

# The UBS VOICE

December 2014 Newsletter

V.8 - N.5 .....

## In This Issue

- November/December Classes
- UBS Ministry Results
- New Faculty Family
- New Journeyman
- Student Testimonies
- Prayer Concerns
- Ministry Over The Years

### BAPTISTS IN UGANDA

UBS began in 1988 and is the main factor in the rise of Baptist church numbers and membership growth in Uganda.

Baptist Churches are gaining membership and are active in evangelism.

### UBS Theological Programs

Advanced Diploma 3yrs.

Diploma 3 yrs.

Certificate 3 yrs.

Upgrade Classes are offered for UBS graduates.

## November/December Classes at UBS



Three graduating classes joined three other classes in late November, making 140 students on campus for the last term of 2014. Advanced Diploma 7, Diploma 25, and Certificate 15 classes graduated on December 13, 2014 at Acacia Community Church in Jinja. Our 2015 schedule will begin with two Advanced Diploma classes arriving on January 5, 2015 and three more Diploma and Certificate classes joining them one week later. Some students were not in this picture.

### September through November 2014 Ministry data

Certificate 18 students led 2,045 people to Christ and baptized 126 believers.

Certificate 20 students led 1,404 people to Christ and baptized 200 believers.

Diploma 25 students led 625 people to Christ and baptized 118 believers.

Diploma 26 students led 959 people to Christ and baptized 36 believers.

Diploma 30 students led 876 people to Christ and baptized 127 believers.

Adv. Dip 8 students led 771 people to Christ and baptized 27 believers.

Adv. Dip 11 students led 2,135 people to Christ and baptized 163 believers.

*(The classes reported many preaching points and new churches planted. They also mentioned thirteen Bible schools they teach in for low-level theological education in both vernacular languages and in English.*

***64 preaching points and 70 churches planted for June - August***

***38 preaching points and 50 churches planted for Sept. - Nov.***

**Total for September - November :**

**People saved 8,815 and believers baptized 869.**

**UBS Total Student Ministry Data Reported For Jan. - Nov. 2014:**

**31,723 people saved and 4,647 believers baptized.  
142 new preaching points and 179 new churches planted in  
2014.**



**The Bledsoe family this December at UBS. The Bledsoes joined the seminary in July 2014 and they live in Jinja. Jimmy Bledsoe holds the PhD from Southern Seminary. Several years before coming to Uganda, the Bledsoes served in Tanzania as ISC missionaries. Please pray for them as they adjust to life and ministry in Uganda and learn the cultures of the central Africa region the students of UBS are coming from. Please pray for Diana as she is homeschooling Caleb, Isaac, and Micaiah as well as continuing to learn Swahili. We are so grateful that God has sent them to partner with us in ministry at UBS!**

### **1988 - 2014**

**Over 700 Pastors and church leaders have been equipped at UBS. Some of these have upgraded into a higher program than what they started.**

**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
TO YOU ALL**

**Uganda National Council of Higher Education (NCHE) licensed the UBS Diploma program in 2006. They awarded UBS the Certificate of Classification and Registration in 2010. That means UBS is fully accredited for Diploma education. UBS has begun the process for one degree accreditation.**

**The Master of Theological Studies (MTS) is a program of SEBTS.**

**Pray that Uganda has good rains and good sunshine. The dry season is expected to start in December.**

**Many thanks go to volunteer teachers who travel to Uganda and help teach UBS students.**

**25% of UBS students are international students from D.R. Congo, Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, and South Sudan.**

**God is at work with UBS. If you want to help, please contact us!**

**UBS Student ministry**

**Reaching the lost!**

**The last 4 years of outreach plus the evangelism this year of UBS students and their churches:**

**Over 133,169 people saved in Central Africa - Praise God!**

But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.<sup>21</sup> And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

Matthew 1:20-21



**Lauren Rippetoe**, an IMB Journeyman, arrived in Jinja in October. Lauren teaches English classes and assists in the computer lab and library. She helped UBS faculty and students prepare for graduation this December. Anthony Shelton is the Journeyman supervisor for Laren's work over the next two years. This picture was taken after a faculty monthly meeting in November.



### **December 2014 Graduation of 48 Church Leaders at UBS Jinja, Uganda.**

Over 500 people attended the second graduation of 2014. Over 100 church leaders this year have finished a program and graduated. With this graduation a total of 700 church leaders have now graduated from UBS in 26 years. Keep praying for UBS to overcome obstacles to train church leaders in Central Africa. The 2014 faculty members are sitting in front with two guest adjunct professors. This picture was taken a day before the actual graduation. Photos from graduation day will be in the first newsletter of 2015.

### **Student Testimonies**

**A Certificate Children's Pastor** said that because of his Bible preaching and teaching in his community some from other religions and unbelievers have realized their lostness and received Jesus Christ. They are loving Jesus and happy to be in his church.

**A Certificate Pastor in Tanzania** said that through church outreach they have planted three churches and started a preaching point in the last four months. We teach people the Bible truth, and this is increasing the church growth.

**A Diploma Pastor** said so much evangelism came from the use of teaching at UBS that a

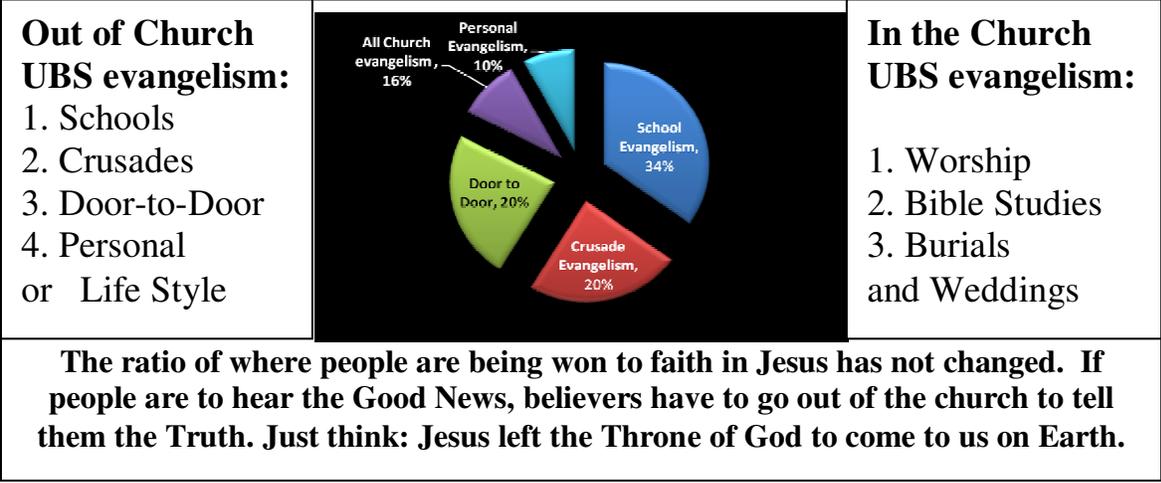
<sup>22</sup> So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: <sup>23</sup> "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." <sup>24</sup> Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, <sup>25</sup> and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS. Matthew 1:22-25

preaching point was started with ten believers in it. One of those, was saved out of witchcraft. This **witchdoctor** had served the community many years. When he turned from sin to believe Jesus had died for him, he gave a piece of land to build the traditional church building. In Africa when a witchdoctor is saved he has to publicly burn his witchcraft tools. Many people come to Christ when they see this kind of event. Many people praised God.

**A Pastor in the Advanced Diploma class** reported several areas where Biblical salvation is not understood among many in the nominal churches in his part of Uganda. Some think since the church baptized them that means they are going to Heaven. Others think that getting married in the church is what saves them. Some are confused by Jesus' baptism thinking that meant he was a sinner and that does away with salvation. They do not understand that Jesus was sinless and that His baptism by John was identity with John in God's Gospel plan. Therefore, when the Bible verses are shared with these lost people, they confess that they had never read those verses and so are lost. Then they come to a saving knowledge of Jesus, who is both God and sinless Man.

**A Bible Teacher in Advanced Diploma class** was excited when six people from another religion were saved through personal witnessing. Lots of ministry is coming out of the Bible teaching in the local church leader's Bible school. At present time, there are 100 Bible Schools following UBS generated curriculum taught by students and graduates of UBS. This is following a 2 Tim. 2:2 principle. These schools are all over central Africa, and besides these there are many other schools in which UBS students are teaching.

**One pastor of the Advanced Diploma class** reported evangelism among buyers and sellers of fish on Lake Albert. They have great fear about storms that cause havoc among fishing boats at times, causing deaths. The lost people listened with attention that prayer without Jesus was hopeless and reckless in this world of sin. Thus in three days of evangelism forty-seven people were saved through this pastor and the church he serves.



**UBS Prayer Concerns:**

**1. Pray for the new SEBTS Masters Cohort.** SEBTS has brought back the Masters of Theological Studies program and is making it the main international Masters program. Dr. Anthony Shelton will head up the new MTS cohort that will be starting in mid 2015. Pray for the professors of SEBTS to travel safely back and forth from NC in 2015.

**2. Pray for the National Council for Higher Education to approve the UBS request for Bachelor of Theology degree accreditation.**

**3. Pray for the 5 UBS/BUU missionaries.**  
**Francis Ocowun is reaching out to the Okebo Tribe.** He is from that tribe and finished the Advanced Diploma program. Pastor Francis is working out of Zombo in West Nile region that borders with DRC. Two students from Zombo graduated this December. They help Missionary Francis with the Gospel outreach.

**All UBS missionaries are Advanced Diploma graduates serving Christ where no Baptist church existed. Now there are Baptist Churches standing.**

**Pray for UBS Missionaries**



**Philemon Cheriwo graduated from the Advanced Diploma last year.** He is a new adjunct teacher for UBS. He has started the missionary work to the Pokot tribe in Uganda. Pray Philemon will succeed at church planting in this remote location among the Pokot people.

**Sam Kaswabi** and his family live and serve God in Mutukula, near Tanzania. Please pray for pastor Sam to plant many Baptist churches on the border of Uganda/Tanzania.

**Simon Nono** and his family live and serve God in Lamwo, northern Uganda, near the South Sudan border.

**Mark Vukoni** and his family live and serve God in Koboko in northwest West Nile Region, Uganda. Please pray for pastor Mark as he presents the Gospel to the lost among the Kakwa tribe in Koboko. They are planting many churches in the refugee camps filled with people from South Sudan. One student from Koboko graduated this December.

**USA Contact for UBS:**  
**Jim Benham**  
**jtbenham@cox.net**  
**Telephone Jim at:**  
**Home - 225-769-0832**  
**Cell - 225-205-7515**

**The website for UBS is under renovation. Please visit the site: [www.ugandabaptistmissionary.org](http://www.ugandabaptistmissionary.org)**

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.**

**Thank you for helping UBS. Principal UBS**

**Have a Merry Christmas May Jesus keep you in His Will through 2015.**

- 4. Please pray for those who teach in local Bible schools.** UBS students are active in teaching in these local Bible schools to help other church leaders in their communities to be better prepared to serve the church of Jesus Christ.
- 5. Pray for the influence of God's Word to grow.** We gave many **MacArthur Study Bibles** and **Ryrie Study Bibles** to the graduates of the Diploma and Advanced Diploma programs in December 2014. **Our next graduation will be on February 21, 2015**, and we will give more Study Bibles to help these graduates in their church ministries. Thank you.
- 6. Pray that the UBS faculty members and staff** will have a successful graduation celebration in **February 21, 2015**. Much work needs to be done in teaching and comprehensive testing before then.

