



December 11, 2010

Dear Friends and Family,

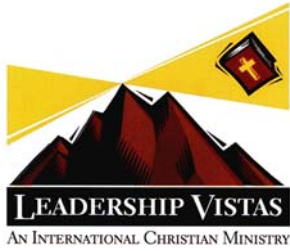
As Christmas approaches and the year comes to an end, it seems fitting to reflect on some of our experiences in ministry during the last 12 months. For Leadership Vistas it has been a **year of rewarding conferences and other events.** We have sponsored **week-long training meetings in Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda** that have drawn hundreds of pastors and other church leaders from **5 African countries.** The **Lord has enabled** us to accomplish these goals by providing the **excellent people and financial resources** needed to sustain our teaching ministry in Africa. We have been **privileged to be partners in God's plan** to strengthen and expand His kingdom on this continent. The Lord has truly blessed our work.



For me this year has also been a **time to consider the remarkable Christian leaders whom we serve in this ministry.** When I think about **the obstacles and adversity with which they contend on a daily basis,** I am amazed that they are able to **produce such a harvest of fruit for the Lord.** *Poverty, disease, tribal strife, personal and familial crises---all of these are inherent elements of their lives. It is truly **difficult to grasp the extent and depth of their struggles.***



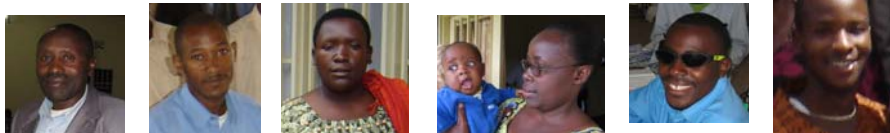
A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.



As a contrast to this picture of their trials, I have noticed something else often present on the faces of these church leaders. Simply put, these courageous and committed men and women know and express a **persistent joy that stands over and above their life challenges**. This is a joy that grows out of the experience of **knowing that God loves them without reservation or qualification**. *In their stance towards the hardships of life they offer us an inspiring model of what it means to lead a spiritually mature life*. It is a humbling experience to see the outworking of their example.



In this season of the year we too have much reason to be joyful. Beyond our sorrows and struggles, beyond the distractions of shopping and consumption, *we can rejoice over the birth of Christ, our Savior*. He is God's greatest gift to us and a reminder of His unconditional love and grace. We rejoice in the impact of Leadership Vistas on the lives and ministries of our teachers and students. We rejoice in you, our partners in ministry, for your prayers and financial contributions throughout this past year and ask that you prayerfully consider an end of year gift for the ongoing work of Leadership Vistas in 2011.



Please join us in celebrating Christmas---and every other day of the year---with unwavering joy, with the quiet, confident assurance attested by our African brothers and sisters of God's unending love and faithfulness. Merry Christmas!

In His Grace,

Jerry Brown  
Executive Director

