

Lira Town Mission Report - 28th June to 8th July 2007

Background

This mission was planned and executed in response to the invitation of Bishop Charles Odurkami, of the Anglican Church of Uganda. A series of meetings with evangelical church leaders were carried out and out of these a Steering committee was constituted with representation from all the major churches in town. The mission hoped to address through evangelism the vices that were unique to Lira: prostitution and alcoholism being key. According to recent survey published by UNICEF Lira is said to be third as far as AIDS prevalence, Kampala being first and Mbarara second. The local media had also reported that Lira was second to Mbarara as far as Alcohol consumption is concerned.



Team gets ready for the road

The mission theme was "Jesus Christ - What Kind of man is this?" Mark 4:41. The mission team constituted of the Team Leader, Missions Manager, Ms. Victoria Nakayenga, Rev. Can. Helen Oneka, Mr. Sam Ewou, Ps. George Jabulani, Mr. Rogers Atwebembere, Rev. Can. George Erwau, Ms. Lisa Mugerwa and Off-Tu-mission choir, totalling 25

people.

Activities

The activities of the mission included daily open- air gospel rallies, schools ministry, prison ministry, leaders' dinner and ministry in churches. A children's event was also held on the last Saturday particularly targeting street children and giving used clothes to the needy.

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Ev. Sam Ewou Preaches at Coronation Park

Lifeline ministries ministered every evening so effectively and they very well connected with the people. The peak attendance at these meetings could be estimated at a conservative figure of 1200 people. In all about 150 people made first time decisions for Christ at these meetings and the power of God was present to heal the sick.

A total of 16 Secondary schools were visited with an average student population of 600. In all about 500 students made decisions for Christ. In most of these schools the team was given only one hour to minister through



Lisa & Monica talk to 1st time commitments in School

The main open air rally venue was the Coronation Park which is situated in a vibrant business area. AEE's public address system was boosted with another system of about 2000W giving us leverage to speak even to those who did not come to the crusade grounds. The mission choir which had

been put together by Pastor Charles Lwanga of

music drama sharing of testimonies and preaching.

The students were very receptive to the word and even joined in the singing enthusiastically. In Ave Maria - a vocational training school we witnessed a power encounter. After the ministry had been carried out as planned, prayer for deliverance started for one of the students. It turned out that about 10 students needed prayers all former

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abductees of the Lord's Resistance Army some of these being child mothers. They showed signs of demonic possession. In the course of the deliverance the students being prayed for become violent which led to them being injured as they tried to breakout through the glass windows. AEE took these girls to hospital and by they are recovering well.



Guests listen at Leaders dinner

The leaders' dinner was held at Lira hotel and attended by 70 key leaders in Lira. This was a low turn up even when invitations had gone out to 250 people in good time. We were informed that the same leaders had had a day-long meeting in the same venue convened by the UN. The Team leader spoke into spiritual leprosy using 2 Kings 5

touching areas of corruption and sexual misconduct among leaders. At the end of the dinner 6 people made decisions for Christ, 10 indicated that they were already born again whereas 6 people expressed need to talk with someone more on the subject. The Steering committee is taking on this.



People respond to prayer at Crusade

The prison ministry was held in Lira main prison which houses 464 inmates. They have a wonderful praise time that reminds you of Paul and Silas singing in prison, except these are not held for proclaiming Christ!. We took some items soap salt and Vaseline for each inmate which we had to hand over directly to the recipients.

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After sharing the gospel 40 prisoners made decisions for Christ. Our meeting was suddenly brought to an end due to a heavy afternoon down pour. There is a big need for a place of worship in this prison. Many times Sunday worship services have been cancelled due to rain, - it was reported



Rev. Can. Acur - Vicar St Augustine receives clothes for the needy

What a Loving God we serve

We praise the Lord who saved Off Tu Mission team from what would have been a fatal accident. On their way to Lira their truck had a front tyre burst! The driver struggled with the truck, successful bringing it to a stop without any casualties. It seems as if the enemy again way laid them on their way back to

Kampala for this time their engine broke down and they had to spend 16 hours on the way, a journey they would have made in 5 - 6 hours. We praise God for good health for all the team members during the course of the mission

We praise God for Alpha Guest House which was our home for 10 days. This was a great blessing in that we had un-interrupted praise and prayer every morning and evening which would have been difficult to have anywhere else. The full board charges per person averaged the equivalent of \$15 which was favourably low.

We praise the Lord who used Pastor Johnson Ogema of Victory Church to give us his radio programme for the entire mission duration. This gave us 15 minutes on radio every morning on Lira radio which broad casts to areas as far as Masindi and Soroti. Also Pastor Enamu gave us his weekly programme of 90 minutes of His Monday night programme. Many people called back to express how blessed they had been

Challenges

There are very few missions that come to completion without challenges. In implementing Lira town mission we encountered the following challenges



Students listen intently as the word is preached

- ❖ There was a leadership gap from the local church during the mission. Many of the people who had been elected to key offices were not available when we needed them. A few programmes especially outreach to schools were

cancelled and this could be attributed to this.

- ❖ Many of our posters were pulled down by Moslem fanatics in Lira
- ❖ The timing of the mission coincided with the beginning of rains. This led to delayed start of some programmes. The march for Jesus in Lira town that had been planned as the opening activity was cancelled because of the rain. At one crusade the Missions Manager had to summarise his sermon to 3 minutes and even then his interpreter and him were drenched in rain. In future a more deliberate weather forecasting will guide the timing of missions
- ❖ The local financial contribution did not come in as promised and this created a big strain on the budget
- ❖ We still face the challenge of literature in local languages for distribution during such gospel campaigns

A word of appreciation

AEE wishes to express gratitude to

- 🙏 Local Christian leaders for their leadership and involvement,

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- 📖 Churches in Kampala who contributed financially and materially towards the mission. These are St. Francis Chapel Makerere, St. Luke Ntinda, St. Johns Bukoto, All Saints Cathedral Nakasero and St. Stephen's Kisugu and
- 📖 Mr. Lutaaya of Jesus Alive Ministries who gave us bibles for new believers
- 📖 Members of Staff of AEE Uganda who gave towards the mission

To God be the glory for the things he has done and the things he has taught us