

OCTOBER 2019



RACHAEL IN KAMPALA

'Training'

...was the word I used to sum up the first half of 2019 and in many ways that has continued.

Especially exciting is the vision of the director of Word of Life Uganda (WOL). He recently shared that 90% of the youth of Uganda live in rural areas and yet the majority of faithful Christian ministries operate within Kampala, including WOL. His desire is that a team from WOL would travel throughout the country building upon existing partnerships and creating new ones in order to provide bible teaching and training to those working with young people across Uganda.

To that end, I have joined a team led by the wonderful Miriam Lakor (pictured above with me) to begin this work. It has been an absolute joy for us to work together on this project and we are looking forward to the possibilities that lie ahead. We have been deeply convicted that we should never assume that people understand the gospel. People come to Jesus for many different reasons but not always the reason for which Jesus came down to Earth. Our training material, therefore, starts with the gospel. In our recent trip to Kisoro, one lady commented, 'Now I know the most important reason to come to Jesus.'

There have been many opportunities to share the gospel recently which has been good for me, personally, as I am disheartened sometimes by how quickly I move from grace to legalism. The Holy Spirit has gently but repeatedly applied the gospel of grace to my heart since I last wrote.

Pastoral

A natural outflowing of gospel proclamation and bible teaching and training is discipleship. Personal connections are made, friendships begun and then begins the walking together through the mess that is our lives and this world devastated by sin. But we are not without hope as we look back to the finished work on the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and look forward to when he returns once more to make everything new.

This year has seen the formation of a number of new one-to-ones or intentional discipleship relationships (most connected with the ministry of Living Word, Uganda) and for that I am very grateful but it is often hard and deeply painful. Pray that when I am overwhelmed by the lives that people are living or the mountains they are having to face, I would keep looking to my (and their) only saviour, our Lord Jesus Christ. Pray that I would be able to comfort them with the comfort I have received.



Ministry with the Good Samaritan Primary School in Kamwokya slum has deepened. The headmaster (a truly remarkable man living for Jesus within this community) invited the parents to come for a meeting with us in order to build relationships with the wider family. The parents then stayed on for the lesson with the children teaching about the events of Easter.

During their school holidays we visited the children in their homes (see pic above) and sat with them, listened to them, asked about their lives and had a time of prayer together.

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It's rainy season so we got wet and cold, often sheltering in the one room homes of the children I teach. At points we left the car and headed out on foot walking across fields of rubbish and streams of sewerage. I don't understand why some people have to live such hard lives but I do know that no-one who takes up their cross to follow Jesus will ever be excluded from the beautiful kingdom that he is preparing for us and that cannot be truly compared to anything we know.

I would love to be further equipped to serve in a pastoral capacity and as such have inquired about an online biblical counselling course with CCEF. There is a possible opportunity to train from January 2020 with a long-term view of then training others (in Uganda). From my limited experience and from conversations with others, this is something that we think would be very worthwhile. WOL are very happy for me to begin this course which will require 12 hours a week but conversations with Crosslinks and CCEF are just beginning. I would appreciate your prayers as we think, pray and talk this through together. The cost would be around £40 per month.

Continuing on a financial note, I am grateful to God for providing all my needs for these last three years, including through the generous financial support of those who give regularly and have supported me with one-off gifts. So far my funding needs have been fully met but for the next few years my income will be slightly less than my budget costs by about £260 per month (which includes the cost of the potential counselling course). If you are in a position to help, you can set up a regular donation on my webpage (crosslinks.org/rachael-holyome) or you can find a standing order form here (crosslinks.org/give-personally). Do feel free to get in touch with me or with Pete Tibbot (ptibbott@crosslinks.org) if you would like more information.

Let me leave you with a picture (on the roof of the landy) taken recently with good friends just to assure you that amidst the hard work and sadnesses of life, smiles and laughter are still possible! I'm looking forward to being with as many of you as possible in the not too distant future!



Prayer

- **Pray for me to keep preaching the gospel to myself.**
- **I have been challenged recently on the right place of 'fear' and 'faith' in the life of a disciple. Pray I will be obedient to the lessons God is teaching me.**
- **Pray for me to persevere through all the (boring!) logistics of planning well for my trip to the UK.**
- **Pray for me to use time in the UK wisely.**
- **Pray for me as I adjust to the very different place that is Britain. This is something I struggle with. Pray I would depend on God and that he would help me manage well the change in climate and culture.**
- **Pray for good journies both ways. I found an amazingly cheap ticket with Egyptair but they have bad reviews that include loosing luggage!**
- **Pray for me (if it's God's will) that I might be able to raise funds to begin the CCEF biblical counselling course next year.**
- **Pray for my relationship with Bernie (yep! I started dating - see pic right): that we would keep Jesus at the centre and for wisdom and godly counsel as we make plans, have fun and journey forward together. Pray he would be granted a visa to visit the UK over Christmas!**

Diary

- 4 Oct:** fly to London
- 15 Oct:** Crosslinks meeting
- 16 Oct - 4 Nov:** in the North of England
- 20 Oct:** speaking at Christ Church, Durham
- 5 Nov - 12 Nov:** Exeter
- 13 Nov:** speaking at St. Leonard's Prayer meeting
- 17 Nov:** speaking at Exmouth Scott Drive Church (am). Speaking at St. Leonard's Church, Exeter (pm)
- 23 - 24 Nov:** speaking at St. Matthew's Church, Elburton
- 15 - 28 Dec:** up North! Bernie - hopefully - arrives on the 21st!
- 29 Dec:** speaking at St. Mary's Church, Graveley, Stevenage
- 4 Jan:** fly back to Entebbe, Uganda

