

January 2011

Kampala, Uganda



DON AND FRAN MCNEILL

DRUM BEATS

REFERENDUMS & ELECTIONS

East Africa is set for change in the days, months and years to come. Sudan has just finished a week of voting on a referendum which divides the one country into two distinct and self-governing countries. From the news we have heard the referendum is expected to pass (but the vote count will not be in until mid-February) which now sets the stage for setting up a new government in the oil-rich South and trying to settle the disputes over the “middle-ground”. As in most African nations, borders are set which most of the time divide people groups and tribes. This leads to more conflict. Please pray for peaceful counting of ballots, safe transitions for the governing bodies and finally, peace for a people who have been wracked by war for decades. Several of our Sudanese graduates traveled back to Sudan to cast their ballots. They yearn for peace and plan to return permanently, with their families (William has six chil-

dren and takes care of another three), in order to further the Kingdom of God using what they have learned at WTC.

Uganda is looking forward to elections of president and other officials in February. Depending on the outcome, we could see many changes in the time to come. Please pray especially for the elections as campaigning heats up and the actual balloting takes place. It does not take much to set off riots and unrest. We plan to stay in the country, but will certainly stock up on groceries and stay out of town and off the road!

Billboard in downtown Kampala



FAMILY

As we have said before, the hardest part of being in Africa is being away from our families. Fran returned to Mississippi in the month of November to spend time with her mother who was thought to have sustained a mini-stroke. She is stable now but bedridden and very weak. We would ask your prayers for both our mothers—physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually and also for our siblings who care for them so well. It would be much more difficult, if not impossible, for us to stay on the field if our families were not there for our mothers. The Lord has given them many good years — Don’s mother is in her late 80’s and Fran’s just celebrated her 90th birthday and we are thankful for the time He has given us with them.

Fran was able to spend a couple of weekends in Jackson with our children and grandchildren including celebrating Thanksgiving and a very early “Christmas in November” before returning to Uganda the first week in December in time for WTC’s graduation exercises.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Referendum in Sudan—safe and peaceful resolution
- Upcoming elections in Uganda for president and other officials
- Our aging mothers and their caregivers
- Safe travel for our students coming for the February semester
- Health for us and our students—especially in regard to the yellow fever outbreak in northern Uganda

PRAISE

- Graduation of 26 students, Bachelor, Diploma and Certificate programs in December
- Fran’s good visit with her mother and safe travel to and from the USA
- Another opportunity to teach the Biblical Interpretation course
- For our new students

YELLOW FEVER

A few weeks ago, we received an e-mail from the US Embassy cautioning us about an outbreak of an unknown disease in northern Uganda. It was at first thought to be bubonic plague but was later identified as Yellow Fever, a hemorrhagic fever. At this point it has killed around 50 people and infected around 200. There is no cure, only treatment for the symptoms which include high fever, headache, back pain, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, and fatigue. If the disease goes into the second stage it includes hemorrhagic symptoms of nose and gum bleeding, bruising and jaundiced eyes and skin, hence the “yellow” in the name. At this stage fatality rates range from 15% to over 50% yet this disease is easily prevented through vaccination. Unfortunately, many people fear the vaccination (We have recently been vaccinated!). Thankfully, it does not spread directly from person to



person through casual contact like flu but is spread by sharing needles or by mosquitoes—the same as malaria. As with many of the diseases in the third world, this one could be eradicated by getting rid of the vectors just as we did in the US

many years ago. Many children die from malaria each year, adults lose many school or work days to the illness and even some adults lose their lives to it.

Our seminary students began their two week module January 17th and the College students come on January 31st for the February semester. Please pray for their health and safety, especially for those coming from or traveling through northern Uganda and for all our student and staff population as we are in an area near Lake Victoria with many mosquitoes.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the Word of Truth.

2 Timothy 2:15

Don will again be teaching the Biblical Interpretation course which he spent hundreds of hours developing the last two semesters, but this semester he will be mentoring two of our young Ugandan teachers in a six hour version for the certificate and diploma students and also teaching another three hour version himself to the Bachelor's students. This is an area which we consider crucial for these students who will have few other books besides their Bibles and must know how to interpret it correctly so they can correctly lead their people. He has been working more on the course over the holidays along with getting caught up on grading papers for the college and seminary— phew!! Fran has been cataloging about fifteen boxes of books which came in for the library. We are only about 40 books short of having 5000 volumes! These required another bookcase, which of course, required moving everything around again! She will enjoy teaching the Library Orientation Course this semester for the new students. Many of them have never had a good library to use so they have to start from scratch in learning how to find books.



INFORMATION

DON AND FRAN McNEILL
c/o Westminster Theological College
P.O. Box 21312
Kampala, Uganda
EAST AFRICA
011-256-772-657191
011-256-791-036545

CONTACT

mcneilldf@gmail.com

www.wtcwtsuganda.org

SUPPORT TO:

MISSION TO THE WORLD

Acct. # 014825

Box 116284

Atlanta, GA 30368-6284

