

The UBS VOICE

March 2015 Newsletter

V.9 - N.2

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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.

March Classes at UBS



Three classes are meeting this month after the busy graduation of February 21, 2015. Advanced Diploma 8 class is kneeling in front and Certificate 19 and 20 classes are standing behind. This January and February five classes were in residence at UBS each month. The February graduation was the end of two Certificate classes that began as the Bridge program three years ago.

January through March 2015 Ministry data

January 2015 classes

Certificate 18 students led 987 people to Christ and baptized 277 believers.

Diploma 28 students led 1,592 people to Christ and baptized 378 believers.

Diploma 29 students led 923 people to Christ and baptized 73 believers.

Adv. Dip 9 students led 671 people to Christ and baptized 293 believers.

Adv. Dip 10 students led 617 people to Christ and baptized 38 believers.

February classes - Diploma 28, 29 and Cert. 18 classes stayed for the February terms. At UBS this back-to-back terms accomplishes two terms through one residence at the Jinja campus. This helps reduce travel costs, though it makes six weeks of non-stop theological education involving five classes, a lot of work and study.

Certificate 16/17 students led 2,748 people to Christ and baptized 146 believers.

March Classes

Adv. Dip 8 students led 472 people to Christ and baptized 24 believers.

Certificate 19 students led 1098 people to Christ and baptized 75 believers.

Certificate 20 students led 706 people to Christ and baptized 88 believers.

(Students from the 9 classes above mentioned twenty-four Bible schools they taught in for low-level theological education in both vernacular languages and in English. Many

crusades were completed, and much outreach was accomplished in schools).

Total Ministry Results for Jan.- March 2015 :

**People saved were 9,764 and believers baptized were 1,392;
59 new churches were planted and 40 new preaching points were begun.**



Dr. Danny Akin (right), President of Southeastern Seminary, visited UBS for his first time this March. Dr. John Ewart (left) and Dr. Scott Hildreth also visited, Dr. Ewart has visited UBS many times. This was the first time at UBS for Dr. Scott Hildreth; he plans to teach in the MTS program. These pictures were taken while on a cruise on the Nile River "Bujagali Reservoir" down river from Jinja town.



The evening meal was served onboard the boat during the two-hour cruise. Much fun was shared as faculty members talked with visitors. This was a good break from three intense meetings. The Bujagali Reservoir was the result of a dam constructed on the Nile River several years ago to create hydro power. There are three hydro power schemes on the Nile River with more coming in the future.

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.

Dr. Akin is president of SEBTS.

Uganda has lots of sunshine right now. This is an extended dry season, and it is extremely hot and dusty. Pray that good rains will start soon to begin the major growing season of Uganda.

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

1988 - 2014

Over 753 pastors and church leaders have been equipped at UBS. Some of these have upgraded into a higher program than what they started.

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!**

Over 133,169 people have been saved through UBS students and their churches in the last four years in Central Africa. Praise God!

The website for UBS was completed by Misti Shelton. Please visit the site: www.ugandabaptistseminary.org



SEBTS leaders met with UBS faculty members and UBS board members to discuss a new Master of Theological Studies class (cohort) that will begin this year. The Board members included representation from IMB, BMU, and the BUU. The professors also met with M.Div. students and participated in a general meeting. In all it was a wonderful visit from SEBTS leaders.



SEBTS professors flew out of the Jinja Airfield on African Inland Mission Air. They flew up to Arua to meet with South Sudanese Baptists and participate in an annual meeting. The Shelton family with the Principal of UBS saw the visitors off at the airfield gate. The professors surely had a once in a life time sight of the Nile River valley.



CERTIFICATE CLASSES 16 AND 17 GRADUATED

The two classes numbered 43 to finish and possibly half that number qualified to upgrade to Diploma of Theology. That was a happy day. The faculty members were hard pressed to have this graduation so close to the December graduation. Thankfully all was accomplished to the Glory of God through the hard work done.



Vernon and Sandi Sivage were recognized for their 17 years of leadership at UBS. A wood carved library plaque was given to them. The sign will be hung in the UBS library. They will return to the US for their final stateside assignment in May this year and settle near family in Texas.

Student Testimonies

A Certificate student shared that over the Christmas break they visited a local prison. Many Christians discouraged them for witnessing to these bad people, but this is a sinful world and everyone needs to hear the Good News. He preached to a large crowd in prison and when he gave the invitation for salvation 108 men chose to be saved. The greatest gift that can be given in the world is Jesus' death for our sins. The world is captive to sin, many

John 8:31-36 NKJV

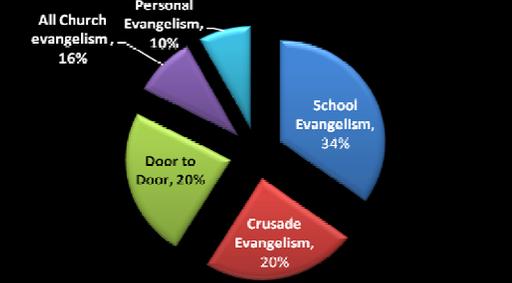
Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

³³ They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How *can* You say, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. ³⁵ And a slave does not abide in the house forever, *but* a son abides forever. ³⁶ Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

Romans 5:1-5 NKJV
 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,² through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.³ And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;⁴ and perseverance, character; and character, hope.⁵ Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

have yet to see they are prisoners to it. These in prison know they are sinners. Some of them decided if Jesus was the only way to be free, you must be saved by faith in HIM. **A Certificate lady said** she realized after she was saved that she needed to be more serious about reading the Bible. That eventually led her to UBS to be more knowledgeable about God. Through serious reading and study of the scripture, the bitterness and sorrow in her marriage and home disappeared. She learned the path of submission and that order before God and men brought peace into her home. Now many ladies seek her out for advice. They see her life is not full of domestic issues; they ask her to teach them how to overcome hatred and quarreling with neighbors and even husbands. Through this ministry this student has helped many Christian ladies to be strong and full of courage to live for Christ. **A Certificate church leader shared many things he had learned at UBS.** He has learned to suffer for Jesus and protect His Word. He has learned to visit suffering believers and encourage them and to run away from sin. Some of the most important lessons of life come from God if a believer is close to Him. He has learned to give to those in need. **A Certificate pastor reported** there are many churches in his area that do not have good leaders. They have much false prophecy that make sick the Christian minds. The believers cry there is no one to teach them. This pastor is thankful for what he has learned at UBS. He is thankful he can teach God's people and focus on divine strategies. **A Diploma pastor gave witness to the power of God.** This pastor lives and serves Christ where many oppose Christ in a different religion. Three ladies from this religion became believers in Christ. They joined the church the student was pastor of and began to grow. The church was called into legal proceedings with local government brought on by angry families. Three times the church leaders had to appear and defend the Gospel of Christ. Eventually freedom of religion prevailed and the pastor and other leaders were free of interference. The student pastor asked for prayer for courage to speak the truth and defend it in an unbelieving world. **One church leader of the Advanced Diploma class** reported he was in an auto accident. A vehicle with his family in it rolled over and they all survived from any injury. This trip to UBS his bag disappeared. Someone left the bus with his bag, but within a week he received it back with everything in it. Praise God! He takes care of His children. This student plans to plant two churches in Nairobi in 2015, and he desires to start a local Bible school to train local church leaders.

<p>Out of Church UBS evangelism:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Schools 2. Crusades 3. Door-to-Door 4. Personal or Life Style 	 <table border="1"> <caption>UBS Evangelism Methods</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Method</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>School Evangelism</td> <td>34%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Door to Door</td> <td>20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Crusade Evangelism</td> <td>20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Church evangelism</td> <td>16%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Personal Evangelism</td> <td>10%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Method	Percentage	School Evangelism	34%	Door to Door	20%	Crusade Evangelism	20%	All Church evangelism	16%	Personal Evangelism	10%	<p>In the Church UBS evangelism:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Worship 2. Bible Studies 3. Burials and Weddings
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<p>The ratio of where people are being won to faith in Jesus has not changed. If people are to hear the Good News, believers have to go out of the church to tell them the Truth. Just think: Jesus left the Throne of God to come to us on Earth.</p>														

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

Pray for UBS Missionaries

UBS Prayer Concerns:

- 1. Pray for the new SEBTS Masters Cohort.** Pray for the professors of SEBTS to travel safely back and forth from NC in 2015. The first session of this new MTS cohort is set to begin in late June and end in July. The SEBTS professors will fly back in November for the second term in 2015. Pray that the expected 20 students in this new cohort will find the fees needed for this class. The expected cost for this program is reduced to half the cost of previous programs because all the lectures will be taught at UBS.



2. Pray for the National Council for Higher Education to approve the UBS request for Bachelor of Theology degree accreditation. We are making the changes they suggested.

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. Another student graduated last February from Zombo. **Philemon Cheriwo graduated from the Advanced Diploma last year.** Greg Rainwater, volunteer to Uganda will visit three of these missionaries. He will meet this month with Francis, Philemon, and Simon at UBS. Pray for a good meeting and that these missionaries will be encouraged. Pray that Greg and another volunteer from Arkansas will travel safely and learn much how God is using UBS and the 5 missionaries sent out to the border regions.

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

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.

Mark Vukoni and his family live and serve God in Koboko in northwest West Nile Region, Uganda

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 26 September 2015,** and we expect more than 80 UBS students to graduate.

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Thank you for helping UBS. Principal UBS

This chart of results was re-done in Corel Draw.

In the past 2.4 years:

365 new churches were planted.

318 new preaching points were established. Preaching points have 6 to 30 people in them. Many preaching points turn into churches planted.

RESULTS OF EVANGELISM BY UBS STUDENTS

Jan - March 2015

9,764 Saved

1,392 Baptized

59 new churches planted

40 new preaching points

2014

31,723 Saved

4,647 Baptized

179 churches planted

142 preaching points

2008

**11,542 Saved
3,311 Baptized**

2007

Over 16,000

2009

**24,245 Saved
3,380 Baptized**

2010

**29,799 Saved
4,426 Baptized**

2011

**34,701 Saved
4,374 Baptized**

2012

**28,765 Saved
4,565 Bap**

2013

**31,432 Saved
3,939 Baptized**

**127 churches planted
136 preaching points**