

# JESUS FILM MINISTRIES

## NEWS August, 2017

### Transformation

When we first went to Buwunga territory in Masaka district of central Uganda we found a wall of resistance and the gospel appeared to be practically “forbidden”. Pastors, especially those in rural villages faced stifling restrictions in their efforts to share the gospel. The District Security Committee, picking out Christians as a security threat, had banned overnight prayer and other gatherings in the whole district. Whenever Pastor Godfrey attempted to hold open-air meetings, the village leader, a devout Muslim, grabbed the microphone, ordered the meeting closed and dispersed the gathering. In the neighboring Magero village the leader, a practicing sorcerer, made an abortive attempt to drive his car into one of our outdoor video outreach gatherings.



Fetishes are burnt after bedridden Teddy, received Jesus and got healed

The Jesus Film Ministries working with the rural pastors’ team held regular prayer retreats, pastors’ retreats and youth camps, women’s conferences, general church conferences, outdoor preaching, medical and dental clinics, video shows, ministry in schools, victory marches and joint church celebrations. We visited various administrative officials, praying with them about their work and liaising with and interesting them in the work of the church. The interdenominational Pastors’ team has grown from some 8 to 22 members. Many witches and sorcerers have abandoned Satan and embraced Jesus as Lord and Savior. Lots of people have got saved and their lifestyles changed. There have been healings and deliverance from demonic oppression. The district leadership lifted their embargo on prayer meetings and other restrictions on churches. District officials started attending our functions and allowing us to use public halls for

our interdenominational church gatherings. The Muslim leader now attends important church functions and encourages the community to support the church projects. One Mugaga formerly a devout sorcerer, for example, now preaches the gospel with flaming zeal.



Gospel video show at Kisaba village, Bukasa Island

### Driving out darkness with the gospel

*The Shepherds* interdenominational pastoral team in Lwengo district of southwestern Uganda have invited Jesus Film Ministries to team up with them in gospel outreach to Wajinja village, September 6 – 8. For over 20 years devil worshippers from surrounding districts have been gathering here every 9 – 10 September. In 2015 worshippers of *Mukasa* god broke down a church building on Bukasa Island of Lake Victoria. They complained that Christians’ prayers were blocking *Mukasa* from getting to the lake.

### Sese Islands on Lake Victoria

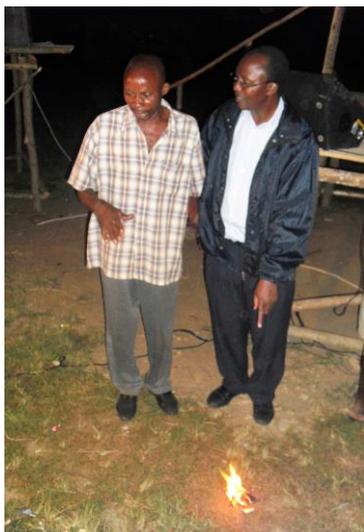
Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) - Netherlands team and Jesus Film Ministries flew to Bukasa and sailed to Buyange and Bunjazi of Sese islands of Lake Victoria in October 2016 and February, 2017 for ministry. The team sang, gave testimonies, spoke and served a packed meal and distributed gifts to the interdenominational church gathering that had sailed from different islands. Non-believers came and attended and received gifts too. Ministry to churches on the islands speaks loads of love, care and healing and breaks the feeling of isolation that these communities tend to experience.

### Pastors’ Retreats

We regularly host leaders at a retreat to provide them with a much deserved break from their very demanding and routine ministry in the villages. We have times of teaching, worship, and ministry to individuals, testimonies and good food. We hosted these in Bududa district in eastern Uganda and

Masaka district in southwestern Uganda respectively. Pastors sacrificed Christmas Holidays shopping time (December 21 – 23 and 28 respectively) to receive tailored ministry from Dr. Sture and Eunice Nyholm. We plan to host two teams in the remaining part of this year.

**Pastor, formerly devil's priest preparing to wed** Pastor Christopher, one of our common hosts, and fiancée Justine Grace are preparing to wed mid-September. At a young age Chris's Dad dedicated him to clan gods and handed him to mediums to be trained and raised as priest in a shrine. He would lose his senses and go crazy every new moon. When a church run evangelistic outreach in the village lunatic Chris emerged from the bush and received prayer and freedom in Jesus. The family and clan consequently excommunicated and dumped him to the church. The young church taught him to serve The Lord and later let him start a church in another village. He has led lots of people to The Lord amidst fiery hostility from enemies of the faith. The family has used everything including asking spirits to frustrate his new life and draw him back to the gods. They, however, report that Chris is inaccessible because he has a "very tall ghost in dazzling white" with him.



*Sam with convert who received Jesus & surrendered drugs*

### **Ministry to Street Children**

We have always enjoyed the privilege of partnership with North Central University in ministry to *Child Restoration Outreach*, a Street Children rehabilitation ministry. Such was in June 2016, when we showed gospel video to about 200 children. It is a joy to see these, who are usually

written off as 'wasted' respond to invitation to accept The Lord Jesus as Savior and walk with Him. We plan to minister at their centers in Lira in the north and Mbale in eastern Uganda by the end of this year.

### **Items for praise**

- The love of Jesus is changing hearts, families and communities in Masaka and other territories in Uganda.
- For open doors in formerly closed areas. Last year after many years we were granted permission to pray in the Sub-County Hall in Buwunga.
- For the grace to host pastors' teams, conferences and camps.
- For partners who have prayed and given time and other resources towards this ministry.
- For protection. Our house is unfinished – it is not yet roofed or fenced. Someone opened our bedroom window just over our bed some nights ago but did not harm us. I got outside and he fled into the dark as I sent a message of "...repent and receive Jesus..." after him.

### **Items for prayer**

- For unity among pastors across denominations and for the gospel of the kingdom of God to be preached.
- For Christopher and Grace's wedding. They are planning with hardly any resources as the clan cannot help him and his church does not have much.
- For the love of The Lord to touch the hearts of people on the islands of Lake Victoria and bring them to salvation.
- For us to start work with churches working with the pygmies in Bundibugyo of the slopes of Rwenzori Mountains, extreme western Uganda.
- For Child Restoration Outreach in their efforts to rehabilitate street children.

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