

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living HOPE through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...” 1 Peter 1:3 NKJV

We praise God for the unwavering HOPE that we have in our victorious Lord Jesus Christ!

The Lord is revealing His next steps to us and we are excited to share this with you! As many of you know, this past year has been a season of purposely waiting on the Lord and seeking His will and direction in our lives.

GO GIVE HOPE (GGH)... I have recently been welcomed into this church planting ministry. **Imli Jamir**, the director of GGH, along with **Pastor Jeff Johnson** of Calvary Chapel Grand Junction (CCGJ) and I have been meeting for several months and have enjoyed our fellowship and like-mindedness regarding God's Word and His purposes. I have known these men for a number of years and I am encouraged by their passion for proclaiming God's Word, church planting, pastor training, and reaching the lost with the gospel. Please visit their website - gogivehope.net



MLI has now come under the auspices of **GGH**, as they have been planting churches and training pastors on a much larger scale since 2002. We are very thankful to be joining this missionary team. I also want to thank **Mathias Mulumba** and **Father to the Fatherless (F2F)** for coming alongside us this past year and helping us receive donations. Since F2F is an orphan ministry and MLI is a pastor training ministry we didn't feel we could stay under them indefinitely. We thank God for F2F and the labor of love they are accomplishing in western Uganda!



Seeking God's will... I also purposefully met with Jeff and Imli to discuss and pray about what the Lord has been revealing to us during this season of waiting. Besides MLI, the conversation turned towards local ministry possibilities. They both were very affirming that God has called me to be a pastor, so they asked if I would prayerfully consider beginning a church plant here in the growing community of Fruita. Being very surprised at first, we took the time to pray and wait. During this past season, the Lord had made it very clear to be still and to wait upon Him and not to seek a ministry elsewhere. As we continued to pray, it all began to make sense why the Lord kept us here in Fruita. So under the GGH ministry and along with the support of CCGJ, we are beginning a church plant here in Fruita.

HOPE BIBLE CHAPEL is the name of our church plant. We had our first meeting on 10/1 in which the GGH leader team joined us for a fellowship meal, gave us words of exhortation, and then humbly washed our feet and prayed over us. All of us were greatly blessed! On 10/8 we had our first Bible Study and time of prayer and praise. We are beginning in the book of Acts as we desire to know and follow the responsibilities given to us by Christ for His church. This past Sunday we were brought before the church by the GGH team for prayer and exhortation. We are blessed!

As of now we are meeting Thursday evenings at our home and will keep waiting and praying for the Lord to lead us. I will continue to be self-supporting and Renee will continue to work part-time and teach piano lessons.

Please pray for us, that the Lord will open doors of evangelism for the gospel of grace which is desperately needed in our community. And that we would be sensitive to the Lord's leading, as it is His responsibility to build His church and our responsibility to be faithful stewards of His calling. This world needs HOPE, and there is only one source...

The Lord Jesus Christ!

HOPE BIBLE CHAPEL

Living in HOPE thru the resurrected Christ!

THE MLI SPOTLIGHT

The Karamoja Relief Effort

Because of Covid, our travel to Africa will be delayed for some time, but we have been sending relief to Kenya and Uganda as many are starving and struggling due to lack of work from shutdowns.



Pastor Fred Musungu, along with his wife **Moreen**, and other fellow pastors have led relief trips to some very rural areas. I asked Fred to answer some questions about these trips that you may know how the Lord is using your support and our MLI leaders.

Where is Karamoja? Found in the northeastern part of Uganda on the leeward side of Mount Elgon, meaning it receives the lowest amount of rain compared to other regions. This has influenced the lifestyle and economic activities of the region. Karamojong people are pastoralists who practice cattle rustling among themselves but also with their close brothers, the Turkana of Kenya.

What are some of the community struggles? Due to cattle rustling, poor animal husbandry, disease outbreaks, and hostile weather, Karamoja is the poorest region of the country. It has low literacy levels, poor accommodations, poor transport networks, child abuse, and neglect. The majority of the street children in Uganda are Karamojong children, some of which were sent by their parents or guardians to look for money, while others are sent in the bush to keep the animals while the parents stay home drinking alcohol most of the time.

Sadly, this region is characterized by hunger, malnutrition, illiteracy, child abuse and neglect, drunkenness, poor shelter, water shortage (for both animals and people), infertile soils, (that do not support agriculture), cattle rustling, hostile relationships with neighbors, biting poverty, and above all spiritual poverty. The hostile nature of the region has made people adapt to hostile approaches for survival, they are people who are concerned about the end, not the means, this is, of course, contrary to scripture where we are to live for the Glory of God.

How does this relief help the community and local pastor? The evangelistic approach to this community is the provision of basic necessities of life, mostly food and clothing, and sometimes health and education. This allows us to have their attention for sharing the gospel message. MLI, in partnership with local pastors, has ably used this approach and we have been able to minister to several parts of the region. Pastor Clement Opio was helped to plant a church through the ministry of food supplies.



How has this trip affected your family? Moreen, my wife (also a nurse) had never been to Karamoja. She had heard stories about this region. When she went with us the two times, she fell in love with the people and felt very blessed to be serving the people of Karamoja. She expressed her readiness to serve again given chance.



How do you see God's glory in this effort? MLI ministry to Karamoja has reminded our brothers from this region that God loves them and still cares about them.

“Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying!”*

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