

Barry McWilliams,
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424-252-2687
April, 2007

Dear friends in the Lord,

I hope to go to Uganda this coming Fall or Winter as part of a team led by John Pickett of University Presbyterian Church (Las Cruces, NM). This will be my fourth mission trip to Uganda. I am now assembling my prayer support team and raising about \$3,500 in support.

The mission is to assist the Presbyterian Church of Uganda in a church planting movement, establishing new churches among the Banyoro people in Western Uganda. The five year objective is to establish ten more churches in the regions of Hoima, Kibaale and Masindi – a nucleus for a presbytery – which can expand further in those regions. There are 1.2 million people in these three districts – mostly the people are poor and rural –80% engaged in subsistence agriculture.

I was with the team when they first went to Hoima in 2003, and a University Pres teams have spent time there in 2005 and 2006. UPres has been able to assist them in building a bigger and more substantial building. There is another small congregation nearby which we hope to encourage and then we will do door-to-door and crusade evangelism along with Ugandan Presbyterians as we scout other communities in the region as well.

Firstly I need you to pray for me as I get ready, and while I am there. This is an essential part of our mission. I have prayer requests on line at <http://www.eldrbarry.net/ug/ugpray07.htm>.

Secondly I need to raise my financial support. We need \$2,000 by mid July for plane tickets. Then I will need another \$1,500 to cover my expenses and the expenses of our ministries, by the end of June! Any gift, big or small, will do much to strengthen God's work in Uganda. I can also use a variety of benevolent gifts to take along.

If you will pray or can help me in raising my support: please respond right away! It should be written to "University Presbyterian Church", 2010 Wisconsin Ave, Las Cruces, NM, 88001 Please send it directly to the church, designated as support for my participation on the Uganda 2007 Mission Team.

I look forwards to sharing with you next year what the Lord has done through our labors.

In His mercy and grace,

Barry McWilliams (eldrbarry@eldrbarry.net)

P.S. Upres' office can be rather lax about letting me know what responses they've gotten, so it would encourage me a lot if you could ALSO send to me an e-mail, give me a call, or drop me a note letting me know of your support!

Web Page: <http://www.eldrbarry.net/ug/ugan2007..htm>

MISSION TO UGANDA 2007

Barry McWilliams Nov. 2007 or Jan 2008

will be part of an

ACTI Mission Team

of **University Presbyterian Church**, Las Cruces, NM



To Hoima
and
Western Uganda

doing

Church Planting Evangelism Teaching

among the Banyoro People

With the help of your prayers and support!



Mission to Uganda

Fall 2007 or Winter 2008

University Presbyterian Church,
Las Cruces, NM

The team:

John Pickett, Barry McWilliams, Don MacDonald,
and several lay-people from U Pres

Our Objective: Assisting the Presbyterian Church

in Uganda in a Church Planting Movement in Western Uganda, working towards a five year goal of establishing 10 more churches – the nucleus of a presbytery among the Banyoro people. We will be doing evangelism, preaching and teaching.

Please pray for us as we prepare . . .

- For setting dates and making the arrangements our travel and itinerary in country, and the gathering and equipping of the team
- For the continued building up of the support teams - praise the Lord for those who are committed to pray, and for those who give.
- For each individual Team member's preparations and study for talks.
- For God's enablement: support, visas, and the support team in Uganda.

After we are In Country, Pray daily for . . .

- for physical stamina for all involved - ability to go the extra mile
- for steadfast commitment of each team to giving their all for Jesus Christ
- for boldness for our teams to reach out and extend themselves in love
- for sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's leading and to cultural differences
- for peace of mind - trusting in the sovereignty of God in trials
- for discretion from God in areas of personal conduct
- for increasing love and compassion for the lost
- That the Holy Spirit will bring those He is calling to open their hearts to receive the seed of Good News
- for awareness of the spiritual warfare around them
- for willingness to pray earnestly
- for safety in travel and health as we minister in Uganda
- For the health and protection of our families at home
- for defeat of all of Satan's opposition to the team in every area of attack
- for creativity in teaching skills and skillful interpreters
- That we might be an encouragement to those who live and labor for Jesus in Uganda
- That God will be glorified in all that we do.



The BANYORO

There are about 1.2 million people in Bunyoro - which consists of Uganda's Hoima, Kibaale and Masindi Districts - in Western Uganda to the East of Lake Albert. The people speak Runyoro - one of the Bantu languages and many English as well. Mostly rural and poor, with ample land with a low population density, 80% are subsistence farmers - growing such as sweet potatoes, bananas, maize, beans, rice, finger millet, yams and Irish potatoes. Cash crops include Tobacco, cotton, tea and coffee. The climate is tropical with fairly reliable rainfall in two rainy seasons in the Fall and Spring. There is potential for tourism with cultural burial sites of the Kings of Bunyoro-Kitara at Mpalo, the Western rift valley escarpment, Murchison Falls National Park, and the Kibale and Budongo National Forests with their rich wild life. But the people struggle with a high rate of infant mortality, HIV/AIDS, orphans, educational, developmental, and other social needs. About 30% are Protestant - mainly Anglican.

Benevolent Gifts for Uganda

I can take approximately 50 pounds (a sea bag) each of Bible study materials, clothes, medicine, and other benevolent help. Let me know if you can help.

Here are some suggestions of items I can take along.

School & Educational Supplies for children: pens and pencils, colored pencils, crayons, writing pads, construction paper, erasers, small pencil sharpeners, colored markers, safe scissors.

Toys: Balloons, deflated Soccer Balls, Hand Puppets

Health and Hygiene (generic brands whenever available) Neosporin ointment, band-aids, aspirin, acetaminophen, toothpaste, toothbrushes, anti-bacterial soap. Small scented soaps and body lotions.

Sewing Items: buttons, pins, needles, simple patterns, sewing scissors, beads, spools of thread, wide elastic.

Agricultural Items: Seeds - tomato, pumpkin, corn, beans, carrots (note: hybrid seeds do not produce reusable seed - avoid them)

Household Items hand towels, twin bed sheets, pillow cases, Used suit jackets for pastors, scarves for ladies.

Practical Theological Books and Study Bibles, etc. - though heavy, these are much needed by the leadership of the Ugandan Churches.

Cash Gifts will be channeled through local church leaders. There are plenty of individual needs these will help.

Thanks - These are needed by July 15th for Packing.

Barry McWilliams (425) 252-2687

Barry McWilliams – Mission to Uganda

Please send all gifts and support by 7/1/2007 to:
Uganda Mission Trip 2007
University Presbyterian Church
2010 Wisconsin Ave,
Las Cruces, NM, 88001.



RESPONSE FORM:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (_____) _____ - _____

Please indicate how you want to be involved in my ministry.

- One time gift for Barry's Mission Trip - Amount _____
- Additional gift(s) to support the ACTI team - Amount _____
- Daily prayer for Barry and his ministry
- Provide benevolent gifts for the team to take along
- Send me Prayer Letters by e-mail letter
- My E-mail _____

More information at : <http://www.eldrbarry.net/ug/ugan2007.htm>

All Gifts are tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to
University Presbyterian Church unless otherwise instructed.

Barry McWilliams – e-mail: eldrbarry@eldrbarry.net

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Africa Christian Training Institute



ACTI's mission is "to partner with Ugandan churches to identify needs in Africa, and to network among American Christians in attempting, as servants, to meet those needs.

To focus upon enabling evangelists, disciplers, and teachers to serve Ugandan churches

To make all arrangements needed for Christians to exercise their gifts, while serving Christ in Uganda

To encourage career mission involvement as a result of a short-term experience and

To encourage and challenge American pastors and other Christians as they see God at work."

A short-term trip to Uganda with ACTI costs about \$3500.00 each and usually runs several weeks, with the participants going in as teams.

Much of the work of the Mission has been with the Presbyterian and Episcopal Churches in Uganda. But along with training conferences, there is evangelism and church planting work done – and assistance given to World Harvest Missions in tribal areas. Some are involved in micro-finance ministry. A Presbyterian Church in Uganda with several Presbyteries has been planted. Ministry in Uganda involves some health and safety risks.



ACTI Word and Deed ministry that has worked effectively in Uganda since 1983 with the clear purpose of helping build the Kingdom of God with any group who invites us to minister without restriction in the following areas: evangelism, renewal, discipleship, marriage and family, church planting, and leadership training; and to provide assistance and training in the areas of health, agriculture, business, education, and orphans. Hundreds have brought Christ, benevolent gifts and encouragement to Uganda.

Eldrbarry's Pages: <http://www.eldrbarry.net/ug/ugpages.htm>

ACTI website: <http://www.ugandamission.net/>

Uganda



Uganda achieved independence from the UK in 1962. The dictatorial regime of Idi Amin (1971-79) was responsible for the deaths of some 300,000 opponents; guerrilla war and human rights abuses under Milton Obote (1980-85) claimed another 100,000 lives. During the 1990s the government has promulgated presidential and legislative elections.

Government type: Republic **Capital:** Kampala

Uganda occupies 236,040 sq km in Eastern Africa, west of Kenya - slightly smaller than Oregon.

Climate: tropical; generally rainy with two dry seasons (December to February, June to August); semiarid in northeast

Population: 23,317,560 (There is excess mortality due to AIDS.)

Religions: Roman Catholic 33%, Protestant 33%, Muslim 16%, indigenous beliefs 18% - but less than 15% are committed born again Christians.

Ethnic groups: Baganda 17%, Karamojong 12%, Basogo 8%, Iteso 8%, Langi 6%, Rwanda 6%, Bagisu 5%, Acholi 4%, Lugbara 4%, Bunyoro 3%, Batobo 3%, non-African (European, Asian, Arab) 1%, other 23% by the end of 1998, Uganda was host to 205,000 refugees from a number of neighboring countries, including: Sudan, Rwanda, and Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Languages: English (official national language, taught in grade schools, used in courts of law and by most newspapers and some radio broadcasts), Ganda or Luganda (most widely used of the Niger-Congo languages, preferred for native language publications in the capital and may be taught in school), other Niger-Congo languages, Nilo-Saharan languages, Swahili, Arabic

Literacy: 61.8% age 15 and over can read and write

Natural resources: copper, cobalt, hydropower, limestone, salt, arable land **Land use:** arable land: 25% permanent crops: 9% permanent pastures: 9% forests and woodland: 28% other: 29% (1993 est.) **Industries:** sugar, brewing, tobacco, cotton textiles, cement **Agriculture** - products: coffee, tea, cotton, tobacco, cassava (tapioca), potatoes, corn, millet, pulses; beef, goat meat, milk, poultry Agriculture is the most important sector of the economy, employing over 80% of the work force.

Flag description: six equal horizontal bands of black (top), yellow, red, black, yellow, and red; a white disk is superimposed at the center and depicts a red-crested crane (the national symbol) facing the hoist side

<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/ug.html>

Here are a number of paragraphs about 100 words each for Church Bulletins – feel free to chose from them and put them to use. – Barry

Africa is full of ironies. Though averaging \$200/year (347,000 Ugandan Shillings), they don't think themselves poor. In Kampala, a city of 1.5 million people – many fetch water in plastic jugs. Cooking, washing and ironing may be done on the front step, yet Ugandans are nicely dressed with good shoes (they walk a lot) and most have cell phones! Ugandan pastors may have large flocks, but most have little Bible training and lack even a Bible Dictionary. Still Ugandans are articulate – conversations constant - they allow people to talk without interjections – making door to door evangelism easy as people go about daily tasks.

Children are everywhere in Uganda. HIV/AIDS wiped out a generation, leaving 10 million of orphans in Sub-Saharan Africa. Many find homes with relatives. There are many street children. With malaria and other diseases, many die young. They have a kind of “radar” – large numbers gather whenever food or something of interest is happening. In their culture, they eat last. They work hard – starting young with household chores. They are disciplined, the older in charge of younger, able to sit without fidgeting. Many schools are connected to churches, the school day in the afternoon. Children are a key to Uganda's future.

Uganda is a garden of Eden, situated above Lake Victoria, with two rainy seasons and two growing seasons a year. It has seven beautiful national parks to attract tourists. People grow bananas, pineapples, potatoes and sugar cane to eat or trade in the local markets. Cotton, Tea and coffee are grown. Its agriculture unfortunately is largely subsistence – though Uganda could help feed its neighbors during droughts. Several American churches are helping individual Ugandans – offering small loans to start business or help to make their crops exportable. Uganda may be the key to reaching neighboring Congo, Tanzania and Rwanda with the gospel.

John Pickett made his first trip to Uganda in the mid 80's while pastoring at Lake Stevens Presbyterian Church. He and several others founded ACTI to facilitate getting people there for enabling ministries that assist the church in areas of need, but at the same time leaves the Christians of Uganda in control of their own ministry and outreach. John is even part owner of a “taxi” company with two taxis (14 passenger vans) in Kampala – assuring dependable transportation for teams in Uganda. He has made 15 trips to Uganda – one of 6 months. I hope to learn a lot accompanying John on this trip.

ACTI was founded by PCA men and continues to be overseen by a Board of primarily PCA people. It continues to have a significant impact in Uganda among Ugandan Episcopalians and Pentecostals as well as the Presbyterian Church there by facilitating short term, but intensive ministry trips. 162 went to Uganda in 10 teams in 2001: 11 teams and 110 in 2002. Six new churches were planted in 2001, 5 more in 2002. Efforts were made to revitalize seven local churches through local evangelism, and outreach extended to five jails. Conferences for pastors, women, men and youths were held. Two medical teams also operated.

It is not uncommon for a Ugandan pastor to be educated and fluent in English, yet lack theological training. I will be ferrying along a Study Bible, and Bible Dictionary for a pastor who lacks even those basic tools. ACTI has helped struggling pastors and churches with conferences designed to train in ministry skills we take for granted. I can expect to spend six to eight hours per day teaching pastors, elders and deacons, be doing personal work at night and then preach in areas churches on the Lord's Day. It is not without its dangers either - besides health concerns, rebel activities - one team was robbed twice last summer.