



May 28, 2008

Dear Friends and Family,

**First, a quick summary!** In early May Leadership Vistas sponsored two training conferences at Masaka, Uganda and Ruhengeri, Rwanda. **Close to 100 pastors and church leaders** attended each of these week-long meetings; these dedicated servants of the Lord filled our meeting rooms for 6 hours of instruction each day. **We taught** various bible studies courses and **we mentored and ministered** to some of the participants in need. The consensus among teachers and pastors alike was that the *conferences went very well!*



**What does it mean to be a “dedicated servant of the Lord” in the living context of Africa?** Let me tell you about 3 pastors---**Bashirahamwe, Serushago, and Ngerageze**--- who traveled from a town north of Goma, a city in the Congo, to our conference in Ruhengeri, Rwanda. They were making their way south by bus to Goma. As they reported to us in their own words, **“soldiers emerged** from the bush and forced us out of the bus. **They beat us and shot guns** into the ground near our heads. **They took our money, identity cards, and even our bibles.** We came to the LVIM conference with just the clothes on our backs. Despite this, **this strengthens our faith. It reminds us what the prophets before us went through. We can’t give up; we must go on and serve the Lord.”**

*What is so striking in the story of these 3 pastors is their courage in the face of hardship to continue the journey. What is so compelling is their unwavering commitment to gain a deeper understanding of God’s Word. And what is finally so moving to me is their willingness to endure suffering for the cause of Christ.*

These humble servants of the Lord offered *an inspiring testimony of their love for Him.* **Pastors** at the conference were so touched by the experience of these men that following a discussion of the parable of the Good Samaritan a few days later, many of them **made contributions to replace the stolen clothing of their brothers in Christ.**



We witness in this story *a day in the life of 3 African pastors.* We see **a powerful commitment to God and a consuming desire to serve Him.** These three men are but a few of the many laborers of God whom you, our partners in ministry, support with prayers and financial contributions that enable them to attend LVIM’s conferences. **Their sacrifice and example invite---no, compel---us to consider what it means to be followers of Christ.** *Your gifts to these grateful pastors and their ministries are investments in eternity. Let us all praise the Lord!*

In Him,

Jerry Brown  
Executive Director

