

LEADERSHIP VISTAS INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

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Dear Friends and Family:

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As always, it was a long and tiring journey. This time the ministry sent two different teams to different locations in Uganda and Rwanda. The return trip lasted 42 hours and was a real adventure. With six meals behind us and twisted into pretzels, we hobbled deliriously to the airport baggage area, pathetic apparitions of our former vibrant selves. Nevertheless, we praise the Lord for His grace in granting traveling mercies to us!

Yes, this odyssey was debilitating, but God so focused our attentions that the training conferences had a noticeable impact on the participants. Our first set of meetings in rural **Kabale, Uganda**---a new venue for all of us---took place in a hall on the second floor of an old hotel---Hotel Home Again. Never mind the name! **75 pastors and church leaders** received daily instruction on major Theological Doctrines, Bible Study Methods, and Old Testament/New Testament Backgrounds. Near the end of this conference two pastors spoke about what the training meant to them. *One pastor* reported: "During the past 10 years I have attended many meetings, but **this is the first time that someone taught us how to correctly handle the Word of God.**" The other pastor commented on the **feeling of unity within the body of Christ** that he had experienced during the conference.

The next conference in **Gisenyi, Rwanda**---our fourth in this region---brought together **112 church leaders from Rwanda and Congo**. Courses that included a New Testament Survey, 5 Important New Testament Books, and The Trinity made up the curriculum for this meeting. **Pastors who received reading glasses wept** because they were able to read their Swahili bibles. Testimonies were given about the value of previous course materials in teaching others; *one formerly Muslim woman used information about Islam to convert two other family members*. *One pastor remarked: "The teachings you gave to us helped us in many areas of life, but mostly in the areas of preaching and teaching by correcting us in many ways and in our Christian life . . .we have been greatly encouraged and exhorted . . .we appreciate your support and the work God is doing here through you."*

I would like to share with all of you *some personal good news*. As you know, I have struggled now for almost 6 years with cancer. I started chemotherapy in late December and was amazed to see how the masses diminished with each successive treatment. In late March, *my physician reported that there was no cancerous activity in my body*. I had little to do with this positive outcome, but *let us all give thanks to the Lord who did!*

Lastly, **we thank God** for allowing us to serve Him in Africa and **we thank you** for your prayers for safe travel, effective teaching, and a hedge of protection around the African pastors and their families. May the Lord in His infinite love and grace richly bless you!

In Christ's service,

Jerry Brown