

## PLANS FOR 2023 CONTINUED

We currently have five schools training men to be preachers of the gospel in India. In addition we continue to maintain the Angie Green school for girls in Chittypalayam. Our aim is to equip these women to be able to faithfully serve the Lord and work with a faithful Christian husband throughout their lives. From these Christian homes we hope to see the next generation of leaders for the Lord's church in India or other parts of the world.

In India we also continue to support four brothers, Mangal along with Jiten in Tripura/Mizoram, Barnabas in Assam and Sumit in Odisha, to establish the Lord's church in these Indian states. They have been doing this work for several years, and we pray the fruit will result in self-supporting congregations of the Lord's church.

In Uganda we will continue to support the work of maturing the church in Buyende. We are looking for ways to expand the work in this country. As explained earlier we will be working with brother Wabomba George to expand and extend the reach of his work on the radio. If possible we hope to find a way to get the radio program to the entire nation of Uganda and beyond the borders as well.

Benevolence will continue to play a significant role in our work of reaching the lost. Operation Compassion will continue to supply aid to impoverished widows in both India and Africa. In addition we often are called upon to send relief to those displaced by violence or natural disasters. When this occurs we generally will supply food in order to help the people who in dire conditions. We sometimes are requested to assist individuals who have various illnesses. Just this past week we sent funds to India for a brother who has mouth cancer. Sadly, his condition is beyond treatment. If he passes will leave behind a widow and five children.

Saturday Bible Schools were started by Jim Waldron a number of years ago, and they continue to be a source of spiritual growth for the churches as well as a tool for evangelistic outreach.

In addition to all of these works we will be looking for ways to start a new Bible Institute in Africa. We will also be seeking other opportunities to be involved in the work of training soul winners in the countries neighboring India. With these things in mind I will be travelling to Africa and Asia again in March. I covet your prayers.

*Scott Richards*



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# RICHARDS NEWSLETTER

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## OUT OF AFRICA

On November 7, at 6:00 in the evening our plane pushed back from the gate at Atlanta Hartsfiel international airport and proceeded to the runway. My travelling companion was brother Jerry Sullins of Springfield, Missouri. Jerry has done mission work in Africa for over fifty years. He and his son Ray have Bible institutes in Ghana, Kenya, Uganda and Zambia. In 2019 it was my great privilege to teach for one month each at the schools in Uganda and Zambia.

Our destination was the school in Livingstone, Zambia. A graduation was planned for Saturday, November 12, at the school located in that city. Prior to that graduation we were also tasked with attending a graduation at the Bible Institute in Siamafumba, Zambia where Brother Ron Gilbert maintains a Bible Institute. Thirteen faithful brothers had concluded two years of intense study of God's word designed to equip them to faithfully proclaim the gospel of Christ. In order to get to Siamafumba we had to drive four hours, the last three hours on very bad roads.



To the left you can see the view of the road we were on to get to the graduation in Siamafumba. Below are the staff and graduates of the school. We were blessed to be there. The graduates and their

families celebrate their achievement with shouts and sometimes even pick the student up and carry him around the room.





This picture is one of the graduates being carried around by his family and friends. This happened repeatedly as the diplomas were handed out to the graduates. It demonstrates a love of learning, and this is especially true of their joy at having attained a greater knowledge of the word of God.



On Saturday, November 12, a graduation was held at the Bible Institute in Livingstone. To the right is a photo of brother Sullins and I with the fifteen graduates of that school. The joy and enthusiasm of the graduates, their families and friends is encouraging. As these young men embark upon the work of taking the gospel to the lost of their particular tribe and region we pray that the enthusiasm demonstrated at the graduation will translate into a great zeal to win souls for Jesus and establish faithful congregations of the Lord's church.

My initial plan was to leave for Uganda on Sunday, November 13, but that got delayed by two days due to an oversight on my part. However, that was quickly remedied and I was able to make new arrangements to travel to that country and meet with the men I had initially planned to meet with. Leaving Zambia on Tuesday, November 15, I travelled to Johannesburg where I spent the night at a hotel next to the airport. At 3:00 the next morning my travel to Uganda commenced. Travelling via Kigali, Rwanda, I arrived at Entebbe airport at about 1:00 in the afternoon November 16. The next day and a half were spent in meetings with Uganda workers and assessing the work that has been and is being done.

The first meeting was with brother Mayanja Jackson and brother Obbo Andrew. These men are from the village of Buyende. Brother Jackson was a denominational preacher who was converted through correspondence courses sent by a sister in Christ in the USA. Along with him brother Jackson was able to convert his wife and several members of his congregation as well.

Earlier this year we helped brother Obbo Andrew move with his family to Buyende in order to mature and strengthen the new Christians there. He helps with the teaching and preaching and also teaches an SBS class on Saturday and leads the house-to-house outreach following the class. In the picture brother Jackson is on my left and Andrew is on my right.



One of the things we arranged while meeting with them was the translating and printing of brother Jim's booklet, "Introduction to Faith." They have worked diligently on that project since my departure, and the translation is completed. They are now going to Kampala to arrange printing.



My co-workers while in Kampala were Alex Barasa (on the left), James and Steven Kimuli. Brother Alex is the principal at the school brother Sullins maintains in Uganda. James is a teacher in the school. Steven is an accountant in Kampala and self-supporting preacher of the gospel. He also teaches

at the Bible institute. James and Steven sat in on the meetings that took place. All three of these brothers were a tremendous help to me. Without their help I could not have done the work I needed to do in Uganda.

The young man pictured here is Wabomba George. I was put into contact with this young man by a brother in Alabama. What a great meeting. I thank God for the opportunity to meet him. Wabomba is on fire for the Lord. He works in the Mt. Elgon region of eastern Uganda. He graduated from the two year school in Jos, Nigeria in June.



Since returning to his home in Uganda Wabomba has been busy doing some radio preaching, which has been very fruitful. He is also currently working with three different congregations in his area.

Wabomba faces two difficulties. The first is transportation. The region is mountainous and travel can be time consuming. In order to facilitate his work we want to help him secure a motorcycle for travel. Another problem is the cost of the radio program. A half hour program costs about \$50 per week. Before leaving I gave him enough funds to be on the radio for four weeks. He emailed me a few days after I arrived home and informed me that the station manager liked the program and had gotten positive feedback from listeners. He then gave Wabomba a full hour for six weeks with the money we had given him. In order to keep the program on we will be sending him funds to keep it on the air every Sunday. We pray that there will be a great harvest of souls from this efforts.

On Saturday morning, November 19, our plane landed back in Atlanta. Tired, but extremely grateful for the opportunity God has given me to be a part of this work together with all of you, the supporters of this work of training men to preach the gospel of Christ. As Paul reveals in his letter to the Philippians concerning his work, "I desire fruits that may abound to your account" (Philippians 4:17).

### **REFLECTIONS ON 2022 AND PLANS FOR 2023**

This past year has been eventful for me and for this work. It is a labor of love for me. Since starting preaching full time in 1976 my desire has always been to be involved in taking the gospel to the lost in other countries. It was a blessing to be able to work with brother Jim Waldron from 2008 till 2018. His zeal for the lost and his compassion for those who are in need have resulted in an innumerable host of souls brought to Christ. Without his work over the past 54 years the work we are now doing together would not be possible. The fact of the matter is, "we are laborers together with God" (I Corinthians 3:9). Of course Jesus is the foundation that we are building on (I Corinthians 3:11). Pray that we will build as wise master builders.

The new year is rapidly approaching and supporters want to know what the plans are for the coming year. As we conclude 2022 we look forward to even greater work in 2023. There are a number of things planned for the coming year.

Let me begin by stating once more that our primary work is the training of faithful men who will be able to teach others also (II Timothy 2:2).