God, which was explained by Shannon, they decided to study serve Him.
- The youth also appreciated the care and the food that they had at the conference.

### **Women's National Conference** (December 2015)

Another event we had this year was the National Women's Conference.

The theme of the conference was Biblical Womanhood, this conference was planned to call upon all the women to remind them of their roles as ladies in their home, to encourage them to submit to their husbands and to have a special love for their children. Some women are being taken up by different activities and forget the responsibilities they have as mothers and wives. The conference was intended to help them discover God's design for women, lay aside all that they had known from their cultures and societies, and embrace God's intended design.

During the conference the women were also taught that marriage is so much larger than their individual lives. God joins believers together to demonstrate Christ's relationship with the church! When they

respond in marriage biblically, they are doing more than promoting a peaceful family—they are actually testifying to the greatness of God! (Ephesians 5:22-24) It was also stressed that they need to submit to their husbands so that they will model the right perspective of the church submitting to Christ! Women need to respect their husbands like the church respects Christ. They need to willingly place themselves under their husbands to be led and sanctified—just like Christ leads and sanctifies His church! They are the perpetual bride of their husbands just like the church is the bride of Christ! Marriage is far greater than our own individual stories; their marriages reflect the glory of God (1 Peter 2:12), fulfilling their original intended purpose of reflecting God's image.

#### The Responses

- The women were amazed because most of them were not thinking that children need special time with their parents but after the conference most of them confessed to change and have enough time with their children.
- The women also discovered their roles as women in the families. Though most of them came with the perspective of working and making money they went back with a changed mind. They discovered that two sexes were created, and both were created for the sole purpose of giving God glory.
- Others learned how to submit to their husbands. They realized that is not something imposed on them by the preachers but it is God who designed it that way. They discovered that obeying God is more than obeying what the society says.

### **EMPOWERMENT TRAINING**

#### **Regional Leadership Empowerment Trainings on Church Matters**

After going through the quest the truth in 2014, the association leaders learned what religion is, what sin is, what a Christian is, who Jesus is, the purpose of Jesus's coming, the effect of sin, and the hope of Christ. Most of the chairmen appreciated the study and said that it had changed the way they think about and interpret the Bible. Most of them are using Quest for Truth in their churches.

This year, due to the current status of the Baptist churches in Uganda, churches do not have a good gospel foundation. Most of the pastors have no basic Biblical foundation so we went through church matters book. We began with the association chairmen of all the regions to help and guide their associational pastors. We began our training with the western, southwestern, eastern, southeastern and central regions on 21-26<sup>th</sup> of September 2015 and followed with the West Nile, northeast, and lower and upper north regions on November 9<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>. These trainings went extremely well and the participation was good.

#### The Chairmen Responses

- Before we began the training all the association chairmen were taken around the Bible Training Center that SOS is beginning. Every chairman embraced it and all pledged to support the school.
- The chairmen discovered that, although they were leading the associations, they had never heard such teachings, which were clear and well presented. Especially the topic on the church being the most important institution in the world because it was built by God.
- Most of the chairmen were excited by the way the definition of the church was presented by Shannon. At the beginning he asked every chairman to suggest the way they understand the church and

everyone gave their opinion. After he had explained the five components of defining the church everyone was amazed at how it was presented Biblically.

- They also learned how the church can strengthen its members towards spiritual maturity by looking at the responsibility of the church members. For example, loving one another, encouraging one another, accepting one another, and confronting sin. One of the chairmen from west Nile said that he thought these responsibilities was for only the pastors.
- Some chairmen were asking Shannon how they can teach the way does, and how can they impact their pastors the way he has impacted them.

### **National Women and Youth Leadership Empowerment Training**

As part of SOS Ministries' strategy to empower the union departments, we organized and brought together national youth leaders and national women leaders at the SOS premises. This was intended to empower the departments in God's word and also help with mobilizing the youth and women at the grass roots level. During these weeks the leaders were taught their responsibilities. We also took them through Quest for Truth. These weeks were so full of the Word and the youth and women were impacted with the wonderful gospel which was being preached to them. Through it, God transformed the lives of women and youth. All of them were encouraged by the teaching. They discovered that they had been deceived for so long with a diluted gospel.

### **The Responses**

- They said it was a very special week for them. They appreciated the hospitality of SOS ministries, the welcoming, food and the accommodation.
- The youth and women went back more organized in their departments. Each one of them understood their roles starting with regional women/youth leaders and association women/youth leaders, up to church women/youth leaders.
- Many asked how can one be free from the bondage of sin? And do you think a person like me, can be saved because am too sinful before God?
- Both women and youth said that many questions that had been bothering them for a long time were answered. For instance, do we still have prophets and miracles? The answers were well explained and they left contented.
- The youth and women appreciated Shannon for the great work and love he has for them. One said *"you have come as savior for the union, we pray that God gives you a long life in Uganda and resources to continue helping the women/youth and union as whole."*

## **SUDAN NATIONAL STRATEGIC MEETING**

This year God gave us the grace to host the Sudanese convention's executive at SOS. Shannon was requested to help them write the constitution and help them organize the convention. The process began well and the executive was very embraced by the support SOS was giving them. So we request your prayers, so that the word of God can be spread in the war torn country. We are hoping that next year, 2016, by God's grace we shall have conferences and more meetings to help facilitate the writing of the constitution. Because this process has just started we need God to give Shannon the wisdom and resources to carry this process to the end.



## **OTHER BUU EVENTS**

### **Conflict Resolution**

This year SOS was involved in solving problems in different associations and regions.

For instance, in the western region we solved conflict in the Kyagwali association. SOS Ministries, with leadership and wisdom Shannon (CEO), helped managed unit association leadership. We were able to help them get a new chairman and now the association is worshipping God in peace.

SOS Ministries made the effort to solve the conflict in Kapchorwa in the eastern part of the country but did not succeed because of the politics in the region. However we hoping in the coming year we shall be able to visit them and have dialogue with them. Next year we are also hoping to solve some conflict in west Nile, mainly in Paidah and Arua.

### **Association Visitations**

Amidst the challenges facing the Baptist Union of Uganda, there have been many areas of growth that are taking place in the associations. For instance, the churches are beginning to preach the true Gospel, they organize the church members for Bible study and they go through Quest for the Truth (given to them by SOS). They are eager to study the word of God. This shows that what we teach them at SOS, they put into practice.

During the visitations, especially in lower north and West Nile, we find that leadership is more united, their churches are getting stronger, and pastors are now more committed. In the Kapeka association, where I moved from church to church talking with members in different churches, they confess that since their pastors began attending SOS programs there is more love and unity in the churches. For example in Balatira Baptist church, pastor has started a program of visiting his believers on Wednesdays to pray for them and to encourage them. In Kyoto Baptist churches they have Bible studies where they go through Quest for Truth. In Kapeka Town Baptist church women have started women's Bible studies on Fridays because when they came for the training they were taken to the village Bible study conducted by the Kubamitwe Bible Church ladies, so they say that it has helped them grow spiritually and they are able to leave their busy schedules at home to come and study the word of God.

All the above success they attributed to the SOS programs and the heart that SOS Ministries has for the Baptist churches. Most of the pastors in the churches and associations that I visited say they can now have hope and direction of where they should head, all thanks to Shannon, who has a father's heart for Baptist churches, as they say. They had lost hope in the Union.

### **Annual General Meeting**

The annual general meeting is the event that brings all the Baptist churches together for the sake of fellowship and discussing the critical issues affecting the union. This year we hosted the meeting at SOS Ministries in March 23-28<sup>th</sup>. The week began with chairmen training which we called "National Pastors Training." The event involved touring of the SOS property by the Baptist union leaders. They embraced the place and they said finally the Baptists have a place to hold their meetings.

### **The Overseer Evaluation Meeting**

Another activity we had this year was the evaluation meeting that was held Rest Gardens. This was organized to evaluate the activities that SOS had carried out (conferences, leadership training, church

visitation, conflict resolution and strategic planning). The overseers were very supportive and they said without SOS the union would not be where it is now. They admitted that SOS has helped in uniting the leadership and that its programs are so wonderful because they are focused on the welfare of pastors instead of individuals.

They also appreciated Shannon as a person for standing firm in supporting the pastors and different departments in the union although he faces a lot of resistance from some executive members who follow their personal interests.

#### **Losses within the Baptist Union**

We lost two association chairmen; one from lower north region in the Dokolo Association, which SOS Ministries helped take care of the burial arrangements. The other one from upper North region in the Nwoya Association. SOS took care of his medical bills until God took him

We also lost one of the regional youth leaders, the son of the regional overseer of south west. SOS also stood with them in making burial arrangements.

This shows that SOS Ministries does not only focus on spiritual matters but also loves the Baptist churches and the people by standing with them when they have physical needs like sickness and burials, which the union leadership hardly do.

#### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

1. I want to pray for Shannon's effort, sacrifice, love, and determination to be maintained as he seeks help and builds, organizes, and develops the Baptist Union and its churches.
2. Pray for continued unity and support of the local churches in our activities, so that God's work through SOS can continue to spread throughout the country.
3. I pray that God will continue to provide the resources necessary to carry out the activities of SOS so that SOS can continue to stand in the financial gap of the churches.
4. Please pray for the Baptist Constitution that SOS has been working on, that it may be passed and accepted by the whole Baptist leadership.
5. Please pray that God can help the work SOS is doing on the Sudanese Constitution. Pray that we can put together a constitution that will unite, strengthen, and lead the convention churches to spiritual maturity.
6. Pray for the Baptist election that is to take place this next year. Pray that God will provide the union with a God-fearing president who will serve the churches and joyfully support SOS and its efforts.
7. Pray that God will give me favor with the Baptist leaders, as we work together to strengthen the Baptist churches.

## **CONCLUSION**

As the leader of this department for just over a year and as a member of the Baptist Union from my youth, I have never seen a missionary with such a big heart for the Baptist Church and its pastors. I have also witnessed first-hand the impact of SOS within the Baptist Union. Please know my heart is to continue wholeheartedly to help and serve SOS because it has helped to unite and infuse hope within so many individuals, families, pastors and churches. I pray that God will continue to help us as we continue next year to have a significant impact.

## **LOCAL CHURCH**

### **Annual Report 2015**

Edward Kintu

## **INTRODUCTION**

We are so enthusiastic and overjoyed to present to you the 2015 report of our church- the Community Bible Church of Kubamitwe. The fact is, the Lord has done great things in our Church. For instance, He has transformed people's lives, has caused spiritual growth in the lives of believers and given us so many successful activities as expounded below.

## **A. MESSAGES**

There were so many messages this year preached by many different speakers. These included loving God and family issues (by the church elders) and the Epistle of First Peter (by Edward). These messages were so vital in the transforming work of people's lives and spiritual growth as detailed below.

### **a. Elders Series**

We normally have two elders' series every year and this year's series included the following:

#### **(i) Loving God Practically (December 28<sup>th</sup> –January 25<sup>th</sup>)**

We usually open up the year with preaching from the church elders called "*the elders' series.*" This year at Community Bible Church of Kubamitwe, we started off the year by encouraging and persuading our people towards the love of God. Some people were very weak in the area hence, we felt the need to encourage them "*to love God practically*" as we started off the year. The following messages were considered to be helpful to the people as they learned how to love God practically. The first was "Loving God" which was followed by "The Necessity of Loving God", then the demonstration of "How to Love God," all preached by Shannon. Next were "The Benefits of Loving God" by Solomon and "Loving God in General" by James (visitor from US). These messages were so important to both the elders and our people because everyone started evaluating themselves and decided to commit their lives to loving God with all their heart, strength, mind and soul.

#### **People's responses to the above messages:**

- a. Some people discovered that they did not love God enough and therefore confessed in repentance and prayed that they would love God as He too loved them. They also prayed that God might help them to hate the world and the things of the world, and live their lives for loving God. (1John.2:15-17)
- b. Others were interested to see that God does all things for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purposes (Rom.8:28). When some people were faced with challenges in life, they thought that God's love was not present. All in all, they learned that they had to be patient knowing that God's love is perfect and that he works together all the areas of their lives.
- c. They also learned how to love God practically. Some Christians were making commitments to die to their sins which were still present in their lives. Some confessed their sins like fornication, alcohol, and laziness and decided to live a life that magnifies the Lord as an expression for their love for God and an appreciation for Him.

**(ii) Family Issues (2<sup>nd</sup> August –September 27<sup>th</sup> 2015)**

The other elders' series happened from August to September 2015. This series was preached by Solomon Kavuma and Shannon Hurley. This was the longest period of time when the elders were focused on one issue: *the family*. Some of the messages which were preached included "What is Marriage," "The Marriage Bed," "Relatives," "The Role of Men and Women" and "God's call for Money Use in the Family." This was a transforming time for both husbands and wives. There was a great change in the family lives since God's word was declared in power.

People's response to the Family Issues messages;

- a. Some people nearly cried during "The Marriage Bed" sermon. In this sermon people discovered that they were defiling their marriage and not walking according to God's word. Others asked for help from their pastors so as to come back into the sight of God.
- b. They learned that marriage is so important before God and that they are supposed to handle it with much care. This was because they realized that anyone who practices sex outside marriage is dishonoring to God and to his/her partner. This is because marriage is holy and precious before God and all who do not treat it with much care will be judged before God.
- c. Some men learned that a wife is more special compared to other people, including their mothers. So they acknowledged that it is of much importance to protect and love her supremely. They noticed that those who still having a strong attachment to their extended families had to leave them and "cleave" and become one flesh with their partners.
- d. Husbands learned not to mistreat their wives and once they do that, they are mistreating their own bodies. They were supposed to treat them as their own flesh just as Christ treats His own church.
- e. The unmarried ones acknowledged the need to be patient until marriage since marriage is holy and all fornicators will be judged by God.

We praise the Lord for having allowed His people to see the superiority of marriage. In spite of the transformation that resulted from the hearing of the family messages, some people still don't respect and take marriage as important. This means that they feel they are free to do whatever they want to do in their families. But for some people who were transformed, their marriages are wonderful and they are continuing to grow in their love with the Lord and His word.

**b. The Epistle of 1 Peter.**

The other messages we had were from the 1<sup>st</sup> epistle of Peter. We praise the Lord for Peter's heart as a pastor and minister of God's word. We saw his encouraging messages to the Christians who were being challenged by a tough life and his calling them to stand firm in the Gospel and their salvation. These messages were preached by Edward for a period of more than nine months and were completed on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

People's response to the messages on 1 Peter:

- a. Many people enjoyed the messages of Peter as evidenced by their sayings, "*we do not wish to come to the end of this book.*"
- b. Some Christians recognized that their inheritance is guaranteed and that it's not doubted but rather secured by the blood of Christ and not their own works.

- c. They also learned that they are protected by the power of God hence they need to trust in God and wait for His mercy amidst all the challenges.
- d. Others learned that they have a purpose in their Christian lives which is to declare God's excellences through their behavior and morals, and through sharing God's word. One Christian said,

*"I don't know how I can reveal Christ to all my parents who are drunkards and idol worshipers and friends who hate Christ for nothing. But I pray that through my conduct they may see my God in me."*

- e. Some Christians learned that it's important to submit to their leaders, even to the unreasonable ones, for the Lord's sake. This is because it's a divine call for all people, not only wives, to submit to authority. And they learned that submission must be from their heart.
- f. Others learned the need to long for God's word, for spiritual growth, suffering for righteousness, the role of the elders to Christians, and that faithfulness is important in the sight of God. Therefore, Christians should recognize that they are special people before God and live in the light of that truth for God's glory.

I praise the Lord for His message through Apostle Peter since it's deep theological when it talks about our election into salvation, suffering for righteousness and many practical issues in the life of a believer. I believe this book has impacted my life and the lives of the Christians in our church.

## **B. SPECIAL EVENTS**

These were activities that took place in our church during this year and were premeditated to reach out to people with the gospel in a different ways.

### **a. Christmas Party - December 21<sup>st</sup> 2014**

The Christmas Party started with welcoming the church people by giving them sweets and wishing them a Merry Christmas. Then we had a Christmas dance for the couples (two songs) and everyone was really overjoyed because the congregation was clapping and others laughing for them. We then started the church service with a prayer of praise to God for giving us His Son, Jesus Christ and sang songs of worship and had presentations by Danielle Hurley, Jen Cupp, and the ladies and men's presentations.

Shannon then preached about three events: (1) Christ was exalted before He came to the Earth - Isaiah 6:1-4, (2) He was not exalted at all but He even lacked a place to sleep and He stayed in the stable (Luke 2:6-10) (3) He was exalted together with the Father (Rev. 5:8-ff). He (Shannon) explained that Christ was not exalted because men don't honor Him, neither do they glorify God but rather care much about themselves, their work and are always busy hence no time for God. He further called upon Christians to be different from other people who were there during the time of the birth of Christ. They should exalt Christ, and during Christmas, Christ must be the center of our worship and focus, not drinking, eating and wasting all their time in disco. He encouraged them to glorify Christ with their family during this season.

We closed the Christmas party with evening tea. There were around 250 people including children.

### **b. Christmas**

The Christmas event was celebrated to remember the birth of Christ. It was planned to remind the people of the reasons for the coming of the Savior and why it was important. On this day, we had a normal service. The service commenced with praise and worship songs and scripture readings, then preaching by Edward. He preached **"Christ's Birth was News of Great Joy (Luke 2:1-14)."** This was because there was a problem since the time Adam and Eve sinned. Everyone who has been born ever since is sinful and not acceptable in the presence of God. Therefore, the coming of the Savior was of great

joy since He was to save the people from their sins. Their broken relationship with God and one another was to be restored. Also, mankind can now be acceptable in the presence of God because of Jesus Christ. Therefore, the birth of Christ is of great joy since mankind can now relate with His Creator. After church, all people went back to their homes glorifying God for His Son who is our Savior Jesus Christ our Lord.

**c. The New Year's Event - 31<sup>st</sup> January 2014**

We celebrated New Year's for the closing of the year and welcoming the new one. This event was planned in order that we people would not be taken up by other worldly desires like alcohol, discos and other wrong behaviors that take usually take up peoples' minds and actions on such days in Uganda. At the event therefore, we had games among villages or "zones": Kubamitwe, Netunze, and Bukusu including Bulyankuye and Buyiki, Swanta and Mulindwa. By the end of the games, Kubamitwe team was declared the winner. We ended the event with songs of praise for God's faithfulness to us during the year 2014 and offered our supplication for the New Year 2015 so that His loving kindness, peace, grace and love may increase in our lives.

**d. Youth camp 18<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

On the above dates, the elders of Community Bible Church of Kubamitwe organized the first youth camp in our church. All the youth in our church and all the communities around were invited. Our intention was to help them understand that there is a true God, and hence the need to recognize His presence, submit to Him and worship Him alone. We also aimed at seeing them repent of their sinful life and turn to their God who is the Creator and author of the universe. All the messages introduced God to them since most of them had never come to our church. We had two speakers: Shannon and Edward.

We also organized different games and awarded a goat to the best devotional group which was shared among all the youth. Everyone was excited to roast his/her piece of meat during the camp and regarded Shannon one of the Elders as the guest of honor. We had football, handball, volleyball, doge ball and many others. This camp united the youth between those who fellowship with us and those of the communities around the SOS ministries.

The response of all the youth: Most of the youth were excited about spending so much time with the church elders and together as youth. Others felt that they are very important in our church since we organized such an event for them. They were so much appreciative for the church elders to organize the youth event and requested that such events should continue at least every school holiday. Also, the youth agreed together to start up a youth group in which they decided to meet every Friday of each week for Bible Studies and for building the friendship among the youth.

**e. Youth Group and Youth Camp.**

The youth group started on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> of February of 2015. After the youth camp, we decided to start the youth group which was to take place every Friday at Community Bible Church of Kubamitwe (SOS). God gave us a good number of the youth - about 50 faithful who were coming every Friday. The group was so important for the youth since they could come every Friday and study God's word. They were led by Edward and Jacob. We appointed some youth who would help us to lead some activities and also mobilize their fellow youth. Some were appointed to work as youth mobilizers, game leaders, time keepers, transport leaders and praise and worship leaders. Leadership election was intended to help Edward and Jacob and also to train them as upcoming leaders. It is also a motivating tool for the youth to feel that the group belongs to them.

The main topic we have been handling is “the call to trust the Lord” in all the areas of life (Psalm 146). And, “who is the God of whom they were called to trust,” where we are teaching the attributes of God (Creator, Holy, Loving, etc).

The response of the youth to youth group:

- a. Some youths decided to surrender their lives to Christ and trust Him in all their daily living. They further testified the grace of God continuing and enlarging in their lives.
- b. Some said that they had discovered that God is real and not just in people’s imaginations. One youth in the group declared: *“The truth is that God is real. I have been deceived for so long.”* So he surrendered his life to Christ and we praised the Lord for his life.
- c. Church attendance for the youth has increased. When we look back in our church, we had a considerable number of adults and so many young children with very few youth. We now praise the Lord that their attendance has increased (5% to 50%).
- d. Some youth have learned to love and read their Bibles. But the biggest challenge we are having is that many of them don’t have Bibles. Pray for God’s provision.

Therefore, we need much wisdom to know how we can counsel our youth. Please pray with us, since many youths in our area have taken up alcohol, drugs and all other bad habits of the same kind.

**f. The Men Muscle Month (February 8<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup>- 2015)**

The Men Muscle Month this year was intended to disciple men to love their family members, especially their wives and children. This was so because the elders had recognized that there is little friendship between husbands, wives and children though they desired to improve on that.

The men’s responses to Muscle Month

- a. Men promised to give their wives gifts (like flowers) and play some games with them and spend time with them. And also help them with some activities at home like cooking, washing dishes and many others.
- b. Some of them confessed that they had never committed themselves to their wives since some got them before salvation. They believed that it was sin which was driving them and they ended up living together without commitment.
- c. Some men decided to commit themselves to their wives through visiting their wives’ parents and even planned to officially marry them. David Nsubuga said that before he wedded his wife he used to have conflicts with her but after he wedded her all the conflicts were stopped. He advised his fellow men to introduce and wed their wives in the church.

**g. The Bible Study Teachers Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2015**

The Elders of Community Bible Church of Kubamitwe planned to meet with the Bible study teachers to discuss some issues and appreciate them. In this meeting we wanted to appreciate the bible teachers for the great work they are doing in the communities in and around Kubamitwe. This meeting was so important because the elders were able to appreciate and reveal their hearts to them. They told us about the success of seeing wonderful growth among the women. It was suggested that male teachers were needed to help up with men’s Bible studies. The Bible study leaders were encouraged to continue being faithful in teaching the ladies, being patient, and loving them for the glory of God.



#### **h. Couple's Retreats**

We had two couple's retreats this year, the first retreat happened in March and the second in November. These retreats were planned to strengthen the relationships and call them to legalize their marriages if they are living in sin, living as married yet not legally married. Therefore, we wanted to show them their sin to lead them to repentance and then legalize their marriage relationship.

##### **(i) The First Couple's Retreat: 13<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

The elders planned a couple's retreat for all the couples in Community Bible Church of Kubamitwe and twenty (20) couples participated in this retreat. The couples were treated nicely in terms of spiritual food, sleeping arrangements, and wonderful food. Everyone enjoyed and appreciated the care.

The retreat was successful since everything went very well. The elders' goal was to reveal the standard of marriage to people according to God's standard. The main theme of the retreat, was "*the marriage is to be honored by all.*" (Hebrews 13:4) We had four main speakers including Kintu Edward, Mr. and Mrs. Cupp, and Mr. and Mrs. Kavuma Solomon. The messages were great and really penetrated the hearts of the people. All of the meetings were beneficial to both the facilitators and the participants. When they left everyone was promising to change according to God's standard.

##### **The people's responses to the retreat:**

- a. One of them said "this retreat has been a light to my marriage. I have discovered that I have been walking in darkness for so many years. Thanks to our pastors for organizing this retreat for us."
- b. About five people said that they were taking marriage as something not so important or serious, and were thinking that they are free to remarry and divorce. However, they responded by saying that they discovered that marriage belongs to God and they had to handle it with care since it's precious before Him.
- c. This retreat acted as a "key for the door" of saving our marriages and to start valuing it.
- d. People therefore concluded by appreciating the elders for having organized such a thing and requested them to continue organizing such retreats to have time to talk about marriage and to polish the stains in their marriages.

##### **(ii) The Second Couple's Retreat: 6<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> November**

The second couple's retreat was organized for all the couples to remind them of their status and call them to action. We organized this retreat differently, that is to say, sleeping arrangements were as usual: one couple in one room. We planned this so that they have enough time to spend with their spouses and also discuss their marriage issues so as to seek help from the elders. We wanted them to see that marriage is of great honor and must be treated with great honor since it is ordained by God. They had more hours for evaluating their relationship, whether it was treated with great honor or not. We reminded them that fornicators and adulterous God will judge. (Heb.13:4) The elders invited them not to just talk about their problems but to find a solution to it. By the end of this retreat seventeen couples were registered for making their marriages right with God. And we praise the Lord that some men like Lubwama Bernard are already started the process of making their marriage right.

The people's responses to the retreat:

- a. Some couples thanked the Lord for the retreat since they never thought that marriage is of a great honor.
- b. Some people asked to have at least four retreats a year since they encourage and strengthen them to continue with their marriage.
- c. Some people registered for starting the process of making their marriages right before God.
- d. Some appreciated the time we gave them to evaluate themselves and their marriages since they have never done it before.

**i. Good Friday Event**

This was a very special event in the lives of all believers in our church. This event happened on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2015. It was a quiet time when all the lights were off in our church. This encouraged people to meditate upon the death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

During this time Shannon Hurley took time to retell and bring alive the story of the death of Christ, which appeared to be a new story to Christians. After this we celebrated Holy Communion. We ended with praise and worship songs, thanking the Lord for His intervention to pay for our sins.

The people's responses to the event:

- a. Some Christians were happy and praising God for accepting Christ's sacrifice for our sins.
- b. Most of them were thanking God for having saved their lives and helping them to live in light of His Beloved Son.
- c. Others said that they are to always praise and worship God for He is a good and loving God.
- d. Some people discovered that it was a hard time for Jesus when He was paying the penalty of our Sin.
- e. Others felt like crying- for they were asking themselves why did He suffer to such an extent and die for their sin? They thanked Jesus for taking their punishment since they had discovered that they were unable to bear it.

**j. Easter Service on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

This is the remembrance of Christ's suffering, death, burial and resurrection. This was intended to show Christ's victory over sin and death. The celebration was mainly in the main service at our church. On this day, Edward welcomed the people and asked them to worship with all their minds focused on the risen Lamb of God. Solomon led the worship and Shannon preached. He preached about Christ's victory over sin and death on our behalf. Therefore, we can now sing, "He has given me victory; I will lift Him higher..." He said that the unbelievers don't believe in the resurrection of Christ and are waiting for eternal punishment. But he encouraged the believers to be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord... (1Cor.15:54-58) and encouraged the unbelievers to put their trust and hope in the risen Christ.

The people's responses to the event:

- a. They discovered that the death and resurrection of Christ confirmed that resurrection was real and that physical death is not the end of people's lives.
- b. People discovered that they will resurrect since Christ rose again.

**k. Elders' Village Dinners**

This year we introduced another way of how we can reach out to our church members and others who come to our church. The elders decided to plan for village dinners with people where they live. These were aimed at strengthening the relationships between pastors and the people, reaching out to the people, and getting to know their perspectives on our church. This also helped us answer people's questions in the case of any.

**(i) Netunze Village**

Our first visitation dinner was in Netunze village on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2015. They were organized very well and invited some of their village friends who knew little about our church. Others attended who come to the Bible studies but do not come to the church services.

It was such a wonderful time with the people of Netunze and they were able to appreciate their pastors for ministering their lives. They appreciated our church for the love for the brethren, messages which impact and transform the lives of the people in their area. The men appreciated for the ladies' Bible studies which have changed many lives of the women and can have joy in the family while others started submitting to them. They were praying that such teachings could continue not only to the ladies but also to the men.

**(ii) Swanta and Mulindwa Villages**

On 16<sup>th</sup> October 2015, we visited the people in Swanta and Mulindwa and had a great time with them. They were overjoyed to see all the elders coming to their villages to have fellowship with them. They organized a big dinner for us and a time where all the people appreciated our church for support in times of sickness, for the elders love for them, for wonderful teachings and always being approachable and available to them in all situations. They said that they had never seen that before. They were amazed to see the boundless love which is evident in the Community Bible Church of Kubamitwe, and were praising God for that.

**(iii) Luteete and Kiteredde Villages**

Our last visitation took place on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2015. We visited the villages of Luteete and Kiteredde and they were very excited to receive and fellowship with their elders. This was another great day for us with our people. We reached Kiteredde with all the people eagerly waiting for us. They received us with much joy and happiness. They were overjoyed because it was a wonderful day for them to host all the elders at the same time in their village.

We had an opportunity to discuss with the people, give them a chance to ask questions and respond to them. We had time together as Christian brothers and sisters, and also shared appreciation for whatever one may feel according to his/her heart. It was such a splendid dinner with them and was concluded with a closing prayer.

**The people's responses to the dinners:**

- a. They were appreciative of the elders' love and care for their spiritual life. One of them said *'really, you may not see what happens in my life, but I believe the people in my home can testify that there is a change in my life.'* He appreciated the elders for a tireless job of feeding the people with God's word. *"I hope one day, God will totally transform my life because I feel missing church is something that hurts me"*, which was not there before he joined our church.

- b. Appreciative of members' love for one another.
- c. Valuing marriage is something important since not every church does so.
- d. Adding Bible studies in their area since there are so many unreached people.
- e. The fact is that the eldership village dinners revealed our love to the people. People appreciated us so much for visiting them as a group in their homes. It strengthens them to love and live for Christ and it helps us to know our weaknesses so that we can improve on them.

#### **I. Quest for Truth 12<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

We organized the Quest for Truth week for ladies and some youth in our church. Many ladies and youth were greatly impacted with the powerful gospel. God mightily transformed the lives of some women and youth while others were encouraged though it.

##### The people's responses to the week:

- a. "How can one be free from the bondage of sin? And do you think a person like me, can be saved, because I am too sinful before the Living God and I am unworthy to be graced by God."
- b. "Pastor, how can I surrender my life to Christ?" These words were being asked by two youths after studying Quest for the Truth.
- c. Some youth and ladies said, 'I want to be free from my sin, please lead me, and teach me and I am willing to come to you wherever you want.'

#### **m. The Church Anniversary October 11<sup>th</sup> 2015**

Another important event that happened at our church was the church anniversary. We always celebrate this day while praising God for what He has done in our church. This is one of the most important days at our church since it reminds us of the starting time and dates of our church. Many people were celebrating and rejoicing over God's love for us, when He brought the missionaries to our villages. A majority of the people were unbelievers but now a number of them have been transformed. To others, this day reminds them about their former life- when they were still in their sin; beating their wives and others, not submitting to anyone. Therefore, this day is really so special in the lives of the people of Kubamitwe and the neighborhood. It also encourages them to praise the Lord more for He is so good and faithful in all His ways.

We had a special service during which Edward preached from Ephesians 1:3. He explained that in Christ, we received all the heavenly blessings. After the main service, we had a baptism service and only one person called John Male was baptized. In his testimony, he said that he had never once believed in the existence of God and that his family did not attend church services. After the baptism, we had lunch together with the church people. At 3:00PM we closed and everyone went to his/her own home. We praise the Lord for that day since it is of great importance in the lives of the elders and the people in our church.

#### **n. Women's Weekend on 10<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> 2015**

Another event we had this year was the women's weekend. This day was planned to call upon all the ladies to spend time with their leaders, so as to remind them of their roles as ladies in their homes. It was intended that leaders will encourage the ladies to submit to their husbands and have special love for their children. Some ladies are being distracted by different activities and forgetting their calling and responsibilities as mothers and wives. Some ladies said they really needed many things to change in their lives and families and left ready to change some things. One lady said she was not thinking that children

need special time from their parents. So they were planning to put into practice what they had learned on that day.

**o. Leadership Training**

As elders of Community Bible Church, we have been working hard to see that we can train a team of leaders or deacons who can help the elders disciple others and start Bible studies since there are so many places in need of Bible studies.

In light of the above, we ask for your prayers that the Lord might bring out men and women who will be capable of discipling and training others to fear God in our communities throughout Uganda but especially in the areas around SOS. The following are some of the ways we have trained these men to be our leaders in the church and in their own villages:

**(i) The Quest For Truth Discipleship Week (12-17<sup>th</sup> January 2015)**

This was organized to disciple and train men whom we hope to be leaders or deacons in the making and who will be able to disciple others. The truth is that we have been working hard to train and disciple faithful men who will be in the position of training others for the cause of the Gospel of God. There are still very many places lacking Bible study teachers so we expect that these men will be in a position to help us with discipleship and serving in the church where necessary.

The people's responses to the week:

- a. Some people were amazed at seeing how religions are being formed and the sources of these religions. An example given was the Anglican religion, being formed because of wrong reasons, that is the king's desire of getting married to another woman. Also, they revealed that they need to commit their lives more to Christ. This is because sometimes in life they feel that they have not given up everything for the sake of Christ, hence, the need to die for the cause of the Son of God who came!
- b. Others believed in Christ as their Lord and Savior of their lives. Mr. Nsereko Eric who, at first wanted to attend in order to pass time, ended up seeing the truth and surrendered his life to Christ.
- c. Esther, one of the ladies in our church said, "It's hard to understand Quest for Truth by studying it once a week, but it's better to give one week and study it by giving all your full attention." She further said, "I can now see that Quest for Truth is really an opener that can help people to see the truth of God." She therefore concluded that she had understood the Quest for Truth and could teach it herself. She later said that she was going to take it to some of her fellow teachers.

**(ii) The Men's Group Discipleships held every Monday and Tuesday.**

The elders also organized a number of different discipleship groups which happened every Monday. Here, men were divided into four groups and each group was under one elder. These discipleship groups were intended to impart the truth into the lives of men so as to prepare them for leadership and others to reach out to them with the gospel of Christ. Our desire was to strengthen their relationship with God and prepare some men to be leaders in our church, especially in their villages. Some of the men were faithful to attend these discipleship groups.

Really, it was of great importance to see God making a difference in the lives of the men and in their families. The following were some of the responses.

The people's responses to the groups:

- a. They acknowledged that their relationship with God is so important since it must be the drive for their lives and families. Some people started taking the Bible as something important since they need to read it daily just like food.
- b. Some of them were appreciative to the elders for having trained them as God fearing leaders starting from their homes. Some people confessed that they were not good leaders in their homes.
- c. Others were so thankful to the Lord for having let them know that children are so important, and are supposed to be treated with much love and care just as Christ loved them.
- d. These discipleship groups led to the development of strong relationships between men and their church elders. This was because some started being free and open to their elders which was not there before.
- e. Some men in their groups were excited to see how the New Testament has one theme: salvation, obedience and the exaltation of God through Christ.

### **C. Church Functions**

These are activities which were taking place throughout the week. They were of great importance to the spiritual growth and relational development, and brought many people who are outsiders to the Gospel of Christ. These include the following:

#### **a. Sunday Services**

Sunday services were one of the weekly activities we had in our church. The services start at 10:15 AM and end AT 12:30 PM. In our services, we usually had songs of praise, prayer for all people, Communion every two weeks, preaching of God's word, end of service prayer and finally announcements. There were some people who were growing into God's word and others sought to be obedient to God's word. Also worship through songs was of great importance since people love to lift up their hands in adoration to God for His wonderful deeds towards us. Some people were interested in seeing God's word being preached and followed word by word. During dry seasons, the attendance was so good however, in the rainy season most people first go to their gardens and end up coming to church late. The fact is we are so thankful to God because His church in Kubamitwe is growing.

#### **b. Adult Sunday School**

Again this year we had the adult Sunday school every Sunday morning before Sunday services. These start at 8:30 AM and end 10:00 AM. We had three classes this year: the epistle of 1 John led by Edward Kintu, New Testament survey by Damon Capp and the epistle of Paul to the Romans by Solomon Kavuma. Before Sunday school, we have breakfast prepared by Legacy teachers and other church members (ladies). Those in the New Testament class were able to see how the Bible is united together under one theme. Some people discovered that they are sinners who are unable to come to God in their own righteousness but they must receive the grace of God. Others learned that love for one another is so important before God. Also they were able to see the difference between the sons of God and those of evil as seen in the epistle of 1 John.

**c. Children's Church**

Children meet in their church after the first part of the main service. Before, the word of God is preached. They are divided into three groups according to their ages. This helps them to receive the word of God by their standard of age and understanding. The children's church was taught by different people: legacy teachers, church members, SOS high school and university students if around and sometimes visitors from USA. This church was very helpful to the children as they learned how to love God and know the difference between non-believers and believers when they are still young. I believe that it has had a great impact in the lives of children and many of their families can testify about some of their changed behavior.

**d. Bible studies**

There were eight Bible studies in different villages. They included the following; Kubamitwe Bible study led by Danielle Hurley, Netunze by Jacky Kavuma, Buiki by Betty Mayamba, Bukusu by Esther Kayaga, Swanta by Christine Mbabazi, Kiteredde by Jenn Cupp, and Kiberenge for children by Elisa Hurley. These Bible studies were very successful in helping the women to be obedient to their husbands and be good mothers to their children. Through these Bible studies, women are changed to be responsible wives and mothers and their husband are so appreciative for the lady teachers.

**e. Transportation**

Usually the church transports distant people to and from church. This is because those people cannot afford transporting themselves to the church due the long distance and high costs. Therefore, the church decided to help them in that way. The elders therefore asked some people at church who voluntarily agreed to drive, pick up and drop off the people every Sunday. Some of them are church members and others are church elders: Viz Nsubuga, Simon Nantajja, Damon Capp, Edward Kintu, Shannon Hurley, Gordon Muhangi, Dennis Katabalwa and George Kiyingi.

**f. New Testament reading**

On 1<sup>st</sup> January this year, the elders gave out the New Testament reading schedule. This was to act as a guide in their New Testament reading. Each day was allocated to a particular section to be read. They introduced this in order to encourage people's daily devotions which would in turn help them grow spiritually through daily reading of God's word. Some people tried their best to read it but others failed. So we praise the Lord for those who were able to read and pray for those who failed to practice it next year.

**g. Elder's Meeting**

This normally takes place every Tuesday of the week at 6:00-8:00 AM. This is a time when elders meet together to discuss the church issues, plan and pray for their church members, find out possible ways of how to help the members grow spiritually, find out those who attended the church and those who did not attend. This has been so helpful for the elders because we were able to accomplish many things throughout the year due to God's grace. It has also strengthened the relationship and unity among the elders. It helps us to run God's church according the way God has designed it.

**D. SPECIAL THANKS**

First and far most, I would like to thank the Almighty God for having helped us to accomplish all that has been and for the great work of reaching out to the lives of many. I would also like to pass my vote of thanks to my fellow elders for the cooperative effort they have made to see that God's people are reached.

I would furthermore like to thank the Bible study teachers, the discipleship teachers, children's church teachers, the tea serving team and the leaders, drivers, church cleaners and finally the supporters of the our church in terms of prayers and money wise. May the Almighty God bless everyone abundantly.

#### **E. PRAYER REQUESTS**

Each time you hear "we need many prayers from you", our beloved brethren, please pray. This is because the task for us is too great and we can't accomplish it with our own effort. Therefore, pray for us that:

- a. The Christians may deepen their relationship with God and consider Him to be above all things.
- b. The Christians may continue to grow in love with the word of God and to have a desire to read it daily and live according to it.
- c. The strengthening of the relationship between believers and believers plus non-believers. In this, all believers will be able to confront sin in the lives of others.
- d. God may continue to bring many lives to salvation.
- e. People may have knowledge and understand about God's plan for marriage as permanent institutions.
- f. The elders to have wisdom and knowledge to know how they can minister and counsel the church body.

#### **F. CONCLUSION**

We are so excited and praising the Living God for all what He has enabled us to do in the year 2015. The truth is, God has done much this year in our church. He has changed the lives of the people, spiritual growth has been happening and all elders and Bible study teachers were working very hard to preach and teach to the people, in order to walk in and live according God's glory. Let His rule, authority, power, might, love and grace be manifested from generation to generation and His glory be displayed through His Son Jesus Christ who is our Lord from all eternity. Bless the Lord, O my soul and don't forget all His wondrous deeds throughout this year 2015.



## **LEGACY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY UGANDA**

### **Annual Report 2015**

Solomon Kavuma

### **INTRODUCTION**

Legacy Christian Academy Uganda is a Christian-founded, God-fearing school, which provides an environment that emphasizes the teaching and appreciation of God's Word as it applies to students, studies, character development and all other areas of life. The staff members strive to integrate the Bible in all major subject areas as well as model Christian likeness in their own behavior. Legacy staff is made up of 16 teachers, and 4 non-teaching staff members, with a total of 202 students this school year. We appreciate the following staff members: Damon, Solomon, Brenda, Katie, Esther, Annet, Edith, Nowel, Felistas, Faith, Ason, Rebecca, Enos, Christine, Jalia, Simon, Grace, Ben, Nowel, Ruth and Emma for their service throughout this academic year, 2015.

### **STAFF DEVELOPMENT AT LEGACY**

The teachers have the opportunity to truly get to know the students and their families in the villages of Kubamitwe, Netunze, Luteete, Kiteredde, Bukusu, and Buyuki. In January 2015, we had teachers' training in order to refresh the teachers on different classroom management skills, effective teaching methods, formulation of instructional objectives, the importance of specific objectives by each teacher for a given day, student activities, and effective parent-teacher communication. In July, we had the CARS training led by legacy USA (Tim, Donna, Stacie, Desiree, and Heather) they mainly focused on character development, academics, and relationship building. The teachers are now very conversant with the curriculum and they take ownership of the Legacy school goals and objectives. They have written appraisals, been invited over for dinners by the administrators, and took two staff retreats (cook outs) at the beginning of the year. At the end of year, we had fellowship, lunch and a shopping trip.

### **SPIRITUAL LIFE AT LEGACY**

*"Training the Hearts and Minds for Christian Leadership and Service"*

#### **Bible Classes**

Every school day, the teachers lead the students in Bible lessons for 30 minutes. Each lesson is exciting and age appropriate, using visual aids, role-playing, and memory verses in order to hide God's Word in their hearts. Bible verses are integrated into the character trait of the month during circle time.

#### **Chapel**

Chapel time at Legacy occurs every Wednesday and Friday from 8:00am until 8:30am. It gives students an opportunity to learn the general stories found in the Bible, including learning about who created them and all things, and for what purpose.

#### **Staff Devotions**

Every Wednesday morning at 7:30, the teachers meet together to focus on their individual spiritual growth and to pray for the needs of the school and appreciate what the Lord has done for the Legacy family. In addition, teachers are involved in Bible studies, attend different Sunday school classes, and provide different kinds of services to the local church.

### **Character Traits**

Unique to Legacy's curriculum is our character trait education component. This character curriculum is built into the very framework of our school. The program focuses on a different character trait each month through definition, Bible verses, role-playing, and different classroom activities on the campus. Character awards are given out to 2 nominated students at the end of each month who have shown exemplary behavior and are outstanding in that month's trait.

## **ACADEMICS AT LEGACY**

Legacy Christian Academy students attend school regularly and are always very excited to come to school. The teachers write up curriculum objectives and activities on the white board for each day.

### **Curriculum**

#### **K-1**

- The students have been taught the existence of God during Bible lessons.
- Both K-1 blue and yellow use A Beka curriculum. They study the letters and letter sounds; one letter per week. By the end of the school year most of the K-1 students were able to identify the letter sounds.
- Mathematics: students study to count and recognize numbers from 1-20. By the end of the school year, most of the K-1 students were able to identify and count numbers from 1-20.
- However 6 students are still struggling with letter recognition and their sounds hence have been advised to repeat.

#### **K-2**

- The students of K-2 learn different themes each week. For example: God made me, God made wild and domestic animals, God gives gifts, God made different shapes, God wants me to be safe, the fruits of spirits, etc. Each of these themes are integrated in different lessons.
- By the end of the year, most students were able to say letter sounds, blend letter sounds, read short words and read short sentences.
- Mathematics: students can count numbers from 1-50, Write numbers from 1-30, add and subtract simple numbers, and read and plot simple graphs.
- However 4 students are still struggling and have been advised to repeat.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Grade**

- The 1<sup>st</sup> graders have learned the following during Bible lessons: the creation stories, the fall of man, the flood and tower of Babel, Isaac and Jacob.
- Science: students have learned about the human body and its parts, living and non- living things, plants and animals.
- Mathematics: students have learned to count numbers from 1-100, additions and subtractions, geometry and shapes, problem solving, and time telling.
- Grammar: students have learned the following: naming words, action words, word order in telling sentences, vocabulary building and telling and asking sentences.
- Reading and Spelling: students are able to read short stories, write sentences when given words and write up to 200 words.
- They have also learned how to use the iPads.
- However, 3 students are still struggling and have been advised to repeat.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> graders have learned about the book of Exodus during Bible time.
- Grammar: students have learned the following: singular and plural nouns, opposites, prepositions, naming words, regular and irregular words, adjectives, and telling and asking sentences.
- Mathematics: students have learned addition and subtraction of numbers, problem solving, time basics, graphing, measurements, money basics and geometry.
- Science: students have learned about bones, the life cycle of plants, seeds and germination, fossils, fruits, seed dispersal, soil and water, rocks and minerals, tools and machines.
- On average 2<sup>nd</sup> graders do understand the basic parts of speech: nouns, verbs, adjectives, pronouns and adverbs.
- They have had debates about different simple motions on Fridays so as to express their views in English.
- They have been taught how to use the iPads (Simple basic operations).

### **Classroom Activities**

#### **Circle Time**

- Circle time is the most exciting part of the day for the students.
- It begins with the circle time song, drawing students to the mat.
- The national anthem is then sung, a prayer is said, and then the character trait of the month is reviewed which reinforces the expectations given to the students by Legacy Christian Academy based on biblical principles.
- The teachers then go over the calendar and recite months of the year and the days of the week, along with the weather of the day and the different seasons with the students.
- Circle time ends with a story and exciting rhymes and songs.

#### **Table Time**

- The students are divided into three or four groups and always eager to learn what their assignment will be for the day.
- Different projects are assigned to each table as the students make their way around the room to each of the tables.
- The main class teacher is able to have one-on-one time with each of the students at the kidney table, focusing on the major learning objective of the given day. During this time the assistant teacher moves around to the other three tables, directing and instructing each of the tables on their projects, such as coloring, writing, drawing, and other fine motor skills, spelling, and sentence writing in the upper classes.
- All the students' final worksheets are kept in their individual files.

#### **Friday Projects**

Each Friday, K-1 students are given a project to complete revolving around the letter of the week. This project is focused on improving the tactile skills of the students, giving them a chance to use scissors and glue to make the different projects.

#### **Birthdays at Legacy**

Birthdays are always celebrated at Legacy Christian. During circle time, the student whose birthday falls on that day is given a balloon and small gift while the other students sing for him or her to celebrate their birthday. This is something that always makes that student feel very special. (Plus the song ..... Lovely, lovely & nice, you are the best!!!!)

## **EVENTS AT LEGACY**

### **Education Tour**

On June 24<sup>th</sup>, the teachers, students and parents were divided into two groups during the morning hours: one group (K-1 to K-2) went to visit the wild life centre while the second group (1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade) went to the museum in Kampala. Both groups later met at the beach on the shores of Lake Victoria. It was amazing, exciting and a fun time together as a Legacy family.

### **Sports Day**

A Sports Day was held on 31<sup>st</sup> of July, where the students, teachers, and parents participated in the different activities that took place. We had teams with two colors: yellow and blue. The first three winners of each event were given certificates and prizes, and the overall champions of Sports Day were Blue K-1, K-2, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. (Blue color!!) The parents were outstanding for the teachers as they won all activities. Mid-day, we had a parents' workshop about "Parenting" by Uncle Tim (Legacy USA).

### **Community Day**

In March and October, legacy students and teachers carried out "Burungi Bwansi". On these days, they moved around the villages clearing up and digging the roadside. This is one way Legacy can love its community back.

### **Open House**

This was wow! An amazing event where parents attended their child's classroom and watched different aspects of what they learned throughout the year. This included singing, dancing, skits, memory verse recitation, reading, performances of spelling bees, science projects, and graduation for the K-2 class. We had a great turn out of parents and everyone enjoyed the day. The students had worked for this event for the entire term and parents were proud of what they saw their children do!

## **GENERAL SCHOOL OPERATIONS**

- The school routine and time management is understood by all of the students, staff, and parents at Legacy Christian. Every activity starts on time, and each day follows the set schedule. Thanks to the character trait of the month of February, "Attentiveness", the students are aware of the school rules and campus procedures. The Legacy teachers promote a loving and conducive classroom learning environment that encourages the students to put forth their best effort in their education.
- Physical Education lessons are provided to the students one day every week after lunch. (i.e Wednesday is PE for K-1s' and K-2s' while Thursday is for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders)
- Every 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month, is "Free Dressing Day" to both the students and teachers.
- Staff meetings: This year we had Legacy senior staff meetings every Monday after school in order to plan effectively for all school activities and to solve various issues within the legacy staff.

## **STUDENT WELL-BEING AT LEGACY**

Legacy seeks to support their students and their families in more ways than just education. Some of the ways include: providing a balanced diet, giving first aid when necessary, and promoting health and general hygiene through the brushing of teeth and washing of hands, this is done every day. Legacy teachers are provided with breakfast and lunch each day.

## **PARENTS INVOLVEMENT AT LEGACY**

On the first day of school, the parents had the opportunity to come and meet their children's teachers at the Meet the Teachers Day. Students were able to see their classrooms and see who their teachers were going to be for the year. Both the parents and the students were eager to meet the teachers and anticipate the school year. The teachers were welcoming and explained the classroom procedures to the parents and used that opportunity to introduce Legacy expectations for the 2015 school year.

Every term there is one parents meeting and workshop. It is always a productive time that allows the teachers to take the opportunity to evaluate their work and gain feedback from the parents. This has resulted in progress and a solid relationship between the parents and Legacy teachers. At the end of each meeting, the parents were able to hold a one-on-one meeting with their child's teacher to discuss their children's behavior and performance. The teachers have benefitted greatly from these meetings by gaining knowledge of each child and knowing better how to handle and love them in the classroom.

## **CHALLENGES AT LEGACY**

This school year, Legacy faced several challenges, which undermined the moral and professional standards as required by Legacy for its teachers. This led to various conflicts and misunderstanding within the Legacy staff and administration, hence resignation and definite suspension of some teachers within this school year 2015.

Most of the students are still struggling to speak English frequently, due to the fact that it is not spoken at their homes. However Legacy has tried to introduce debating in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade to solve this problem.

Another challenge that faces Legacy is the issue of delayed school fees payment by the parents. Most parents have failed to pay school dues in time as most want to pay the fees at the end of the term.

Few parents have volunteered their time to classroom activities, and most have not come into the classrooms to help the teachers with story time, table time, and other various activities.

## **APPRECIATIONS FROM THE LEGACY FAMILY**

Legacy Christian Academy would like to thank SOS Ministries for their prayers, support, love, hard work and dedication towards the successful and smoothly running school year.

Legacy appreciates the SOS USA Board, SOS Uganda Board, and the supporting churches and families; for their guidance, love, and generosity towards SOS Ministries.

We owe much to Legacy USA and Western Christian Schools for prayers, love, and training of our teachers. We are also grateful to Western Christian for the 16 iPads that were donated to Legacy Uganda.

We greatly appreciate the Legacy teachers for their love to train the students for the open house events which gave the students a wonderful opportunity to showcase their amazing growth as individuals and as a group, and to explore their musical talents.

We would like to appreciate the students at Legacy for their dedication to their studies, being teachable, the love for their teachers and the school, and their obedience. They are such a blessing to teach and spend time with each day. Their smiles bring joy to their teachers and the other staff members at Legacy Christian and SOS Ministries.

Lastly, the teachers would like to thank SOS Ministries for their love and guidance towards their spiritual development through the various Bible studies, adult Sunday School classes and the local church.

## **CONCLUSION**

We are anticipating the 2016 school year with “JOY” as our theme for the school year, to see Christ reign in the hearts of the Legacy family, 50 new K-1 Students and 10 new teaching staff with great Joy and excitement. We will continue to pray for God’s blessings on our lives and Legacy so that we may be able to excel more and train up the children, to whom we are entrusted, in the way of the Lord, so that even when they are old they will not depart from it (Proverbs 22:6).

**“GOD BLESS LEGACY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY UGANDA”**











## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

Annual Report 2015

Sam Wamanga

### **INTRODUCTION**

It's a joy for us to share with you what the Lord has done through us to the people we serve in the village of Kubamitwe and surrounding communities of Netunze, Luteete, Kiteredde, Ntede, Kasambya, Bulyankuyege and Bukusu to the end that the citizens of these villages become God fearing and self-reliant citizens.

In order to receive this we see specific objectives under which we carry out relevant activities.

### **ESTABLISHING AND STRENGTHENING CORDIAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE COMMUNITIES**

#### **Monthly Meetings**

The success for our work here depends mostly on the local leaders. To achieve this, we are engaged in monthly meetings with the villages' Local Councils, which includes the Chairmen of the councils and village leaders. These meetings give us a chance of working together by exchanging vital information and ideas. Since day one, by conceiving and formulating programs relevant to the communities, which we later implement together, the work gives rise to a family-like bond.

#### **Bulungi Bwansi**

This year in particular we agreed to focus on community roads which we called 'Bulungi Bwansi.' This means something good for the entire community to set aside in their minds and time tables certain days when they and SOS come together to work on our roads.

To set this program in gear SOS took the initiative to mobilize and sensitize the leaders and their communities to realize that good community roads were a vital factor in development and that the roads belonged to them. The goal was to open new roads and maintain old ones.

Beginning in March this year SOS and the communities took on the work and opened new roads while re-grading old ones. Bull-dozers were hired by SOS to help in opening the mainstream road going through all the out-joining villages. This was a heavy and costly work but residents joined in with their hoes and machetes to work alongside these big machines in tidying up the road sides.

For sustainability purposes the community resolved to form a standing committee from among themselves to see the ongoing need of maintaining the roads from time to time without waiting for us at SOS Ministries.

This activity brought a lot of people together. The community was further enabled to understand the significance of their vital past and SOS. The relationship from here was further carried to their homes as seen in openness to gospel being shared. In a frail atmosphere, given time and with prayer, good fruit is likely to bear. Another fruit of the project is the desire to work together. As we continue this activity it will definitely yield to a stronger bond of SOS's relationship with the community.

The community leaders also asked if SOS would assist in providing seedlings of muvule/musizi trees to be planted on the sides of the main community backbone road. This remains a big challenge on our part since tree seedlings are very expensive. Lots of money will need to be raised before March of 2016. We will need not less than 200/each.

### **ATTENDING FUNNERALS IN THE COMMUNITIES**

Here is another vital objective for us because it does not only give an opportunity to demonstrate the Gospel but also accords us a chance to share the gospel as we come alongside the bereaved in meeting some of their needs.

This year by compassion we have attended fewer funerals. We have emphasized with the bereaved families through moral and financial support. This has helped SOS Ministries connect further with the community and strengthen relationships.

### **EMERGENCY HEALTHCARE OFFERING**

This ministry provides emergency and critical medical services to people in life threatening situations who are economically unable to care for themselves. It helps us exemplify the Christ-like response to those who are suffering in the midst of desperate situations.

This ministry has continued to pose the greatest challenges to us as the numbers grow each year while the cost is sky rocketing due to inflation. This year we witnessed the highest pressure and expenditure as we had to care for an average of 40-50 patients a month, having turned away several hopeless cases due to financial constraints.

The hospital sometimes delays to send invoices creating problems for our accounts debt in scheduling payment in the light of the meager funds available against many other vital demands.

This service has impacted the community so much in that it has lowered the number of deaths. The healthcare ministry has a direct positive bearing on our relationship with villagers. It creates intimacy and more openness to share our lives for Jesus' sake.

Those who recover after their treatment often come to church to give their testimonies and thanks to God. Pray that they will understand the gospel and repent genuinely and make up their minds to join the church.

### **EMPOWERING THE COMMUNITY THROUGH EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES**

This ministry enables us to equip the people of the community with knowledge and skills for their personal betterment. This year we had planned three opportunities; dental, agricultural and social but only two of these took place: dental and agricultural.

#### **Dental Day**

Dental day was made possible through networking with Monde Greek Orthodox Hospital. A minimal fee of 500/-UG per person was charged. By the end of the day 200 people had been examined and treated.

The day kicked off with teachings on how to keep dental hygiene. Then followed a dental clinic where examinations of the patients were done and any teeth which were found to be bad were removed.

Many went home happy and requested if this service could be more frequent since it would reduce on adverse dental cases. Because of this we started negotiations for partnership to meet this need together. The negotiation is yet to be concluded but possibly next year it'll happen again. If it happens it will most likely reduce the demand on Kiwoko hospital errands.

### **Agricultural Day**

In August we were able to come up with our agricultural day. We invited Naseke farm staff to facilitate the event. 98 people turned up. They taught about carefully choosing marketable crops which have short periods to mature. In particular they promoted pumpkin growing since they themselves would buy the crop. They promised to be close with the farmers from beginning to harvest. They would come to the gardens to transport the crops to their farms. The farm staff offered seeds at subsidized charges and were bought by serious farmers.

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

1. Community motor bicycle to help get around, especially to check on the sick to ensure they qualify to be assisted to Kiwoko Hospital. Also so the sick may be visited, prayed for and comforted with the Word of God while they are still waiting.
  2. Pray that American churches may enter into partnership with SOS to do ministry by sending mission teams to do child ministry with our churches, especially Vacation Bible School. It has been done in the past and to show movies which are family friendly.
  3. Pray that the women's ministry may resume teaching young women how to raise their children in a Christian way. Normally we get a missions team from a community Bible church in California as well as churches in Texas. This year we have gone without a women's seminar for our community.
  4. Pray that a basic medical care clinic maybe inaugurated to handle simple sicknesses like fever and water-borne diseases. This would lessen the need to go to Kiwoko hospital and in turn this would cut down on the expenditure on emergency healthcare.
- Our emergency healthcare service needs us to have a vehicle which is mechanically fit any time of the day. Pray that we get a better one than the one which we have been using. The vehicle often breaks down.
5. Pray that we are enabled to hold several educational seminars so our communities are equipped with knowledge and skills for their personal betterment. This lifts up the quality of their life.
  6. Community day tree planting will require some substantial funding. Pray that our God will supply this need.

### **SUCSESSES**

- Our Emergency Healthcare program has reduced the number of deaths in the community.
- The agricultural seminar which attracted 200 people has stimulated hearts and minds of many people to commit themselves to buy the selected ready-to-be-planted seeds for the next coming year.

- The procurement of a scooter/motorbike for moving around the village visiting the sick and carrying out surveys; house to house.
- The New Partners who enabled us hold a dental day.
- For Corsu - a medical center treating people with disabilities.
- For successfully amputating Ivan's leg safely.
- For being able to offer the Emergency Healthcare to our community all year round.
- The general awareness of God.
- The sanity in the community
- The sense of gender balance, which has reduced on family conflicts as reflected in less invitations to SOS to help in counseling and diffusing the conflicts.
- Revival of Bulungi Bwansi Community Day - self determination to work on their roads.
- For the major road connecting all target villages and two additional ones; one in Netunzi and another in Ntebbe.

## **CONCLUSION**

For all that has happened this year we thank God. Though there have been tough challenges, we are not crushed but are encouraged and lessons have been learned which will help us to improve on ourselves in order to do better. Let us continue to look to our Lord calmly and firmly face what lies ahead of us. With his help we can do better to the praise of his name.

We thank you all who have given us assistance in the passing year and hope we are still together - Stay with us to our God's glory.

## **DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

Annual Report 2015

Dennis Katabalwa

### **INTRODUCTION**

There are many exciting developments at SOS this year, not least of which is the creation of a new department. Due to the growing demand of developing the SOS property to meet long-term ministry goals, we thought it wise to divide the former Estate Department into two departments, Maintenance and Development. With the current and projected growth of SOS, we needed a manager to oversee all of the development needs.

The Development department manager, Katabalwa Dennis, oversees the running of development projects such as construction, bore hole installation, land acquisition (and other land issues), electricity hook up, and other developments. Robert Opolot serves as a warehouse supervisor. He oversees materials and monitors their use. Both report directly to the Chief Operations Officer, Damon Cupp.

The staff working in this department are mainly contractors who deal with their team of workers and are subject to the supervision of the manager. These contractors are responsible for managing their own staff.

We have an exciting group of people working on different projects in this department and they are very proud of the service they render. They do it with zeal for seeing their lives change through working at SOS. The team, even though it is not permanent, has a sense of belonging to the SOS family and feel they are always a part of SOS. This was evidenced when the ministry took its entire support staff for safari and they all identified themselves as the SOS family. The ministry is credited for mobilizing and unifying people. This act has opened the door for the gospel to the two groups of people. Look at the smiles of these people as they work and develop their skills in different kinds of work that make them more self-reliant and self-sustaining.

The purpose and vision of the department is to see Christ leading the lives of men living to serve him and sacrifice their service for their families other than self. We have always wanted to see to it that these men emulate the example of Christ from SOS as it serves the communities here.

The following has been achieved through the development department this year:

### **STAFF LATRINES**

A new latrine was put up at Legacy to take care of the additional classes coming next year and allow for larger numbers to attend the conferences that SOS will host.

A latrine was constructed at the teachers' residence to take care of the new housing blocks done and two more yet to be done. This solves the problem of many people sharing the same pit latrine.

A latrine for the maintenance and development workers has been contracted and it will even include a shower in case the workers need it in the middle of the day.

### **TRIPLEX BUILDING**

A new teacher quarter block has been constructed and is about to be completed. This is for the additional staff of the primary school that is coming in the next year. This block has three units with each taking one teacher.

### **CLASSROOM BLOCK**

Another classroom has been constructed at Legacy Christian Academy Uganda. This classroom is going to take the third grade students next year. It is the fourth classroom block of the primary school.

### **PRIMARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

The cafeteria for Legacy primary school has been constructed up to slab level. The building will be one of the biggest buildings on the site but it is temporarily halted because of the lack of funding. The kids are having a temporary shelter of a tent where they eat from, but it is our plan this coming year to have this built to completion. This building has a seating capacity of 250 that will help to take on the numbers of students in the primary school.

### **SOS ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

We have managed to put up the SOS office building this year. This administrative complex houses most senior offices including the following: the office of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Chief Operations Officer (COO), the office of the church pastor, the office of the community outreach manager, the office of the church strengthening manager, and the office of the finance and administration manager. The opening of this office has centralized the ministry service which eases internal operations, interpersonal relations and service to the large community that we serve. The office has a board room where all meetings take place.

### **MAINTAINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT BUILDING**

This year we were blessed to have the maintenance and development teams complex built. The maintenance department and the development department have their offices here. This complex contains the storage for building materials, the maintenance department locker room, the carpentry and welding work area plus an open staff eating area where they can eat their lunch. This has provided more pride to the two teams and made storage easy for the supervisors and their subordinate staff.

### **MISSIONARY HOMES**

We have started building missionary homes for the new managers who are currently in the US and are returning to serve with us here. Anthony was serving as the community outreach manager before he went to the States and he is returning next May. We are making sure the home is ready before he comes back. We are at slab level and very soon will be starting on raising walls on the second missionary home.



## **LAND ISSUES**

### **Squatters**

I am happy to report to you about the ending of squatters on ministry land. Many of the people who were squatters on this land have been compensated and the delaying process of acquiring land titles is all that remains.

The ministry is also helping the Anglican Church in our community to obtain the title for its land. The family that donated land to this church had not processed their land title and did not have the resources to do so. SOS helped out by assisting the church separate its land from the donating family's land. In addition, the ministry is helping to make sure that this family also shares the land properly amongst the beneficiaries.

### **Acquisition of 17 Acres**

The ministry acquired an adjacent piece of property which is a prime piece of land for future development. The piece is an open land with bush and shrub as the vegetation. The ministry has no immediate plans for this land but it has potential for future development.

## **ELECTRICITY HOOK UP**

We had most of our buildings hooked up to electricity, most importantly the staff quarters. Most buildings have power running which has eased the ability to work in the homes and causes less scares in the dark hours since lights can be on at night.

## **GRADING PROJECT**

The ministry graded the area of the future pastoral training center. This area is planned to house the residents of the first phase of the Bible school as well as the administration and classroom buildings. As a ministry we want to appreciate our brothers from the States for volunteering to do this work of grading for our ministry. Special thanks to Kevin Thomas, the CEO in the US, and Andy and John, the technical operators of the graders in Uganda.

## **CONCLUSION**

I want to extend my appreciation to our leadership here for the ministry. They have served us beyond measure in seeing that everything runs smoothly. They have had restless nights for the work of the Lord to be done. Special thanks to Shannon Hurley for his effort as CEO to make sure the funds for the different projects are available so that our work runs well. I report that even as we break off this year, the planned projects have been completed up to 75% and the rest are delayed because of other factors other than funds.

We are so privileged that we are working with Damon Cupp as our immediate supervisor. He has not only motivated us to work harder, he is mentoring, shepherding and nurturing the entire team.

Lastly, I thank you, our supporters, for a tremendous job of enabling us to march on with the work we are doing out here. Thank you so much for even wanting to know more about what is happening here and spending your time to read this report.

## **MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT**

Annual Report 2015

George Kiyingi

### **INTRODUCTION**

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ who has seen us through this year according to His will. I bring greetings from the individual members of the estate department and from their families, who are grateful for their employment and for the development of their community through SOS Ministries.

God has been so faithful to us this year as we have served the body of Christ through serving Community Bible Church of Kubamitwe and through serving the Baptist Union of Uganda during the various conferences and trainings held on the property of SOS for the first time this year. He has taken good care of us in health and spiritual development.

### **ADDITIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT**

As the Maintenance Department, we are especially thankful for the addition of the Estate Building, which houses offices, employee locker room, and a construction warehouse. This has helped us to centralize operations and provided an area for employees to eat lunch out of the weather.

Furthermore, this year we were able to purchase a much-needed push mower, so that mowing around the growing number of buildings could be done in an efficient manner. This been a great addition allowing the tractor to mow larger, less cumbersome areas. As the property is developed the need for such equipment is crucial.

### **STAFF SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT**

Every member on our team has the opportunity for spiritual development through weekly Bible studies. The team is studying the book What's Best Next: How the Gospel Transforms the Way You Get Things Done. The Gospel changes how you look at all of life, and the team is seeing that work attitude and quality of work is important, and they are learning good time management.

In addition to the weekly Bible studies, we have begun to offer a weekly men's discipleship time, led by the elders. Many of the men who were not very faithful to church have started growing and attending church more regularly.

### **STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

First, SOS has greatly helped this community by assisting potential young people with their education. As young men on the Maintenance Team show themselves to be willing and responsible they are given an opportunity to go back to school. SOS has sponsored two young men who were on the team. Tabula Livingstone and Kiberu Mathew proved themselves by working diligently and showing themselves as examples to others on the Maintenance team. Therefore, this past January they were sent back to school and have done a great job at re-acclimating into a school setting.

Secondly, SOS desires to develop its workers as much as possible, and one way that we do that is through specialized training opportunities. This year we sent two employees (Kiyangi George and Busulwa Christopher) to driving school to get their driver's licenses.

## **CONCLUSION**

We are thankful to the Lord for all that he is doing in and through our maintenance team, and it is our pleasure to serve SOS Ministries by being good stewards of what has been entrusted to us. Thank you for the opportunities given to us, and we are looking forward to 2016.